



Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

Park Section Meeting Minutes

Whitewater, Wisconsin

February 19, 2008



I. Call To Order

G. Pinney called the meeting to order at 10:55 am

II. Roll Call

Attending: Kathy Gruentzel, Bob Rafel, George Pinney, Chad Brown, Dave Mehls, Matt Amundson, Steve Brunner, Duane Hofstetter, Jeff Gorman, Juliene Hefter

Excused: Cindy Robles, Ray Maurer

Guests:

III. Minutes

Minutes from the January 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed. B. Rafel made a motion to accept; second by D. Mehls. Motion approved.

IV. Reports

a. Chair report

G. Pinney updated on the tax status for WPRAs and it's affects on the Park Section. WPRAs is a 501(c)(6) organization and therefore does not have tax-exempt status. Sales tax must be paid for all purchases.

Surplus funds from each yearly budget will be returned to WPRAs if not used by December 31 of each year. A deadline of December 15 for all invoices will be instituted to avoid any accounting problems in the future.

All non-member fees for conferences, workshops, and events are a minimum of 25% above the member cost.

Contracts must be signed by the WPRAs Board; the WPRAs Office can also approve contracts for hotels, services, etc.

b. Chair Elect report

No report.

c. Past Chair report

B. Rafel reported that Chula Vista made a mistake on the date for the Spring Workshop. They will be forwarding corrected contracts and George Pinney must sign and return to Chula Vista with WPRAs acceptance.

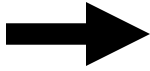
CIVMIC will be able to talk about the lifeguard vision liability and contracting/outsourcing issues during the Spring Workshop.

d. Secretary/Treasurer's report

Year to date budget was presented.

e. Region 1

D. Mehls reported that Region 1 met and discussed the new HS 172 pool codes.



The region would also like to see workshop and conference materials be made available before the Annual Conference so departments can budget to send professionals. B. Rafel will arrange to get dates set for 2009 Spring Workshop and information can be made available immediately. Rec Section needs to be coordinated as well so all information is current.

f. Region 2

No report.

g. Region 3

M. Amundson reported that Whitewater hosted the PARR3 meeting and had Dr. Barach from UW-Whitewater come and speak on internship opportunities with them. They also were able to take a tour of the Aquatic Center and athletic facilities.

h. Region 4

S. Brunner relayed that SEPRC met at the new Community Center in New Berlin and toured the facility.

i. Rep at Large

D. Hofstetter sent yet another letter to the Governor's Office in regards to changing the Stewardship language and has not received a response. A side note: three state parks received grants to build playgrounds.

j. Rep at Large

No report.

k. State Park Subsection

K. Gruentzel made a note that the state is in a hiring freeze for all positions.

l. Committee Reports

Urban Forestry – J. Gorman brought materials in reference to the federal budget cuts to the USDA Forestry Service. The current budget has an 82% decrease in funding.

The committee for Best Management Practices for Invasive Species is looking for a WPRA member to serve. Names and ideas should be forwarded to J. Gorman or Dave Liska from the City of Waukesha.

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's 2007 report was made available in PR Monthly and on the WPRA website. Included in that report is the 20 Million Trees by 2020 initiative. The private sector will be relied on heavily to help meet that goal.

Conference Committee – G. Pinney relayed C. Robles report.

WPRA Report – J. Hefter stressed the change that will be seen in the 2008 Annual Conference. The banquet will be held on Wednesday rather than Thursday and members are encouraged to remind everyone.

There will be a Pre-Conference Institute for Playground Safety Inspectors. The Park Section would like to hold a Pre-Conference Institute as well. C. Brown will contact Kelley Woldanski for the topic and forward the information on to the Conference Committee.

There is a new membership directory on the website and the directory has also been mailed out.

The WPRA Office is in the process of forming a Friends of WPRA in order to be able to apply for grants to service the organization.

WPRA Board governance will be voted on at the Annual Conference. A powerpoint will be presented then.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Spring Workshop Update
See above discussions.
- b. Park Section Board Manual
Tabled
- c. Teleconference Equipment Update
B. Rafel brought in some examples of equipment that could be used for members to call in for meetings they are unable to attend. Several models fit the need of the group and remaining monies from the 2008 budget will be considered for purchasing this equipment.
- d. Park Section Design Awards
R. Maurer forwarded some information on the awards and needs a 1.5 hour block of time on Wednesday or Thursday during the conference for presentation. C. Brown will forward this information on to the Conference Committee.

VI. New Business

- a. NRPA/WPRA Legislative Priorities
No changes or additions were made to the
- b. Finalize Annual Conference Topics

VII. Other Business

R. Maurer stated that Marian College is looking for applicants for a teaching position related to the Park & Rec field.

T. McGuire asked about the possibility of having teleconferencing to allow those who cannot attend a meeting to have input. B. Rafel will check on hardware that the Park Section will test.

Nominations for the Park Section Board are welcomed from the membership.

VIII. Adjournment

K. Gruentzel made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 am; second by B. Rafel. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad D. Brown, Park Section Secretary