

Friends of Whitefish Park Minutes 5/21/15

Present: Janyce Beyer, Fred Viste, Rich Dirks, Max Martin, Susan Cubar (visitor), Carl Scholz, John Rock, John Swanson, Dale and Mary Goodner, Chuck Birringer, Lynn Zawojski, Adele Douglass

Agenda approval: Dale/Max

Minutes from April approved (with one typo corrected): Max/John S.

Treasurer's report approved as submitted: Max/Dale A motion was approved (Max/Mary) to move \$65 to the clothing budget. Chuck alerted us that there is only \$430 remaining in the budget that can be spent before June 30.

Chuck requested volunteers to assist him in preparing a budget for 2015-16 which can be approved at the June meeting. Adele and John S. volunteered to work with him on this.

The park report (Fred) contained the following information. 1) Park attendance is up 57% over 2014, sticker sales are up by 73% for the same time frame, and there has been an increase of 118% in merchandise sales. May attendance to this point in the month is also above 2014. Warmer weather is certainly a factor. 2) Fish clothing is selling well, also more stenciled hoodies may be needed. 3) Two new chain saws plus some safety equipment have been purchased for the park. 4) Lines have been painted in the parking lot. 5) Dave's Tree Service removed a few trees near the staff housing. 6) Beach hazard/warning signs have been repainted. 7) 26 groups or individuals have harvested wood from the beach cuttings. The permitting for collecting wood will end for the season, but resume in the fall. 8) Throw rings will be coming to increase beach safety. 9) The beach grid system will not be used this year due to high water levels, additional signs will be posted to warn people to stay off the dunes, especially the main frontal dune. 10) A bottle-filling device will be attached to the water fountain with filters that need to be changed each year. Susan Cubar and her husband will be donating this equipment to the park. 11) Fred says that the nature center will be fully staffed this summer Monday to Sunday from 9 am to 3:30pm. Mary asked about keeping it open beyond 3:30 in order to accommodate beach visitors, especially on warm days and to enable more merchandise to be sold. 12) Max and Carolyn are working on plans for the deer enclosures. 13) An open house will be held at the park on June 7 from 1 to 3 with a program by the Open Door Bird Sanctuary. 14) Kristen will attend the next meeting in Fred's absence.

Old Business:

Spring work day: This was good in general, with 17 volunteers. Work was accomplished both inside and outside. We could have used more workers. The fall work day is scheduled for October 24 from 9am to 3pm.

Raibrook Grant: There was extensive discussion about this topic. The present tractor does damage to vegetation when it is used for trail maintenance. There were many questions about borrowing up to 18K, or about \$6,000 per year for three years. Fred says the park cannot commit any funds for this project. Thus fund raising will be needed since there was unanimous consensus that normal Friend's activities should not be curtailed or decreased in order to acquire the new tractor. Finally it was decided that Carl, Chuck, and Lynn will work with Dick to establish a plan to secure additional funds to acquire the tractor.

New Business: There was some planning for the open house on 7 June between 1 and 3 featuring the Open Door Bird Sanctuary. It was voted to purchase coffee, cookies, and juice to be served in the Nature Center. In addition three new coffee pots will be purchased. The total for all these items is not to exceed \$200 (Janyce/John S).

Meeting adjourned at 6:25.

Next meeting will be on June 18 at 4:30PM.