

## Friends of Whitefish Park

Minutes, December 11, 2014

Present: Max Martin, Carl Scholz, Dale and Mary Goodner, Rich Dirks, Don Gustafson, John Rock, Chuck Birringer, John Swanson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski Kristin represented the park

The agenda was approved with one item added (John S./Max)

The minutes were approved with 2 small changes. (Max/Mary) Corrected minutes will be sent in the next few days.

The treasurer's report was approved (Rich/John S.). Chuck reminded us that there is no line item in the budget for taxidermy, so this needs to be considered at the next meeting. At least \$150.00 is needed for one mounting. This topic will be on the January agenda. Much praise to Chuck for excellent management and reporting on our finances.

The park report was present by Kristin, in the absence of Fred. (1) Attendance in November was slightly behind 2013, but different counting methods are being used, so the accuracy is uncertain. (2) During the recent gun-deer hunting season there was not much activity. The harvest is unknown, but is perhaps 2 bucks and 2 does. Bow season continues until January 4. There are still plenty of deer in the park. (3) 2015 park stickers are available. (4) Ski trails are marked for skiers only. Carolyn announced that the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program would be held at the Dunes starting January 9 and run until February 27.

Old Business: The Candlelight Ski event will be Jan. 31. Chuck will spearhead the planning group, assisted by Max and Lynn. Some of the topics discussed were, the timing for lighting candles, bake sale or not, hot chocolate, popcorn, clean up for shelter in advance, pick up candles, hot cider or not, s'mores or not. Rich suggested we more actively solicit donations. There will be 2 trails: one for skiers and another for hikers and snowshoes.

New Business: (1) Deer Exclosure. There is evidence that the deer are pressing against the wire and eating the yew bushes. The exclosure was erected by Carl

and Dick Baudhuin about 20 to 25 years ago to reduce damage by deer browsing in a designated area. 30 years ago large areas of the park were covered with yews, now little remains except in the enclosure. Some plants in the area look stressed. Carl and Dick suggest putting 2-inch mesh on the outside of the existing fence to prevent deer from browsing under the fence. The original plan was to have three enclosures in each park in the county; Carl suggests we finish the project, especially in the areas where beech trees were harvested. He commented that the public needs much education on this topic. John S. asked whether the enclosure, which is used by the naturalist for educational purposes, might be expanded. Kirstin will approach Fred on this issue. (2) No progress on new shelving for merchandise. This will be on the January agenda.

There was a brief discussion about adding a gmail account so that messages from the Friends' would reflect the organization. The general consensus is that this is a worthwhile idea, but no one knew how to implement. Brian will be consulted and concept will be brought up again at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to enjoy the holiday luncheon at 11:30. At the luncheon happy birthday was sung for Carl Scholz who turns 85 next week.

Next meeting will be 15 January, 2015 at 4:30