

Friends of Dunes Park Minutes 9/18/14

Present Janyce Byer, Rich Dirks, Fred Viste, Lynn Zawojski, Chuck Biringer, John Rock, Mary and Dale Goodner, Brian Penchoff, Adele Douglass

Meeting Called to order at 4:45.

Approval of the agenda: Chuck/Brian

Approval of minutes: Mary/Janyce (with two modifications) Chuck requested that approved minutes be added to the website. He will be responsible for this.

The treasurer's report for the month of August showed income of \$2,915.75 and expenses of \$1,577.29. Chuck indicated that these numbers do not show the true picture since about \$1,500 worth of deposits that should have been shown in August were actually deposited in early September and thus will appear on next month's report. The checking account balance is \$23,169.35 with \$8,436.66 in the reserve account.

A second report from Chuck concerned the final statement from the Shipwreck Exhibit. This accounting showed that \$2,365.45 needs to be returned to the DNR Stewardship Fund reflecting the difference between the budgeted costs and true costs.

A motion was made and passed (Mary/Janyce) to ask the DNR Stewardship Fund to please pay for five bills related to the Shipwreck Exhibit Grant totaling \$1,917.04. These bills were originally paid by the Friends, but we are now asking for permission to use monies left over from the Stewardship Grant to cover them. Carolyn and Chuck will organize the paperwork necessary to accomplish this.

It was moved and seconded to move \$130.00 from the reserve account to the bench account to pay for engraving.

Income from the Beach Walk was about \$125 from the bake sale and \$59 from the donation box in the shelter.

Park Report: Fred reported that attendance is about 20,000 lower for the summer of 2014 than the previous year (using numbers from January to September).

Sticker sales are also lower, however not too much can be inferred from the sticker numbers because frequently stickers are purchased in one park, but used in all the parks in the state. Primary work recently has focused on cleaning up the shop area where a 15 yard dumpster has been filled with more to come. The garage also needs much attention. Fred noted that this had been a family event with his sisters assisting in the sorting and cleanup activities. Further, his uncle is working on some repairs to the house. A big thank you to all the Vistes. It was noted that Carolyn has received an award from the Wisconsin Historical Society for her efforts on the shipwreck exhibit. This award is notable in that it has not been awarded for the previous four years. A generator has been donated by John Swanson.

The fall work date has been set for October 25. Fred will work to establish tasks to be accomplished that date, including wood chip spreading, removing the grid system from the beach, and some wood splitting. There will also be some indoor activities.

The candlelight ski has been scheduled for 31 January 2015.

Fred continues to work on for the plan for collection of firewood from the beech trees that remain on the ground. This will probably occur during October or November.

Old Business:

Hats recently ordered, will come soon.

Fish clothing available soon, new colors selected.

It was noted that many book titles are sold out, Chuck also asked members to suggest additional titles to add to the inventory. A better display facility is needed.

Janyce noted that she has ordered (and will donate to the Friends a 3 by 4 ft. bulletin board which her husband will install. This will be used to publicize events, books (including reviews), and clothing.

Janyce urged the park to have the Nature Center be open longer hours and quoted the DNR mission statement regarding access by the public. Fred responded that he does not have the staff to increase hours since he has already overspent his budget for this. A discussion ensued in which Dale reminded Fred of the need to focus on public service.

New Business

It was proposed to establish a Special Events Committee to better organize park events, with the stated goal of increasing attendance. Dale, Mary, and Lynn will look into this. Janyce urged all communication from the park to contain the following message: "Make a difference, volunteer, get involved" as a way to increase participation in park activities.

A request was received from Sevastopol School to sponsor a student to attend the Trees for Tomorrow camp this fall. It was voted (Mary/Dale) to approve \$150 for this purpose.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Next meeting October 16 at 4:30.