

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc.
3275 Clark Lake Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 10/23/24

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Lana Pray, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender

Absent: Jim Perry

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda: Dick; second, Rich. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 9/25/24: Dick; second, Max. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$4,788.25

- Busy month in sales, especially clothing and books. Things will probably start slowing down.

- Dues

- Donations

Expenses: \$5,004.95

- Website renewal

- Quickbooks

- Brush mower rental

Motion to approve September Treasurer's Report: Dick; second, Max. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- August 2024 Attendance: There were 45,560 visitors, which is 3,686 more than 2023.

- September 2024 Attendance: 26,884, which is 2,681 more than 2023.

Seasonal Changes:

- Outdoor water systems and housing have been shut down for the season.

- Off-season hours began October 1. In office hours are now Friday-Monday, 10 am - 3 pm.

- Hunting and trapping opens November 15. Gun hunting and trapping will run from November 15 - December 15, and archery will run from November 15 - January 5.

Park Manager Report:

- Renaming of Nature Center/Auditorium: Sign is here; need to decide on date for dedication.

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Final concept drawings have been received and sent to Tribal partners and state archaeologist for review.

- First Beach Access: Contractors will be submitting bids, which will be reviewed and decided on by the engineers. We expect a Spring 2025 start date.

- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Max Martin is working on design and construction of kiosk. Sarah has submitted the sign to DNR for approval prior to printing.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: Mike Laaksonen will schedule construction date with Sarah, and expects to start sometime in winter.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Old Baldy: Waiting for estimate from Peil.

- Cave Point Trail: A group of volunteers cleared brush and trees from the proposed trail. Any remaining stumps will be removed by Lily Bay. They plan to begin construction by November 11.

Enhancement Grant:

- Installation of new trail signs will begin now that we are in off-season hours.

Beach Warning Pilot Program:

- Policy and tech support are still being ironed out. We still expect Spring 2025 installation.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

Doug will help transition Ambassadors to winter rules/guidelines. He suggested offering a discount on merchandise as a thank you to the volunteers.

Membership/Clothing (Susan):

- Dues still trickling in.
- Additional clothing and blankets added to inventory.

Pollinator Garden (Don):

Don has added a variety of new plants this year. It's been a challenging year with the wet spring and dry summer, but he's been watering to ensure the plants' survival.

Events:

- Fall Work Day: 10/26 from 9:00 - noon.
- Volunteer Chipping Detail: 10/30 from 10:00 - noon.
- Annual Meeting/Potluck will take place December 6 at 11:00, with a meet-and-greet beginning at 10:30.
- First Day Hike: January 1
- Winter Candlelight: January 25

Old Business:

- Grit Freedom Chair: DNR Adaptability Grant and Raibrook Grant Pending.
- Wisconsin State Parks 125th Anniversary is in 2025.
- Carl Scholz Memorial Fund Renaming: The family came up with a few suggestions, but expressed that the name should reflect Carl's passion for education and the environment. One suggestion was Friends of Whitefish Dunes Carl Scholz Fund for Nature and Learning. The Board approved this unanimously.

New Business:

- Dick talked to Amy Phillips and she's ready to start.
- Lana is ready to take over the Treasurer's position. Motion to elect Lana as Treasurer: Adele; second, Susan. All in favor.
- A new Wood Duck house is needed in the wetland area to replace the current one. Max will make this.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Julia. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned by at 5:18.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary