

Friend of Grand Haven State Park  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2020



**Meeting commenced: 6:30pm at Grand Haven State Park**

**President's Comments: Mike Mazurek**

2020 has been a really different year in more ways than one but the Friends Group is doing a good job getting through it! Vending started late and the number of machines was limited by Pavilion construction. We are waiting for the August/September checks from Coke.

**July meeting minutes were approved.**

**Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek**

There were deposits since July of \$6,062.57. This revenue was generated by wood, fire pits, cans, Coke, dues and a refund check from our insurance company.

There were \$2,336.81 in expenses since July: Gift cards, wood, fire pits and State Tax.

Current cash in the checking account = \$17,599.59. With one \$825.00 check outstanding. We have \$5.00 in savings.

Interest YTD on our CD's = \$260.45.

We still need one more gift card for camp hosts.

**Old Business:**

Uninstalled Equipment: Dave Brinks and Mike Mazurek spoke with Andy Lundborg regarding plans to install the gazebo, benches and bike racks previously acquired by the Friends Group. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, no new installations are being considered, only maintenance items. Dave and Mike posed these questions and are waiting for a response:

- 1) May the Friends Group install the gazebo? Are there any instructions included and are there any issues anchoring it to the cement pad? We could rent impact drills if necessary.
- 2) Do we need cement pads for the sway benches? If so, at whose expense? The last we heard, the Grand Haven State Park will cover the cost.

The concrete pad for the bike rack at the campground playground has been poured.

**New Business:**

The group discussed options regarding the future of the Friends of Grand Haven State Park non-profit organization. Should we continue normal operations in 2021 if possible? Should we disband and use the existing funds for one last major project?

**Mike:** We are at a standstill with projects. Andy's perspective on the Friends Group could be considered neutral at this point. He wants to meet with Lansing DNR personnel to discuss the state's plans as he does not have much experience with Friends Groups himself.

If the FGHSP were to dissolve now, our funds would go to the State of Michigan general fund. There is no guarantee that any of it would be spent on Grand Haven State Park. The FGHSP would probably need to exist for 2 more years to appropriately disburse the funds.

**Becky:** We need to have buy in from the State Park Manager. We should ask Andy for his requests for the Grand Haven State Park. At one point the FGHSP considered playground equipment appropriate for the 2-5 age group. We could pursue a matching funds grant.

**Judi:** We should hang in there for another year to let Andy catch up. He was faced with a difficult year given Covid-19 and Pavilion construction. We need buy in from the staff too (Mike). The FGHSP also considered new swing sets that could be acquired via the matching funds grant.

**Bob:** Bob offered to contact the right people at the State of Michigan to ask them to communicate the State's Friends of State Parks program to Park Managers and promote cooperation with existing Friends Groups. Our Friends Group should continue to offer in park programs and even expand on offerings from previous years.

**Karen:** Buy in from Park Staff is key. Are we considered an asset? Most of our projects came from the list of requests from Joyce Rhodes (former Park Manager). Since our can collection containers have some signage promoting a tree planting program, we should revisit that project.

If we decided to disband the FGHSP, we could consider setting up a fund through the Grand Haven Community Foundation specifically directed for Grand Haven State Park use.

**Dave:** Since there are maple trees in Grand Haven and other State Parks, we may have some latitude to vary from the last list of state approved trees.

**Consensus:** We should hang in there and give Andy a chance to work with us. We can change our meeting time to accommodate Andy's schedule.

Mike will ask Andy about preferred times, but will recommend Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

**Next Meeting** October 12, 2020 at 3:30pm. Location TBD.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.**