

Friends of Silver Lake

Minutes

Friends of Silver Lake Board Meeting

May 14, 2015

Members Present:

Tom Rickhoff, Bob Busscher, Michael Jonassen, Ed DeJong, Bob Henry, Bill DeJong & Chris Olson

Members Absent:

Sue Sharp

Guests:

Tim Schreiner, Jacquelyn Blodgett, and Jody Johnston from the DNR

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Rickhoff.

I. DNR Update

Tim Schreiner the District Supervisor from the Cadillac office, Jacquelyn Blodgett the Chief of Programs in Lansing, along with Jody Johnston the newly appointed Acting Manager of the Silver Lake State park provided the DNR update.

1. ORV-Silver Lake Dune Access

The DNR was proposing a new alternative to vouchers which would have been an online process for obtaining vouchers which would have reduces the need for obtaining vouchers at the Voucher center and likely reducing the lines and traffic congestion. This new system was about to be approved until a number of dune enthusiasts came out against the new system. The DNR formed a taskforce composed primarily of dune enthusiast. The work of the taskforce has resulted in a new system for entering the dunes where vouchers will no longer be required. Changes have been made which theoretically will expedite the process of accessing the dunes. The new system would not limit the number of vehicles which would be permitted on the dunes. Approximately 70 volunteers have been trained to help expedite the process. Since this is a new system, it is not certain whether this new process will reduce lines, wait time, or traffic congestion. With the potential increase in ORVs in the dunes, no changes are being made to address the potential safety issues.

The DNR is using various forms of social media (websites & FaceBook), along with flyers and other media to communicate the new procedures.

At this point it is uncertain how the new system will work. Further refinements may be needed once the DNR has more experience with the new system.

Friends of Silver Lake

2. State Park Renovations

The DNR has begun the renovations of the parking-boat launch area of the Silver Lake State Park. (see attached State Park renovation plan). Since last fall, trees and fencing in the parking, picnic and boat launch area have been removed. The DNR only received one bid to do the renovation of the project. The bid was for \$1.6m, the budget of the project is \$1.2m. After some reductions to the proposed project, the cost is still approximately \$200-300K over budget. The DNR is looking at doing more of the work internally and possibly using some additional funds from next year's budget.

The implementation of the project is to be phased in with the work on the east side of the park commencing first which includes the new boat ramp and then moving more westward until the project is completed in 2016.

3. New State Park Manager

State Park Manager Charlotte Kiefer has taken a new position at Traverse City State Park. Greg, the assistant manager has moved on to Muskegon State Park. On an interim bases, Jody Johnston has been names the acting manager of the Silver Lake State Park. Additional staff are being added to fill the remaining vacancies.

According to Tim Schreiner the Cadillac District Supervisor, the DNR will be looking to hiring a permanent Silver Lake State Park Manager. There are internal procedures they will need to follow including allowing persons within the system to request a transfer. There was discussion regarding the possibility of having a selection committee where the Friends of Silver Lake might have a representative. There was also discussion for the need for the new manager to have good communication skills, ability to work collaboratively with the community, and someone who is a good facilitator. The process to hire a permanent manager may take several months.

There was also discussion regarding the Silver Lake to Lighthouse pedestrian access. It was agreed that there would be a follow-up meeting regarding this matter later in the summer.

We want to thank the DNR representatives for being at the meeting and we look forward to an ongoing collaborative relationship.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the August 28, 2014 Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed.

Motion to Approve the Minutes was made by Michael J and Seconded by Bob B.

Motion Passed

III. Treasurer's Report

Bill D.J. Reported there is a balance of \$9,882.94

Friends of Silver Lake

Two items were requested for approval

1. \$500 donation to the 4th of July Fire Works

Motion made by Ed D.J. seconded by Michael J

Motion Passed

2. Authorization to spend up to \$1,000 for the completion of the sign for the Golden Twp. Park at Silver Lake. It was proposed that the Friends of Silver Lake would be willing to help pay for the completion of the sign project if the Park Committee agreed to have the Friends of Silver Lake placed on the sign.

Motion made by Ed D.J., seconded by Chris O.

Motion Passed

IV. USGS Update

Bill D.J. reported that USGS is in the process of writing the final report. This report is being reviewed internally in USGS and will likely be finalized later this summer. There is discussion about having a presentation at the FoSL annual meeting in June. Once the report is completed, decisions will need to be made as to what actions will be taken to correct the problems.

V. Silver Lake Population Study

Bill D.J. developed a population study of the cottages, campgrounds and hotels in the Silver Lake area. During the winter months there are less than 1,000 persons in the Silver Lake/Upper Silver Lake Area. During the month of July there are approximately 14,000 person plus day visitors. The total number of persons in the greater Silver Lake area on the 4th of July is nearly 25,000. There is a 70+ page report on the website. A link to this report has been emailed to the Friends of Silver Lake and to our local governmental officials

VI. Board Vacancy

A vacancy was created when Lawrence Walker decided not to serve on the Board. Ed DeJong is a current board member whose term expires this year. It was proposed that Ed DeJong, once he completes his existing term, continue on the board filling this vacancy. Ed would then serve the remaining two years of the vacancy created by Lawrence Walker.

Motion to appoint Ed DeJong to fill the Board vacancy was made by Bob Henry, seconded by Bob B.

Motion Passed

VII. Nominations

As of June 30, 2015 three new board members will be needed. The following persons terms will expire: Sue Sharp, Ed DeJong and Bob Henry

The board had discussion regarding potential replacements and representation from various sectors of the greater Silver Lake community. President Rickhoff appointed Michael J and

Friends of Silver Lake

Bill DJ to serve as a nominating committee. Prior to the annual meeting a slate of nominees will be sent to the Board for their approval prior to the annual meeting in June.

Other items discussed included:

- Preparation for the June annual meeting
- Emailing to the Friends of Silver Lake
- Cihak's proposed waste system
- AED's
- Public relations

