

Friends of Grand Haven State Park  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2021



**Meeting commenced: 3:40pm at Grand Haven State Park Pavilion**

**President's Comments: Mike Mazurek**

Mike shared a thank you note we received from an anonymous sender for providing the ADA walkways at the park. Andy Lundborg also received a thank you note. Andy went on to describe the overwhelming positive response there has been for the Track Wheelchair:

The chairs are constantly in use unless under repair. People are "literally driving the wheels off"! Because of the soft sand, the wheels are flexing and slipping off the bearing. The manufacturer has been very good about addressing replacement parts and modifying the design for sand. This is their first test in sandy terrain. The orange chair in particular is super popular. Due to Grand Haven's program, Holland State Park is getting two chairs and Ludington State Park is getting one. The DNR sees the demand increasing and is looking to provide 4-5 chairs per park. Multiple chairs would solve the problem of long recharging times (2-3 hours between users) that limit the availability.

Mike shared year to date information on wood and fire pit sales:

Through 9/11/2021 we sold 1,131 bundles of wood. Previously our best year was 2014 with 901 bundles sold. All the remaining wood inventory is in the camp host shed.

Through 9/11/2021 we sold 45 fire pits and have 12 left in the camp host shed. This is also our best year of sales. Vending revenue should be better than 2020 but still low due to the Pavilion being closed until late August.

**July meeting minutes were approved.**

**Treasurers Report: submitted by Judi Mazurek**

There were deposits since July of \$7,920.85 from fire pit sales, wood sales, Coke and can returns. We sold one t-shirt and received a \$14 donation

There were expenses since July of \$3,153.41. This was for insurance, fire pits, wood, and Birds of Prey costs.

Current cash in the checking account = \$9,056.81. We have \$7.36 in savings.

The value of our CD's = \$25,622.65

**Update from Andy Lundborg:**

Andy has met with an organization called "A Year to Volunteer". This is a group of recent retiree/volunteer campers who travel the country by RV and donate their time to accomplish projects in the parks where they stay. They are scheduled to come to Grand Haven State Park for the last two weeks of April of 2022. Andy is expecting around 30 volunteers. He will compile a list of projects for the group to work on. At the top of the list are the Friends of Grand Haven State Park installation projects. Andy will take advantage of this opportunity to get other park projects completed and to cross train park personnel. The FGHSP are willing to provide food/entertainment. Mike Mazurek reminded Andy that some cement work will need to be done at the campground playground to install one of the sway benches we have procured. There will be additional meetings as the date draws closer.

Andy shared some of the staffing issues the State of Michigan DNR is experiencing: high turnover and loss of expertise. Andy has been able to hire 3 new Rangers with a possible 4<sup>th</sup> this month. The first 3 Rangers will be able to participate in training over the fall and winter months.

The swim buoys will be removed today, and snow fencing will go up soon. There is already a lot of sand in the campground due to high winds.

The Pavilion will be closed on October 6<sup>th</sup>. There is more work to be done on the outside concrete and some interior odds and ends. It has not yet been decided how to use the second-floor open space.

Vending in the Pavilion in 2022 will not compete with the current food trucks or vending machines.

Now that the Pavilion is available for storage over the winter, the ADA accessible picnic tables can be ordered.

The water fountain near the day use playground is waiting for replacement parts but will be up and running again in 2022.

#### **Update from Bob Moore: Water Safety Book**

A consortium of 6 West Michigan beach towns along with the State of Michigan DNR have made water safety a priority. Grand Haven is hosting a water safety meeting for the group on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Michigan's state-wide safety officer Brian Kellogg will present standards. The Friends of Grand Haven State Park representatives and Tim Wheeler of Cartoonversations will attend. Tim will present the fire safety book as an example of the water safety book the FGHP are planning to develop and procure for Grand Haven State Park. We will invite others to participate. We could even get funding from the State of Michigan.

#### **New Business:**

Andy Lundborg shared the park's plan to develop and implement a loudspeaker system in the park for announcements. The Park is also entertaining using emergency lanes (like during Coast Guard Festival) all summer. He has gotten positive feedback from campers about the fencing along the boardwalk/pier keeping the public from walking through the campground.

Bob Moore informed Andy that Ottawa County is currently conducting a survey regarding internet access. Andy will investigate to see if that could help us bring WI-FI to the Park.

Karen Casey handed out fliers advertising the open house at the old diesel plant on October 6 & 7 from 3:00 – 6:00pm.

**Next Meeting:** October 11, 2021, at 3:30pm. Location: TBD

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

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.**