

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes 19 January, 2017

Present: Fred Viste, Susan Cubar, Mary and Dale Goodner, Carl Scholz, Don Gustafson, Rich Dirks, John Swanson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski, Olivia Quinlin (guest)

Olivia was introduced. She is the editor of the Whitefish Bay Association Newsletter and is planning to write something about the park for the next issue.

The agenda was approved (Don/John).

The minutes from December were approved (Susan/John)

Fred presented the park report: (1) Park sticker sales declined 14% in December from the previous year. However for the year as a whole, 2016 had more sales than 2015. (2) The estimated number of visitors for the year is 207,041 considerably above the 10 year average of 191,169. (3) The 2016 model of the UTV is available now, but the pricing for 2017 will not be known until March. (4) Fred spent some time explaining the recent "realignment" of resources among DNR state parks. He felt his job should change very little, other than the fact that he will no longer have arrest authority. With respect to staffing there will be no more seasonal rangers after 2017. He will send an e-mail to all board members defining the new realignment. (6) Park volunteers need to sign agreements with the DNR. A form for this was distributed. (7) More volunteers are needed for the candlelight ski scheduled on January 28. (8) Upcoming events at the park include: Spring Dunes Day on April 29, 50th anniversary celebration on July 14, and Fall Dunes Day on 21 October. (9) At present enough money has been raised to hire a ½ time naturalist.

Sue presented the report from the 50th anniversary committee. (1)A VIP list is being prepared (2) A rough schedule of the day is being prepared, including a hike for adults and other activities to be determined. (3) Lunch at 12:15, probably a pig roast under a tent in the parking lot. (4) A yet-to-be-determined family activity for the afternoon. A logo design for the event was presented, it was approved (Susan/Rich).

Susan proposed sending a fund-raising letter to all life-time members and the committee will also approach the Door County Community Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15. Next meeting will be March 16, 2017.