

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes from December 7, 2017

Meeting held at 10:00am and followed by holiday party.

Present: Susan Cubar, Dale and Mary Goodner, Carl Scholz John Swanson, Don Gustafson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski. Also Fred Viste (park manager), Tim Wick, Tad Greene, and Ruth Scholz (guests)

The agenda was approved (John/Susan)

There were no minutes from November due to a lack of quorum.

Also no final treasurer's report because the bank statement was not yet available this early in the month. However, Susan did report that \$21,365 (the amount in all specifically-designated accounts) had been transferred to a special account. This money cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it was received. Two signatures are required on each account (Susan and Lynn). There are enough funds in the naturalist account for a half time position (shared with Pot Park) for 2018 and 2019. There was some discussion about additional fund raising in order to have a full-time naturalist, but due to the rapidly approaching deadline, it was dropped at least for 2018.

The partial treasurer's report was accepted (Dale/Mary).

Fred presented the park report. There were 4,428 visitors in November, a decline of 2300 from 2016. However the annual total remains well ahead of the previous year. Sticker sales are slightly above 2016. New park stickers and trail passes are now available. The kayak concession documents are being reviewed at the state level, probably just a formality. Susan will review the final document with our insurance carrier. A new employee, Curtis Dason will start in January, replacing Kristin. He will be shared with Pot Park, the final arrangement to be worked out. A new cash register program is coming in the near future, which should make inventory management simpler. The Friends Group approved (John/Rich) the purchase two devices to dispense plastic sacks for dog poop to be placed at the park entrance and at the start of the beach where dogs are permitted. The price

is about \$200 each. Bird seed is running low, a plea for more supplies will be included in the invitation to the candlelight ski/walk. Whitefish Dunes has won two recent awards among other state parks. (Best Family Beach, and honorable mention as Best Ski Trails). The steps to Old Baldy will be closed during the winter due to safety issues. The steps need to be rebuilt. The Volunteer of the Year plaque has been hung. The Candlelight Ski event is scheduled for Jan. 27. Jaclyn needs volunteers to help in the office for sticker sales. Fred needs some help with hazardous tree removal. A person who volunteers to help Fred will not be involved with cutting, merely present as a safety check.

Old Business. Supplies for the Candlelight ski event are sufficient.

Lynn is handling paperwork for the boardwalk replacement funding appeals and has requested \$35K from the Raibrook Foundation.

New Business. Susan discussed an End-of-Year newsletter to celebrate various events. This will need more discussion and will appear again on the January agenda.

Adjourned at noon followed by a holiday luncheon.