

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes, 24 September, 2025

Present: Dick Weidman, Rich Dirks, Max Martin, John Swanson, Susan Cubar, Erin Brown Stender. Joe Polacheck, Julia Stoneman, Lana Pray, Adele Douglass

Absent: Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawolski, Liz Story

Treasurer's Report: Income during August was \$2,461.58 mostly from the sale of clothing and books. There were also some donations, soda sales, and dues. Expenses were \$583.88 mostly from office expenses and Kids Don't Float material costs. The treasurer's report was approved (Susan/Richard).

Park Report: (given by Erin, with Sarah on Maternity Leave). Attendance in August was 63,195. This is 17,635 more than in 2024 and about the same as the long term average. The WF Dunes kiosk was the busiest in the state during the summer and in July 2025, beat its own record by \$12,000. Jess is working full time during Sarah's leave. Other employee schedules include: John Bagnall (25 hours per week), John Grogan (occasional needs), Bill, an LTE ranger (one day a week), and Erin is on the property about one day a week.

Park Manager Projects: The native village indoor museum renovations have been postponed until spring 2026. Cave Point Mini-Landscape Art Installation - Sarah has told the artist that the park won't host his sculpture (an alternative site has been identified). Changes are coming to the entrance road which will be rerouted in early 2026. The contact station will be replaced by a kiosk. Also new signage will be needed directing vehicles that already have stickers to the parking lot. The goal for brachiopod resurfacing is late fall of this year. The final project is the beach warning signs where she is waiting for stronger antennas to increase conductivity. There was no update on the Old Baldy renovation, but trail safety signs have been ordered.

New Business: There was discussion of additions to the board now that Don is emeritus. Several were suggested: John will invite Tim Wick and David Rabin to the next meeting.

Two expenditures were approved. A donation of \$200 will be made to Bay Beach Wildlife for the naturalist program it provided to the park (Rich/Susan). A donation of \$100 will also be made to the Reptile House in Algoma for a program it provided (Susan/Dick).

Dick reminded us that the tractor is nearing a need for service which will cost \$500. Erin says park can pay this if Friends can organize transportation to the repair location.

Adjourn: 5:00pm