

Friends of Grand Haven State Park

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2022



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

Roll Call: Mike Mazurek, Judi Mazurek, Dave Brinks, Sallie Brinks, Bob Moore, Karen Casey, Arica Johnson, Andy Lundborg and Becky Newman

Mike welcomed the group and reported that our third Action Track Chair delivery has been delayed due to vendor illness. The four ADA picnic tables have been delivered and are in the garage at the park. Installation is likely to take place next spring due to staffing levels at the park this fall. The tables need to be assembled and surface mounted on the concrete pads already poured.

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

Deposits since July: \$3,243.30 from the sale of wood, fire pits and can returns.

Expenses since July: \$2,149.00 for insurance, wood, and our annual filing fee to the State of Michigan.

Current cash in the checking account = \$23,618.44

We have \$7.36 in savings.

A \$100 donation check from Nancy McKnight has not been deposited yet. The donation was in memory of Terry Casey's birthday on August 30th. Nancy is the sister of board member Karen Casey. Thank you Nancy!

Old Business:

Update from Grand Haven State Park: Andy Lundborg

The Action Track Chairs are popular and the extra chair this summer was helpful in keeping them in use. There were no repairs required. It is estimated that the chairs are in use 2-6 hours a day depending on the day of the week. The State's reservation system has been updated and covers all parks with wheelchair availability. Karen Casey will author a report for the Grand Haven Community Foundation at the end of the season and asked Andy to provide data from the reservation system and the park's calendar for chair usage.

Camping numbers are up from 2021, as are the numbers of day use visitors to the park. Current estimates put Grand Haven State Park as the second highest used park in the state. Holland State Park has had an estimated 1.644 million visitors year to date. Grand Haven State Park has had an estimated 1.614 million visitors. Park staff at Grand Haven have a challenge estimating accurate day use visitors due to several entrances to the park that are hard to monitor.

Grand Haven State Park has one vacant full-time ranger position. A current full-time ranger will be going to training. The State of Michigan DNR is suffering from staff shortages and there are many "Acting Supervisors." Summer workers' pay was bumped up to \$15/hour. That helped some parks but had negligible effect in Grand Haven.

The fencing on the beach is there to create an emergency access lane to the water. There have been several water rescues this season. Fourteen rescues happened between Memorial Day and the 4th of July weekend. There was one drowning on August 7th.

We can put plaques on the swing benches. The mobi mat around the campground swing bench is getting great feedback from both park staff and users.

The concessionaire at the Pavilion has had a successful year. They will shut down after Labor Day. Grand Haven State Park logo stickers, magnets and other souvenirs were popular.

Update from Bob Moore:

The Friends of Grand Haven State Park are considering procuring enough mobi matting to create a sidewalk along the volleyball courts to connect at the food truck circle. That is estimated at 380 – 400 feet. The cost per 50 feet of a 6-foot wide mobi mat is \$2,219.

The current brock dock pathways leading to the water (approximately 300') are showing a lot of wear and tear and are difficult for park staff to install, uninstall and store. The friends group agreed that replacing those with mobi mats should be the priority. Other options for the sidewalk along the volleyball courts were discussed:

- 1) Use the existing brock dock: permanent installation.
- 2) Use mobi mat: too expensive?
- 3) Install a permanent concrete sidewalk: fiber mesh reinforced; 6 foot wide with "fat" edge to control for shifting sand.

Andy suggested that he could investigate putting in a WHIP request for this project with the State of Michigan DNR.

The Ottawa County internet grant is being allocated via senator Victory's office. Bob suggested that Grand Haven State Park might be able to access those funds to get WIFI in the park.

Tim Wheeler of Cartoonversations delivered 22 more water safety books. He has committed to writing two more books in the series: How to Save Yourself, and How to Save Others. The friends group expressed interest in financially supporting those publications. We contributed \$2500 for the first book: When in Doubt, Don't Go Out.

Wood Sales: Mike Mazurek

We have 5 pallets of wood. Year to date (through August 14) we have sold 799 bundles. In 2021 we sold 933 bundles. Fire pit sales for 2022 are 21, compared to 35 in 2021. We have had a warm camping season, but it is believed that many campers are not aware of the wood/fire pit availability. It was suggested that a fire pit be assembled and on display at the camp host site.

New to Grand Haven State Park camp hosts are starting on September 1st.

New Business:

There was an accounting glitch with Coke and as a result, we have not received any monies from them this year. Mike called and had it resolved. It is not clear if we will now receive one large check or get installment payments. We will not receive a check from AD Bos until the end of the season per usual.

It was decided that our next meeting will be our annual meeting. Bob will talk with Side Bar Coffee about using their open area to host the meeting.

Next Meeting: October 10, 2022, at 3:30pm. Location: Side Bar Coffee (?)

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.