

Friend of Grand Haven State Park

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2017



Meeting commenced: 6:30pm Loutit Library: Meeting Room A

Presentation by American Atheltix: John McDonald

American Atheltix, based in Muskegon, is a full service playground equipment company. They represent Play and Park, a traditional post and platform playground equipment manufacturer, and Kompan, a child-focused play equipment company. The Friends group has already investigated Play and Park structures.

John McDonald presented the Kompan philosophy and design structures to the Friends group. He shared with us a diagram of a potential Corocord system designed with a nautical theme to fit the nature of Grand Haven State Park. This type of play structure would be unique to the area and would offer a different play experience and would complement existing playground equipment in the Park. We also looked at other offerings from the Kompan catalogs.

The group thanked John for the information, and based on our feedback, he is going to configure and price two structures to fit our needs: one installation appropriate for age 2-5 and a separate installation targeting ages 5-12. A Friends group discussion took place at the end of this meeting.

December meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

There was no financial activity since the last meeting in December.

Current cash in the bank = \$43,586.45

Old Business:

William and Dorothy Young Mixer Fund: no updates.

Website Hosting: the invoice from Brian Cryst indicated that email is not supported. Mike Mazurek is investigating the meaning and impact of that situation. He will also ask Brian about maintaining software updates/upgrades. The group thought it would be wise to ask other Friends groups what website hosting services they use.

DNR Friends Summit: March 3 & 4

Joyce and Rick are attending. We still have 4 open spots.

New Business:

Summer Education Programs in the Park: Ideas generated by the group

City of Grand Haven history (History Museum)

Great Lakes Shipping or Shipwrecks (History Museum)

Birds of Prey (out of Holland)

Naturalist from Hoffmaster State Park (Elizabeth Tillman Brockwell)

Ask Matt Shaver for input/ideas (Grand Haven State Park Manager)

Ask Alyssa Buck about program resources (State of Michigan)

Becky Newman volunteered to contact Alyssa Buck. The group would like to discuss ideas with Matt Shaver and will put this item on the agenda for the February 13th meeting.

Annual Dues are due! The membership rate remains \$10.00/person.

Playground discussion:

The entire group was in favor of pursuing the Kompan system of play. We agreed with the philosophy that, when designed to really promote child development, playgrounds can significantly improve children's health, learning and social interaction. The unique Kompan Corocord climbing system would be a "destination" playground for the area. Additionally, this type of play fits in with the goals of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

The group remains committed to providing accessible facilities, but have expanded our definition of that to include children with mobility, sensory and social challenges. Given that the Friends group has a budget to work with, it was decided that we would prioritize the acquisition and installation of the playground project in three phases:

Phase One: Pirate Ship with creative play elements for the 2-5 age groups (to include surface tiles)

Phase Two: Corocord climbing system for the 5-12 age groups with Nautical theme

Phase Three: Surfacing

A motion was approved to seek pricing from American Athletix for the acquisition and installation of Phase One and as much of Phase Two as our budget of \$70,000 allows.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2017 at 6:30pm, location Loutit Library

Becky Newman will send minutes to board members for approval before posting on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.