

Whitefish Dunes Park Friends

Meeting July 16, 2015

Present: Janyce Beyer, Mary and Dale Goodner, Fred Viste, Carl Scholz, John Rock, Lynn Zawojski, Chuck Birringer, John Swanson, Adele Douglass

The agenda was approved: Mary/Janyce

Minutes from June were approved with a correction that there is not a new roof on the Nature Center building. (John R/Mary)

Budget for July 2015 to June 2016 was approved with a few changes.

Treasurer's report was approved (Mary/Carl). The balance in the checking account is \$29,422.31 of which \$9,653.24 is in reserved accounts. The balance includes the check from the Raibrook Foundation for tractor replacement plus grooming replacement monies. It also includes a \$625 Affinity grant (matching grant from the state to show photos digitally)

A motion passed (Mary/John R) to modify the budget to establish that a purchase of a new tractor could not detract from regular programming normally carried out by the Friends. In other words, fund raising for a tractor purchase must be entirely separate from other Friends activities.

Park report (Viste). 1. Attendance is up about 30% over 2014, sticker sales are up about 17% in the same period. 2. The Nature Center will be open until 5pm from July 1 until Labor Day (Fri-Sat-Sun) as a trial to determine the need for additional hours. 3. New fee schedule at the park begins January 1, 2016. 4. New equipment is needed: a mower that can be pulled to mow trails, eliminating the need to rent such a machine from the Experiment Station. Much of the park's equipment is getting tired, Fred has asked the state for various pieces of new equipment, but he has been turned down repeatedly. 5. A part for the grooming equipment is coming from Yellowstone Co. 6. Jerry Leiterman, DNR chief for the area, is urging the Friends to become involved in an invasive species program. He suggests a "pulling party" in the spring, especially for garlic mustard, hounds tongue, and dames rocket. 8. Volunteers will be needed to pull apart the fishing

wharf. Some materials can be extracted for salvage. All materials must be removed from the area; this could be a fall work-day activity or perhaps even earlier. 4-5 people will be needed for the project. 9. Carolyn's position will remain in the park budget for this budget cycle.

Old Business: 1. Annual meeting will be Sat. July 26. Mary and Lynn will plan food. At the meeting Chuck will explain the budget for 2015-2016 to the membership. 2. Tractor update. Lynn will discuss this at the annual meeting with the entire membership.

New Business: 1. John gave a report about the Friends Summit he attended at Terre Andrae State park about three months ago. 2. Election: Max Martin will no longer be a board member, a new member will be solicited at the annual meeting to serve a three-year term. 3. Candlelight walk is scheduled for Aug. 15 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. There was a discussion regarding a presentation by the Open Door group for the walk. It was decided that this group could not solicit donations in the future if we paid them to do a program. Lynn will see about an author event for that evening. 4. Chuck will take minutes at the August meeting due to the secretary's planned absence.

Adjournment at 6:30 pm