



NEWPRO Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019

HOSTED BY: Winnebago County Parks

Winnebago County Administration Building 112 Otter Ave.

Oshkosh, WI 54901

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – host Winnebago County Parks Director Rob Way called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
 - a. Welcome – a little background on this historic building, former Oshkosh B’gosh International Headquarters.
 - b. Introductions – PRESENT: Vicky Redlin, Rob Way, Renee Wagner, Kassandra Humke, Troy Novak, Chad Dallman, Kristine Butteris, Brenda Stumpf, Sonja Heins, Adrienne Lacy, Emma Aumiller, Kevin Boehm, Steph Schlag, Jen McCollian, Jim Kluge, Melody Escoto, Reid Fieber, Megan Sackett, Brian Tungate, Tom Flick, Trish Nau, Mike Kading.
 - c. Host Report - Rob reported on the latest developments with Winnebago County Parks, including the development of WDOT land into a north county dog park, upgrades at Sunnyview expo Center and future plans.
 - d. Presentation: Winnebago County Health Department: “The Dangers of Blue/Green Algae” - Jaime Finke from presented provided information on what to look for, how to identify, treat and avoid blue green algae.

2. **Reports**
 - a. Park Section: Vicky Redlin – the last online meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to September 12. Discussion was mainly around the upcoming conference and ideas regarding going forward with future spring workshops. Kathy Gruentzel was voted in as State Park/DNR Rep. Next meeting online Oct. 25.
 - i. Eminent domain law update regarding use for trails – we will have an update on this. A handout as given out from Emily Dieringer of the Winnebago county Health Dept. who is working with a state-wide group to create a bill within the state legislature to allow for the use of eminent domain for shared use paths/trails throughout the state.
 - b. Recreation Section: Adrienne Lacy - reported on the future use of WPRRA funding to provide speakers and trainers for hands on instruction at meetings. It was recommended to include remote connections whenever possible to meetings to include everyone who cannot attend in person.
 - c. Aquatics Section: Melody Escoto – reported on regulations regarding variances required for specific pool usage, among them for dog swims. Also a reminder that Taylor test kits are being replaced.
 - d. YPN Section: Adam Breest - in Adam’s absence Chad reported that the YPN is working on outreach to state universities to increase student involvement. Waiving of fees for students is proposed.
 - e. WPRRA: Steph Schlag – gave an extensive update on the latest, including a Strategic Plan which will be presented to the members at the annual conference. Pillars of the plan include; leadership, conference, membership and increased communication. A reminder to vote in board elections by Oct. 1. There will be a new leadership orientation at this year’s conference on Tuesday 5-7pm, all are welcome. Other items covered; sponsorship programs, web site update, membership changes, speaker data base.
 - i. 2020 NEWPRO Meeting Dates & Locations – remain on 3rd Thursday. All dates were distributed among attendees for locations. Dates will be included at the end of all future agendas.
 - ii. WPRRA office update – covered in above
 - f. Conference Updates – Kristine urged members to use the new Guidebook app for the conference.
 - g. Other (Membership, Awards, nominations, etc.):

- h. NEWPRO Account Balance: Chad Hoerth – It was decided to use the \$114.86 balance to provide a basket for the foundation raffle at this year’s conference. Kristine will take the lead on putting together the basket.

3. Discussion

If you have any helpful information regarding the discussion items below, please bring copies of the document(s) to the meeting or email to Steph S. to distribute

a. Administration/General:

- i. What is your requirements for scholarship/financial assistance programs in your department? Most reported that the federal poverty level was used for determination of need. Usually a % is discounted with limits ranging from 100%/50% to up to a max of \$250.00.
- ii. Friends Groups vs. Foundations: What does your community do? Are the groups supportive of the organization or do organizations spend more time supporting the group? Most friends groups require limited staff involvement though they should be self supporting with little guidance and minimal budgetary impact. There is a greater need for transparency. Having a Community Foundation is a plus.
- iii. Community Bands—paid or unpaid? – most pay the director not individual members. There is the appearance of a ‘sacred cow’ relationship where these groups are not scrutinized to much.

b. Parks:

- i. Spraying for mosquitos in parks – Do you do it? Do you allow others to do it? Most do not allow individuals to spray, some spray themselves and others allow only large groups with insurance coverage to spray for their events. A licensed insured company is required if outside entity is used.
- ii. If you have outdoor fitness equipment, what company did you purchase your equipment from and any positives or negatives that you can share? What type of safety surface did you install under the equipment? Individual stations along trail or a stationary area of equipment are both used. Most use the type with moving parts. Greenfields and Landscape Structures were companies noted. Poured in place is the overall main surface however for some types of equipment this can wear under certain pieces.
- iii. Dogs in parks – none, on leash, off leash? Other pets allowed? – use of path that was built for ADA access is detrimental to having dogs on leash, mobility impaired individuals, bikes and walkers/joggers and rickshaws.
- iv. How do you interact with your local law enforcement regarding the enforcement of park rules? ? Ie. on regular patrols do they routinely stop or site people who are disobeying rules? Complaint based only? Regularly scheduled patrols? - pulled
- v. Opening and closing of parks – automated gates, contracted security company? Ledgeview and Waupaca as well as Jefferson County use them.
- vi. Skateparks- anyone having behavior problems at their parks and if so- any successful remedies to the problems? – most have cameras though garbage is still an issue. Fencing around the perimeter and closing the park for bad behavior increases self policing.
- vii. Outdoor Signage- for small memorial plaques, etc. What materials have you used successfully, economically? Using bronze etching seems to be the best.

- c. **Spring Workshop:** What would you like to see at next year’s Spring Workshop, why you have or have not in the past, additional feedback and comments - get info to Adam Breest. 2020 is in Middleton.

d. Aquatics:

- i. Anyone with a Beach? What type of ADA accessible mats do you use to get on to the sand or down by the water for wheelchairs? Mobimat is the most popular.
- ii. Swim lesson toys.... Anything new out there or something you swear by and use often? Noodles used for classes at Kohler.

4. Adjourn - meeting adjourned 12:05 p.m.

NEWPRO Meeting Schedule for 2019:

October 17: Ashwaubenon

November: Annual Meeting: Wisconsin Dells

December 19: Neenah