

Friends of Grand Haven State Park
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023



Meeting commenced: 3:32pm at the Pavilion.

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

Mike welcomed new member Allison Maggio and thanked everyone for coming.

The August meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Judi Mazurek

Deposit since August: \$1,368.41 from wood, fire pits, cans and a \$10 cash donation.

Expenses since August: \$17.99 for trash bags for returnable can collection.

Current cash in the checking account = \$19,846.28

We have \$5.00 in savings.

Old Business:

Review of Questions the FGHSP had for the State of Michigan DNR and Grand Haven State Park: Andy & Mike

On behalf of the FGHSP, Mike Mazurek posed 4 questions to Andy Lundborg as part of our evaluation of the future of the Friends Group. In summary:

- 1) Does Grand Haven State Park value the Friends Group? Andy stated emphatically that the park personnel value the FGHSP 100%!
- 2) What is the role of the park management within the Friends Group? To participate in meetings as much as possible and to communicate the park's vision and plans.
- 3) How can communication between the Friends Group and the park be improved?
 - a. Andy feels that phone calls between him (as Supervisor) and Mike (as President) are very effective.
 - b. Regular attendance of the park staff at FGHSP meetings.
 - c. Quick response to email.
 - d. Education of park staff about the FGHSP
 - i. Include the FGHSP in orientation days at the beginning of the season.
 - ii. The FGHSP could host a lunch and present information.
 - iii. Post FGHSP accomplishments in the pavilion and the campground.
- 4) Who has the vending rights in the park?
 - a. The FGHSP 3-year partnership agreement with the State of Michigan was not renewed.
 - b. The concessionaire (Simple Adventures) contract is valid through 2028.
 - c. There are currently 5 groups "selling" in Grand Haven State Park, including the 3 food trucks.
 - d. There are a variety of State of Michigan contracts (state-wide) that have differing language and terms, such as "exclusivity" and "lifetime agreement" verbiage that is confusing.

- e. It is incumbent upon the FGHSP to pursue the contract for vending, wood and fire pit sales.
 - i. Andy Lundborg suggested a group meeting with Elisa (concessions) and Michelle (Friends Groups) of the State of Michigan once the season wraps up.

Update from Grand Haven State Park: Andy Lundborg

This year the park had a full summer staff that has stayed on past Labor Day! The park is still short of full-time Rangers, which is being addressed and could be resolved for 2024.

Karen asked if the park staff would be able to keep up with the installation of any FGHSP projects that are procured in the future. Andy felt they could but communicated that an audit of the State's permitting process could have an impact on the use of park personnel for installation/maintenance work. Specifically, there will be constraints on electrical and plumbing projects. Additionally, any project with an ADA component will require a site plan and contractors. The mobi mats are considered temporary and do not require the site plan.

The Modern Lodge will be converted to administrative offices in January 2024. There are 41 people working out of the current headquarters building. Andy hopes the move is temporary as a new or remodeled headquarters building may be considered for Grand Haven State Park.

The family restroom in the channel lot bathroom building continues to suffer from vandalism during the offseason. Because there are still a lot of people using the park during those months, the park will keep that restroom open only when the park is staffed. Portable toilets are being investigated. The restroom in the campground check-in building is too costly to heat.

Andy and the park staff love the mobi mats! The public is also very happy with them (with one exception when the mats were first installed before the sand was compacted). Andy is hoping for multiple additional mobi mat installations, including around the food truck loop and on the east side of the volleyball courts. There is a new product that looks interesting: a 16.5-foot wing section that would extend at an angle off the current mats to form a resting platform.

Becky asked Andy about handling requests from the public for amenities in the park that the requester is willing to pay for. It was decided to work on those on a case-by-case basis to consider if they should go through the Friends Group or the park.

New Business:

Update from Bob Moore:

There is one box of water safety book #2 left.

What's next for the FGHSP?

Mike started the discussion by recapping his thoughts, which ranged from "spending down our funds and disbanding" to "We have accomplished a lot and I would like to see the FGHSP continue". This seems to be a good synopsis of the group's thinking as well! In consideration of continuing, here are the items the group felt were important to address:

- 1) Recruitment of new members
 - a. Should we hire a firm to run a campaign for us?
 - b. Invite members of other local groups to join (example: Energy and Sustainability group).
 - c. Invite high school students who may need community involvement opportunities.
 - d. Focus on Grand Haven residents who may need resume building experience.
 - e. Have a presence at Grand Haven area events (Jingle Bell parade, Winterfest, Earth Day event, Coast Guard activities).
- 2) Purpose of the FGHSP
 - a. Programming

- i. Monthly programs during the season
 - ii. Explorer program: State Park position
- b. Projects

Mike asked the members to be prepared to discuss this in detail at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2023, at 3:30pm. Location: TBD

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.