

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park  
Meeting April 16, 2015

Present: Lynn Zawojski, Chuck Birringer, Carl Scholz, Brian Penchoff, John Rock, Max Martin, Don Gustafson, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Fred Viste (Park superintendent), and Dick Weidman (visitor)

The agenda was approved: (Max/Carl)

The minutes from March were approved (Max/John R)

The treasurer's report from Feb. was reapproved with a small correction. (Max/Rich)

The treasurer's report from March was approved (Max/Rich)

Fred gave the park report: (1) Attendance is up about 77% over last year, due mostly to warmer weather. (2) Merchandise sales are also somewhat up. (3) Estimates for cleaning the chimney in the shelter have been received at about \$180-190. Fred will schedule this. (4) Repair is needed for the brachiopod trail for which Fred needs to receive DNR approval. How this will be funded is not known. It is possible that volunteers will be needed to do the work. (5) He has been marking hazardous trees to make trails safer. (6) New safety equipment, such as throw rings, has been ordered for the beach. (7) A signup sheet for the park work day was distributed. It will run from 9 am to 3pm this Saturday, April 25, with a lunch at 11:30. He listed his 7 priorities for the day's activities. (8) There is no room for the beach grid this year due to higher water levels. Fred will request a permit from the DNR to move the grid, which will require some excavating of the dunes. (9) Hosts will be needed for the Artist-In-Residence. (9) Fred would like to have previous artist's works framed and hung.

Dick W. reviewed the progress of the Raibrook grant for a new tractor. We have been offered \$5,000 which is half of what was requested. He thought we could apply for more at a later date. He will contact an individual who has donated to the park in the past to see if possibly more money will be available. The options at this time are a) turn the money down because it's too small or b) borrow the remainder at 0% interest. We would need a down payment of \$10,000 to \$12,000 to finance it over a period of 4-5 years. There seems to be no stipulation as to when the money needs to be accepted and perhaps we could sit on the money while we consider our options. Dick will check to see if we could, in fact, still have the money available to us until we do some fundraising.

Considerable discussion followed. It was pointed out how critical this machine will be to support volunteer activities. A motion was made (Carl/Don) to accept the 5K and establish a plan to achieve the remainder of the funds within a three-year time period. The motion carried 5-3. Many thanks to Dick for his excellent hard work in this matter.

Old Business: It was noted that all 10 copies of the book Capture Door County we ordered have been sold. Lynn will contact John S. about ordering more copies.

New Business: (1) It was reported that we spent \$50 to purchase artwork for the pins, medallions, patches, etc, as well as \$350 to add decals to the order. (2) A motion passed (Brian/John R) to set aside \$2,450 to cover anticipated costs for four memorial benches, chimney cleaning, additional books and clothing in the next few weeks. These purchases are necessary in order to be well stocked for the summer season. (3) Lynn showed us the proposed stenciled design for the summer featuring trees. Lynn should have specific designs and colors in the near future. (4) Brian reported 5597 visits on the FaceBook account and 1425 likes. (4) A motion passed (John/Brian) to approve up to \$200 for the Artist-In-Residence program and \$575 for an Affinity Card Naturalist Grant. (5) Julie Briede Ibar has donated 20 note cards showing a sunlit trillium to the Friends which we can sell at a suggested retail value of \$4.00. (6) Lynn will contact John S. about purchasing some books that she has seen on natural themes by Buck Wilder.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.