

Whitefish Dunes Friends

March 20, 2014

Present: Lynn Zawojski, Max Martin, Carl Scholz, Rich Dirks, Chuck Birringer, Brian Penchoff, Pat and Judy Fitzgerald, Adele Douglass, Fred Viste (Park Manager) and John Rock (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm

The agenda was approved (Max/Brian)

Minutes from 2/20/14 were approved (Max/Carl)

Lynn gave a rough treasurer's report showing a balance of \$27,263.41 of which about \$12,000 is restricted. All treasurer details will be transferred to Chuck during the coming weeks. By the next month a more precise report with more precise data will be available. The treasurer's report was approved (Max/Brian).

Old Business:

1. A new treasurer was elected with no opposition. Chuck will assume these duties soon. The financial responsibilities have been handled by Lynn (unelected) for over a year since the previous treasurer resigned.
2. Maritime Event scheduled for May 10 at 1pm. Friends have been asked to host the event which will feature some prominent archaeologists from around the state. Appetizers are to be served around 2:15. Brian will explore some options as will Adele. A report will be made at the April event. The event will be open to the public. It was approved to spend up to \$300 for refreshments (Max/Pat)
3. Annual meeting. It was decided to table the scheduling of this event until people checked their calendars.
4. Dunes Spring Work date. Has been scheduled for Saturday April 20, starting at 9am. Fred will create a list of tasks. It was voted (Max/Brian) to spend up to \$150 for a lunch for the volunteers. The event will be advertised on Face Book.

5. Bi-Laws. These are being redone by Mary and Chuck. They plan to prepare an email showing present text versus suggested text of proposed changes, for a side-by-side comparison. Several issues need to be covered and considered that are not mentioned in the present document. These include the bonding of the treasurer, a mechanism for creating a budget, and the minimum expense that could be required for board approval.

Park Report

1. Fred reported that a recent meeting of Door County DNR properties was held at which goals were set for the coming year. At that meeting it was learned that beech harvest will go forward during the month of April focusing on trees that could endanger the road or trails. A few sections may require hand harvest where it is not accessible by machinery.
2. Schauer Road will be widened to 18 feet with 2 foot shoulders in the near future. The cost is shared between the state and the township.
3. Interviews are going forward for summer part time employees. The interviews will be held together with Pot Park staff. Sam, who was here in 2013, will be coming back, but is not available until July. A bit of extra money has been shaken loose for seasonal help.
4. Volunteers can be used in the Nature Center to sell merchandise and stickers during the coming summer. Background checks will be needed. This will benefit both the park and the Friends and is a welcome change from previous years. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.
5. Propane costs have hit the park hard. Furnaces are aged and need replacement.
6. It is unknown when Tony's position will be filled.
7. Walking stick display needs to be done differently to reduce clutter on the counter.
8. Fred expressed an interest in funding a Wildlife Tech/Invasive Species Specialist position, realizing that this is long range, probably not before 2015. In the past the Friends have assisted in the funding such positions, but not in recent years.

9. There is a need to redesign the sled to make it more useful for distributing candles and potentially assisting in medical emergencies. The sled belongs to the Friends.
10. Fred will not be at the next meeting due to training. Carolyn will make the park report.

New Business:

1. Brochure redesign. Lynn has templates and can paste new text into it.
2. Benches. The question has been raised as to a limit that could exist in the park. The general consensus is that more would be nice to have, thus we can continue to sell these memorial benches. The park manager has final say as to how they are located.

Rich reported that the trails had been groomed at least 30 times this winter, a record number. A final grooming report will be made at the next meeting.

Brian reported that the website had had 941 visits to date.

The next meeting will be April 17 at 4:30pm. Adjourned at 6:05pm