

NEWPRO Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2010
HOST: Brillion, Parks, Recreation & Aquatics
Brillion Community Center, 120 Center Street, Brillion, WI 54110

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Shane Hansen (City of Brillion Recreation Director).

Brief overview of host community and department: Brillion is a city of approximately 3,000 residents located 20 minutes east of Appleton, 20 minutes south of Green Bay, and 20 minutes west of Manitowoc. In 1970 a recreational/community building, was built in Brillion and remains operated by the City as the “Brillion Community Center”. The B.C.C. has an indoor gymnasium, two indoor pools, an indoor racquetball court, locker rooms, and several multipurpose/meeting rooms. Because of the presence of the B.C.C. the City of Brillion employs a full-time Recreation Director, part-time Aquatics Coordinator, and a large staff of seasonal instructors and lifeguards.

Although Brillion is a short drive away from larger cities, the area directly surrounding the city is a rural area. Because of its location and size, many of the programs that the Park & Rec Department runs will have competitions both in town and in other small rural communities in the area.

Programs offered: Zumba, Tai Chi, Yoga, Water Exercise, Arthritis, Fox Valley Tech classes (wood carving, knitting, fishing 101, and digital photography), Baseball, Soccer, Swimming Lessons, Youth Dance, Flag Football, Tennis, etc. 2010 operating budget of approximately \$455,000.

Guest Presentation: Dennis from Horst Distributing discussed topics/products pertinent to field maintenance and preparation. He also discussed specific products that improve field “playability” such as baseball/softball diamond dry products that keep dry dirt surfaces moist, and dries out moist dirt. Dennis discussed field prep equipment and mentioned that Horst Distributing will lend out equipment to agencies and allow them to try the equipment during weekend tournaments. Dennis also handed out “Pro’s Choice” bags that had product/services literature.

Reports:

WPRA – Laurie commented that the next meeting will be 3/10 and will be conducted via Go to Meeting. Topics discussed also included; WPRA Board nomination forms, award nominations, Brewers tailgate, and WPRA’s use of LinkedIn.

Parks – Vince commented regarding the recent updates of the Parks section. Topics included; WPRA Directory, Spring Workshop, IMPACT, LinkedIn Webinar, Professional/Young Professional of the Year Awards, Summer Park Tour, and the Pre Fall Conference.

Recreation – Carrie commented regarding the recent updates of the Recreation section. Topics included; Workshop speakers, upcoming nominations, and the upcoming Youth Leadership Workshop.

Aquatics – No report

Other – Nothing

NEWPRO Lifeguard Competition – Laurie commented regarding this item (she had an email from Veronica). Green Bay has decided not to take part in the competition which has brought up discussion as to whether the competition will continue. In the past it has become difficult to find a sponsor for the food, leaving the host to pay for this and other expenses. Discussion was brought up to possibly eliminate awards (costs) and to spend all monies on feeding the participants. It was also brought up that a possibility to help pay for the event would be to charge fees for every team that participates.

Old Business:

State/Federal Legislators attending NEWPRO meetings – No update

Military Family Waivers - Laurie mentioned that this topic will be going to the board for potential statewide Park & Rec media campaign.

Discussion:

Online Registration Software – Chad discussed research that New London had done regarding online registration and scheduling programs. New London uses Active net which has allowed them to do online reservations for baseball fields – reducing their in-house scheduling for baseball fields from 1,000 to around 50. Laurie mentioned that Neenah uses Rec-Track software and has seen approximately 30% online registration.

Park Maintenance Agreements – Tony discussed that in Greenville the Lions Club made a large capital donation for the park (essentially for naming rights) but that the park is maintained by the City. The Lions host a concert every year to raise funds for the park. Other NEWPRO members commented that their parks are operated in a similar manner (capital donation, but then city maintains).

Reduction of Pool Operating Expenses – Neenah installed thermal pool blankets and can equate approximately \$10,000 in savings to the blankets. Other communities commented that they use similar blankets and it was discussed that there may be rebates available from Focus on Energy. New London commented that they use a variable frequency valve to control the heating during different times of day. Fond du Lac mentioned that they have reduced cleaning expenses by transferring the duties to the lifeguards, installing motion lighting in the locker rooms, and also installing the frequency valve.

Late Registration Policies – Jody commented that in Sheboygan they charge a small fee for late registration. Jeff mentioned that in Kaukauna they recently implemented a system with one level of charge for on time registration, another 50% increase in fee for late registration pre-draft, and a 100% increase in fee for registration done after the draft of teams. Al from Kimberly mentioned that they use extra shirts for marketing. Other communities mentioned that they will place several t-shirt orders because of late registrants.

Grants & Contributions – Jody mentioned that they received a nice grant from USTA. Vince commented that in Menasha they received an Urban Forestry Grant. Laurie added that in Neenah they have received grants from (among others) the USTA, NRPA, Sticks for Kids, and Wisconsin DOT.

Raffle – Winning tickets were announced

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Shane Hansen (3/1/2010)

2/25 NEWPRO Attendance

Name

Tony Nowak
Vince Maas
Chad Hoerth
Julia Martinson
Callan Moorey
Jody Brooks
Laurie Olson
Jeff Malloy
Marty Kasobucki
Kent Kostelecky
Stephanie Aerts
Al Schaefer
Maria Andersen
Carrie Ottum
Brigette Sonnabend
Shane Hansen

Dept/Agency

Town of Greenville
City of Menasha
City of New London
City of New London
Sheboygan Intern
Sheboygan
Neenah
Kaukauna
De Pere
Marinette
De Pere
Kimberly
Ashwaubenon
Fond du Lac
Brillion
Brillion