

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Meeting June 18, 2015

Present: Jerry Leiterman (DNR district park supervisor), Carl Scholz, John Rock, Brian Penchoff, Mary and Dale Goodner, Chuck Birringer, Kristin Hanson (in lieu of Fred, park manager who was not present), John Swanson, Lynn Zawojski, Adele Douglass

The agenda was approved (Mary/Chuck)

Minutes from May were approved (John R/Mary)

The treasurer's report was approved (Brian/Dale). The income from the past month was (both numbers rounded off) \$1,519 and expenses were \$3243. The numbers are somewhat unbalanced because the large bill for liability insurance was paid recently.

A budget for the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 was approved.

Chuck also distributed a "budget analysis sheet" covering through the end of May. He indicated that the statement prepared for the end of the fiscal year (6/30/15) will possibly show a slight imbalance as well.

In the absence of Fred, Kristen presented the park report. (1) New shoreline safety equipment has been acquired through a NOAA grant. (2) The tower near kayak concession. (3) Firewood permitting has been completed for the spring and will be resumed in the fall, but probably not extend beyond into 2016. 30 permits have been issued thus far. (4) Materials have been purchased to paint the office and Nature Center, also to repair the second access point. (5) Upcoming events include July 25, annual Friends meeting; August 15, candlelight walk/hike; Oct. 24, Workday at park; July 2017, 50th anniversary of the park. (6) During May there were 9209 visitors to the park, down about 20% from the previous year. Thus far in June, sticker and merchandise sales are running well ahead of 2014.

Chuck inquired about the bridge over the wetland area, thought it had been closed. Kirsten says it is now open. The fishing pier at Whitefish Bay Creek is

closed for safety reasons, and Jerry says it will be removed because the pilings have sunk.

Old Business:

Clothing: Lynn has picked up more of fish line merchandise.

Tractor Committee: The committee (Dick Weidman, Chuck, Carl, Lynn, John S.) went over history of the proposed purchase for Jerry's benefit. Dick is urging us to begin fund raising by contacting membership and other potential donors and will begin drafting a letter for that purpose. There was much discussion as to whether for ask for money up front, or pledges to be redeemed at the actual time of purchase. The discussion included the fact that there is 4K left over from the shipwreck grant (could it be applied to the tractor fund?). The Raibrook grant can be extended for three years; if it can be demonstrated that we are working toward achieving our target we could go back and ask for more money. It was decided to table this issue into the future. In the meanwhile, it was thought that for \$400 per day a similar tractor can be rented. Can Fred justify a large purchase of a new tractor, when the machine might be needed only a few times per year? Lynn will confirm that this rental price is accurate before the next meeting.

Open Door event: About 50 persons attended, showing great interest in the program which included live raptors. The same group will come to the Candlelight walk in August.

New Business:

The annual meeting will be on Saturday July 25 from 4 to 7pm. The event will be a potluck picnic. Mary and Lynn will work on arrangements.

Nature Center hours: There was much discussion on this topic, with board members strongly wanting the center to be open beyond the present 3:30pm closing. It was pointed out that by closing at this early hour, especially during summer, stickers and merchandise sales were reduced. Jerry reported that there is no firm state policy on this issue and promised to look into the schedule, have a discussion with Fred, and get back to the membership by the next meeting.

Cash Register: John S. reported that there are about 200 book titles on hand and there is some difficulty in managing the inventory. He has researched a cash register (Casio TE 2000) which can provide this data. The price is \$650 and lifetime tech support comes with it. Internet connection is not required. No action was taken.

Jerry was asked about invasive species activity at the park. He explained that every park should have a plan to tackle this problem; he will talk to Fred about it.

Just before closing Carl asked Jerry about the Tower at Peninsula Park which is no longer in sound condition, has been closed, and will need to be removed. He reported that the DNR was considering various "alternate viewing opportunities."

Meeting adjourned (Dale/Brian). Unfortunately time not noted.