

Friends of Grand Haven State Park

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023



Meeting commenced: 3:40pm at the Pavilion.

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

Mike welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked Karen and Judi for helping with the Up Close and Wild program held in the park last Thursday. The program was moved inside due to extremely windy weather. 25 – 30 people were in attendance. While there were not as many animals/critters on display as expected, the kids enjoyed the presentation. The park staff seemed unaware that the program was taking place. Mike had called Andy Thursday morning to confirm plans but did not hear back until Friday.

Mike's conversation with Andy on Friday was about the sand build up issue at the approach to the newly installed mobi mats. He asked that park staff address that daily. Andy has ordered a walk behind sweeper which will make that job easier.

The July meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

Deposit since July: \$5,846.75 from wood, fire pits, Coke and a PayPal donation.

Expenses since July: \$3,030.32 for insurance, wood, Outdoor Center programs, filing fee, snacks and gift cards for camp hosts.

Current cash in the checking account = \$18,061.66

We have \$5.00 in savings.

Old Business:

Update from Grand Haven State Park: Andy Lundborg not present

New Business:

Update from Bob Moore:

Bob presented a list of accomplishments of the Friends of Grand Haven State Park over the last ten years. Karen added two items: the community meeting for input on playground design and participation in the earth day event. Mike also presented a similar list with financial costs associated with our successful projects and activities.

The group would like to display signage in the pavilion and the campground promoting the Friends Group. The focus would be on "Who We Are" and "What We Have Done" for the park.

FGHSP Entity:

We had a lengthy discussion about the current status of our Friends Group and what the future looks like for us. Many members are on the fence regarding maintaining the organization. Bob Moore indicated that he would be leaving at the end of 2023. Others voiced sentiments that they feel disrespected and taken for granted by park personnel and State of Michigan/DNR employees. The discussion boiled down to several questions the group needs to have answered by the State of Michigan/DNR:

- 1) Does Grand Haven State Park value the Friends Group?
- 2) What is the role of the park management within the Friends Group?
- 3) How can communication between the Friends Group and the park be improved?
- 4) Who has the vending rights in the park?

Regarding vending rights, although the Friends have another 2 years under contract with Coke, we are operating without a legally binding agreement with the State of Michigan/DNR. Our initial 3-year partnership did not get automatically renewed, which is a real point of contention. Coke has turned over servicing to AD Bos due to issues on their end. Mike will investigate how that affects our commission.

The group also discussed the park's camp host situation at length. The park has had difficulty getting camp hosts and our current hosts have been in the park for 4 months. They are gone a lot and do not prioritize selling wood.

It was decided that Mike would approach Andy Lundborg first with the questions and concerns of the Friends of Grand Haven State Park and let him know we are considering disbanding.

Next Meeting: September 11, 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 5:05pm.