

## Whitefish Dunes State Park

Friends Meeting Feb. 20, 2014

Present: Pat and Judy Fitzgerald, Chuck Birringer, Max Martin, Mary and Dale Goodner, Brian Penchoff, Carl Scholz, Adele Douglass, Fred Viste, and guests John and Diana Swanson, Don Gustafson

In the absence of president, Lynn Zawojski, the meeting was called to order by vice president Pat at 4:30 pm.

The agenda was approved (Max/Dale)

The minutes from January were approved (Dale/Max)

There was no treasurer's report since Lynn is traveling.

We welcomed Fred Viste, the new park manager, who presented the Park Report. (1) He explained that the timber sale of dying beech wood would occur between April 1-30. This could be moved to November if the ground isn't solid. Probably the only commercial value is as fire wood. (2) The park's master plan needs to be reviewed by the end of 2014 or the start of 2015. (3) He defined his priorities for the park to keep it at a high level: these included: invasive species control; improve facilities, especially the pit toilets; capital equipment (mules replaced); capital development (furnaces replaced in shop and Nature Center); continued safety promotion; prepare for summer season, especially summer staffing; creating and maintain long lasting partnerships with the community.

Old Business:

- (1) A recap of candlelight ski/walk/snowshoe. There is a great need for better signage directing folks to the shelter. There were a total of 67 volunteers who worked a total of 148 hours. 120 cars came to the event. There is a need to discuss the bake sale and food at the next event.
- (2) Website update. Brian reports that this is up and running. It contains membership forms and volunteer forms. It has a store option, but this

feature is not yet operational. We may need to redo the park brochure, which contains a previous web address.

- (3) Bi Laws Committee: Chuck and Mary now have copies of several nearby park's friends' groups, also a model one from the state. Their goal is to come up with something simple and effective to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.
- (4) Membership report: Mary reports there are 92 family and individual memberships, 78 lifetime memberships, for a total of about 170 paid memberships. These seem to be positive numbers relative to other parks of similar size, according to Pat.
- (5) Treasurer's position: This position has been vacant for some time with Lynn making monthly reports. Chuck indicated a willingness to assume this responsibility and meet with Lynn to get the financial records. An election will be held at the March meeting.

#### New Business:

- (1) Spring Dunes Work Day. Fred will meet with Carolyn and Jaqueline to establish projects and select a date.
- (2) The maritime event will be May 10, 2014 at 1pm. The Friends will provide refreshments. The Wisconsin Historical Society will be sponsoring this event.

#### Open Session

- (1) Carl complimented Fred on the neatness of his uniform and promised to dress more spiffily next month.

The next meeting will be March 20 at 4:30. There may be some conflicts due to spring break, but it was felt better to stick to our schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month as we advertise.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.