

Friend of Grand Haven State Park
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021



Meeting commenced: 3:33pm on Zoom

President's Comments: Mike Mazurek

Mike attended some of the Friends Group Summit meetings held virtually by the State of Michigan March 4th and 5th.
Some key takeaways:

- 1) Volunteer hours from Friends groups total 8 million dollars annually
- 2) Camping usage was up statewide in 2020: 28% increase in camp nights and 34% increase in reservations.
- 3) Day visitation was up 25% statewide in 2020 (from 28 million to 35 million visitors).
- 4) Passport participation was up 34% in 2020. There was a discussion about changing the passport program to opt out instead of opt in. There is support but it is not likely to be passed by the Michigan legislature.
- 5) Matching Funds Program: The State spends approximately \$100,000 annually for matching programs/projects submitted by Friends groups. Each year 8 – 10 groups participate. In 2021, 8 groups were awarded 10 projects (2 to FGHSP).

February meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

There were deposits since February of \$15,015.82. This was from dues, Amazon Smile and the Goodale Family Foundation.

There were expenses since February of \$14,214.06. This reflects \$11,000 in grant match funds paid to the State of Michigan, the purchase of 27 fire pits and a down payment on the Action Track Wheelchair.

Current cash in the checking account = \$35,455.63. The \$11,000 check hasn't cleared. We owe the balance of \$13,019 for the Action Track Wheelchair. Our working balance = \$6,436.63. We have \$5.00 in savings.

Interest YTD on our \$25,000 in CD's = \$89.95.

Update from Andy Lundborg:

Both Megan and Paul, full time Park Rangers started today. An offer has been made to 3 additional applicants for full time Park Ranger positions.

Andy is interviewing for summer staff now.

The AED's have been delivered to the Park. (The Mazureks have received the replacement pads for kids and will get them to Andy via Becky and Bob).

Progress is being made on the Pavilion renovation. They are working on the south end and bathrooms. The Pavilion could be ready by May 1st, the day the park opens.

Meetings are scheduled for next week to discuss vendors for the retail space in the Pavilion.

Park staff is now focused on getting the Park ready for opening on May 1st. Currently visitors are being routed through the campground entrance (instead of the channel lot entrance) to show more Park staff presence and deter loitering or problem behavior.

Regarding event planning once the Park is open, Andy is waiting for guidance from Elissa Buck on the newest restrictions. The outdoor gathering numbers have been expanded to a level that would allow the Beach Volleyball clinics to operate. Volleyball tournaments are yet to be decided.

Andy has not heard from the Kite Festival organizers, who typically host their event in May.

Omni Spinner: Arica Johnson

Arica spoke to the group about the current tilted sky runner playground piece in the campground area. It is becoming dangerous as it stands too high above the ground and picnic tables are being moved to help kids gain access. She suggested an ADA accessible merry-go-round called an Omni Spinner. She sent a link to a YouTube video for the group to check out.

Matching Funds Status Update:

The proposals for both projects have been accepted by the State of Michigan for matching funds. The funds have been sent from FGHSP. Additional approvals from Andy Lundborg are required. Andy will investigate ordering the ADA accessible picnic tables from Sinclair.

Action Track Wheelchair: Mike Mazurek

The funds from the Goodale Family Foundation have been received. The chair is on order and is expected to be delivered mid-April.

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding. This was originally called the Partnership Agreement and it details how the FGHSP will work with the Grand Haven State Park. The board unanimously approved signing it.

Mary Ellen Murphy of WGHN contacted the FGHSP through our Facebook page requesting an interview. Judi Mazurek will follow up with her.

Bob Moore and Becky Newman met with Tim Wheeler of Wheeler Creative Studios. He is currently working on a fire safety book for kids with Andy Lundborg and several fire departments. Tim is also willing to develop a water safety book of some type with the sponsorship from the FGHSP. Dave Brinks has boating safety books sponsored by Met Life that he can share for content. It was decided to invite Tim to our next FGHSP meeting so he can share his ideas and his body of work.

2021 Events Planning: It could happen! Given the easing of crowd restrictions, it was decided that the FGHSP should begin planning a Birds of Prey event. Becky Newman will contact the Outdoor Discovery Center for information and scheduling.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2021 at 3:30pm. Location: Zoom meeting. Becky Newman will send the invite.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.