Friends of Lake Superior Park
Annual General Meeting

November 6, 2025
6:00 - 7:00 pm via Zoom

AGM Minutes

Charitable registration # 891321143 RR0001

Board Attendees: Beth Lacher, Sarah Lawson, Johanna Rowe, Cynthia Mitchell, Matt Trudeau, Brandon Smit, Carol Lucio, Emma Blanchett

New Board Directors: Zahra Ebrahim, Nancy Matschke, Jeffrey Deans

Guests: Norm Lafreniere, Park Superintendent, Anna Scuhr, Discovery Leader, Elise Campbell, 2025 Artist-in-Residence, 8 guests

Public Session

1. **Guest Speaker**: Elise Campbell, 2025 AiR Recipient spoke very highly of her experience as this year's artist in residence. Her work invites people to delight in what can be found when we slow down and take in the forest floor. Elise's felted mushroom piece will be added to the AiR gallery at the Visitor Centre.

2. **Friends of LSP**: Mission/Vision/Values reviewed by Secretary Johanna Rowe.

3. **Board member introductions –** 5 members introduced themselves. Johanna Rowe and Sarah Lawson thanked Beth Lacher for her immense contributions as Chair, and Beth thanked Sarah and Johanna for their significant time and dedication on the Board.

4. **2025 project highlights**

a. **Artist in Residence** – Elise Campbell was the 2025 recipient – our fifth year. There were 45 applications received this year and it was the first time ever the jury made a unanimous decision. As Sarah will be ending her term on the Board, anyone who would like to take on the AiR lead role is welcome to do so.
b. **New to the Sault day trip** – Friends partnered with the Sault Community Career Centre to facilitate a bus trip for 40 newcomers from Sault Ste Marie to spend the day at LSPP at Agawa Bay in June. This was the fourth year this trip occurred and it was very well received by all.
c. **Backcountry Program Equipment** – Beth confirmed we will be purchasing water filters for the backcountry team. Beth thanked Dawson Marshall, the Backcountry leader, for co-ordinating with the Friends on this purchase.
d. **Discovery Program Equipment** – Beth provided an overview of items purchased for the discovery program including projectors and AV equipment. Beth thanked Anna Scuhr and Jeffrey Deans for their work facilitating these purchases; a video was played from the Discovery team thanking the Friends for funding these purchases.
e. **Mental Health Ambassador** – Friends provided a $1000 bursary to a peer chosen staff member at the park – Charlotte Kovacs was this year's recipient.

5. **Upcoming projects**
    a. Website migration – as Wix is on the boycott list, the Friends did not want to continue using them for our website. The website will now be hosted on Squarespace and migration work will be completed by the end of the year. The work is being completed by Sustainable Digital.
    b. Anishnabe place names map – a quote was received, and initial work has started on the project. It is currently on hold but the Friends see the value in moving this project forward and look forward to continuing it.

Members' voting session

1. **Adopt agenda** – moved by Carol, seconded by Matthew and approved.

2. **Adopt minutes from AGM 2024** – moved by Sarah, seconded by Johanna and approved

3. **Board Member Votes** (2-year term):

    a. Cynthia Mitchell - approved
    b. Nancy Matschke - approved
    c. Jeffrey Deans - approved
    d. Zahra Ebrahim - approved

4. **Financial items**
    a. Receive financial report for 2024-2025 – Brandon reviewed this fiscal year's revenues and expenses. The Friends assets as of October 31/25 were $79,738.14. Expenses and revenues were similar to previous years, with the exception of new expenses for the website migration and refurbishment of the Great Lakes VC display.

    Question about membership merchandise; Emma Blanchet confirmed these are magnets and stickers. Jeffrey Deans asked for confirmation on how much his allocation was to spend on certain items. Brandon confirmed it was $1500 for a telescope and $300 for bat detectors.

    Motion to accept financial report moved by Brandon and seconded by Carol – approved.

5. **Agenda additions** – co-ordinate with the park store in the spring about purchases/inventory needed. Norm will facilitate this next year.

    A gift of appreciation was given to Beth to thank her for her inspiring leadership on the Board. The gift was a tile of Old Woman Bay, made by a local Wawa artist, Corina McDonald.

6. **Adjourn – 7:13 PM**