

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Minutes 18 February 2016

Present: Dale Goodner, Carl Scholz, Mary Goodner, Don Gustafson, Brian Penchoff, John Swanson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski, Fred Viste (Park manager)

The agenda was approved (Brian/Mary). (With the addition of a discussion of trail ideas at the request of Dale).

The minutes were approved (Don/Carl)

The treasurer's report showed an available balance of \$24,678.85; also \$10,028.24 is in reserved accounts. Expenses during the previous month were \$2,403.65 and income was \$385.79. The report was approved (Mary/Brian). There was some discussion about replenishing merchandise accounts, but no action was taken.

Fred's park report contained the following: 1. Attendance during January was 5,446 which represents about a 10% increase over the previous year. Many fine comments were received regarding the condition of the groomed ski trails. 2. A total of 536 cars entered the park for the candlelight ski/snowshoe event. 3. The candlelight event went smoothly, but Fred is concerned that a few more volunteers could have been available to pick up candles, signs, and barricades at the end. Also some of the volunteers apparently were not aware of the need to sign volunteer agreements. 4. Plans are underway for the August 20 candlelight program which may include a program on bats. 5. Interviews for the maintenance position will be held March 18 and 19, the same date as interviews for the naturalist position. 6. There has been no new information as to the schedule for Master Plan meetings, other than they will begin soon. 7. Fred will be assisting at Peninsula Park a few days a week, for up to six months; during this period he will delegate responsibilities to Kristen. The office should remain open 7 days a week. 8. Fred asked about the many boxes of Noomi books and what should be done with these, no decision was made.

The grooming report was made by John S. There have been recent challenges due to the weather. There have been many people walking on trails, some with dogs, despite signage. A suggestion was made that perhaps part of the master plan should be to provide more hiking trails. Grooming has occurred about 10-12 times this year thus far.

Old Business: 1. Raibrook Foundation grant. This needs to be updated each month, Lynn will do this. There is some hope that the Sevastopol town board may be able to contribute some money toward the purchase of an UTV machine. 2. It was voted to create a "Volunteer of the year" award, for which the recipient will receive a park sticker and a gift certificate to the Friend's Store. A plaque will be created with space to add more names in the future. An expenditure of \$35.00 was approved for this purpose (Mary/Carl). The volunteer for 2016 will be Mark Weise who comes almost every Thursday, works on signs, does some painting and sanding, and helps with preparation for programs.

New Business: 1. Event Coordinator: It was been decided to create the position of Event Coordinator, who will be responsible for planning and coordinating various events. Lynn will assume this responsibility and will pull together a committee for each event. It was decided to put the money donated during the candlelight ski event into the "Events" line of the budget for 2016. 2. Newsletter: Susan Cubar is working on the first issue which will be sent electronically by Mary in the near future. It will focus on advertising upcoming events, list officers and contact information, and provide other park information. The goal is to have about 4 issues per year. 3. Naturalist position: There is an opportunity to have a summer naturalist which will be shared 50/50 with Pot Park. \$4,000 is needed to secure this for 2016. \$2,000 has already been promised, the remaining money needs to be found from someplace in the budget or else donated. The interviews for the position will occur in mid March, with Dale assisting in the process. The person would be available from Memorial Day until Labor Day. A motion was passed to approve Friends' participation in this effort (Mary/Don) 4. Trail ideas: Dale presented a paper setting out his ideas for the development of a new trail which could run between the shelter and Cave Point County Park along the rocky shore, a widening of the existing trail along the Old Fish-House Road. The presence of

these trails might reduce the incidence of hikers using groomed ski trails. Both of these ideas could be incorporated into the Master Plan.

6:35 adjourned. Next meeting March 17, 2016. Dress code for the meeting is green.