

Friends of Grand Haven State Park
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023



Meeting commenced: 3:40pm at the Pavilion.

Roll Call: Mike Mazurek, Judi Mazurek, Bob Moore, Becky Newman, Dave Brinks, Sallie Brinks and Andy Lundborg.

Mike welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He presented a resolution to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Michigan DNR regarding the Friends of Grand Haven State Park partnership and vending agreement. The resolution passed and the MOU was signed by all Directors and Officers at 3:45pm.

There were questions regarding the MOU for the current concessionaire in the pavilion at the park. Do they have first right of refusal for sales that would impact the Friends of Grand Haven State Park?

The Bigby food truck has changed ownership from the 2022 season and has not been present at the park due to paperwork issues. 2023 is their last season under contract and that slot will be rebid for next year.

Mike participated in the Friends of Ludington State Park survey regarding friends groups. He recently received the results and will email them to the group.

The Grand Haven Community Foundation has asked permission to use FGHSP pictures in their new brochure. All agreed!

The June meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

Deposit since June: \$1,123.60. wood, fire pits and can returns.

Current cash in the checking account = \$15,673.09

We have \$5.00 in savings.

There is one outstanding check for \$11.65.

Old Business:

Update from Grand Haven State Park: Andy Lundborg

The Mobi Mats were ordered and are expected to arrive as soon as next week. Park staff will install them if they arrive before the Coast Guard festival.

The third Action Track chair is running. The flag for the chair needs to be brought to the park (Bob Moore). A poster advertising how to reserve the chairs will be created by Becky Newman and posted in the bulletin board in the pavilion. Andy will check to see if there is a simple url to use along with the QR code. The park phone number will be included in an unobtrusive way.

Judi Mazurek suggested that spare brock dock sections could be combined to form a platform for picnic tables placed near the walkway for easier handicap access.

The park had a good 4th of July extended weekend with no newsworthy incidents. They will employ the same plans for Coast Guard Festival.

The park summer staff is up but the Ranger staff is down 3. Postings for those positions close on 7/17/23. The Rangers who left Grand Haven State Park have all been taking advantage of good opportunities with the park service elsewhere. So Grand Haven seems to be a good proving ground!

A new permitting process has caused delays in completing projects, but the park is catching up.

Update from Bob Moore:

15 more fire pits were delivered to the camp host shed and 8 remain in storage.

Water Safety Books were delivered to the Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors Bureau, the Historical Museum, the Migrants Program, the YMCA, and the camp host shed. We are saving half a case for the 2023 Earth Day event.

Observations on Soccer in the Sand:

- 1) No coffee vendor. Could the FGHSP partner with a local vendor for 2023 as we did in the past?
- 2) Is the event too big? Andy Lundborg agreed that the event completely takes over the park and overwhelms the parks resources. The park staff consider it the worst weekend of the summer to work in the campground.

The Earth Day event organizers would like to see the State of Michigan DNR/Grand Haven State Park be involved next year. Ottawa County parks had great representation this year. The park and the FGHSP could work together. It would be very cool to have an Action Track Chair on site.

The handicap picnic tables are still being occupied by the public as there is no signage yet on the tables.

There is pending legislation regarding expanding the bottle/can return program to include all single serve beverages. If passed this could have a significant impact on the park. Dumpster management is already a big issue, and the park is being charged for "too full" dumpsters.

Bob has knee replacement surgery scheduled for mid-August and will not be able to collect returnables afterwards.

New Business:

Birds of Prey: July 20th

Use outdoor location near food trucks. Becky confirmed the PA system with Outdoor Nature Center.

FGHSP Entity:

The FGHSP is in its 10th year! Mike reflected that with such a small group we have accomplished a great deal. But he posed the question: What more can we accomplish and what are our goals going forward, if any? Andy shared that he often hears from other park personnel that they wish they had a friends group like ours. Bob shared how often he gets thanked by people in the park for what we do. It was decided that the agenda for our August meeting would be dedicated to the future planning of the FGHSP. Members need to come prepared to share ideas that they would be committed to pursuing. Andy was asked to survey park staff for ideas as well.

Next Meeting: August 21, 2023, at 3:30pm. Location: Pavilion at Grand Haven State Park.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:06pm.