

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association Progress Report 2007



Second Quarter {April - June}

The following is a summary of the Significant Events, Committee/Section/Task Force Involvement, Association Personnel, Membership Status, and Financial Status of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for the second quarter of 2007, April through June.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. RFP's are obtained from management consulting companies to review the results of the Organizational Assessment Survey and Focus Group, as well as to provide recommendations on the governance of the State Association.
2. CeJay Associates LLC is selected by the Executive Committee to provide an assessment and recommendation on the governance of the WPRA Board of Directors.
3. WPRA begins a preliminary investigation with the Department of Tourism to design a "LocateAPark" online format for citizens to locate a local, municipal, county or state park and recreational facilities.
4. The WPRA Foundation, Inc. conducts a Brewer's Game & Tailgate Party on May 6th as a social and fundraiser for professional and student grants. 134 are in attendance for this first time event.
5. Jay Jansen, Director of the Port Washington Parks and Recreation Department passes away on April 23, 2007. A "named fund" is created within the WPRA Foundation from memorials to Jay, and a bequest from Jay's estate.
6. The Deputy Director completes the design of a new online payment format for WPRA agencies participating in the 2007 Discount Ticket Program.
7. The President, President-Elect and Executive Director meet with Senator Darling regarding needed changes to the Park District legislation.
8. The WPRA Board elects not to take a stand on the Park District legislation, and to have a binding referendum vote placed on the 2008 ballot for the membership to determine the official stance of the State Association.
9. The Board approves the amended Policies and Bylaws on May 9, 2007.
10. John Gulick from CeJay Associates attends the May WPRA Board Meeting to provide an overview on his findings of the WPRA Board governance. The Board elects not to approve any of the recommendations provided by the consultant, and to create a Task Force to continue to investigate the need to downsize the Board.
11. Jim Kavemeier, President of the WPRA Foundation provides an update on the goals and objectives of the Foundation to the WPRA Board on May 9, 2007.
12. The first quarter financial report is approved with \$1,873.66 in net revenues.
13. Roger Kist appoints Bill Duncanson, Director for the Wausau/Marathon Parks & Recreation Department to serve as the WPRA representative on the Advisory Committee for the development of Recreation Best Management Practices for Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests.
14. Roger Kist attends a special Village Meeting in Sister Bay on May 14th to provide support to their efforts to create a Department of Recreation & Tourism.
15. NRPA and WPRA partner to create the first "joint membership" application and brochure to promote both national and state association membership.
16. The 2008 Ballots are mailed to the membership, along with an Annual Business Meeting Agenda, Bylaw amendments, and the 2008 Legislative Platform.
17. The Executive Director drafts a Policy of the Board dealing with the Governance Process: Effective Governing, Board Direction, Control, Inspiration, Board Discipline, Board Leadership Recruitment and Development, Board Link to Membership, Board Link to Other Organizations, Annual Cycle, Job Descriptions, Authority, President as Chair, Chairperson Job Result, Board Accountability, Fiduciary Responsibility, Authority, and Confidentiality.
18. PlayFit Education, Inc. conducts six Summer Seasonal Workshops and Inservice Sessions in the WPRA Regions during early June. The WPRA Foundation, Inc. provides a \$1500 sponsorship toward payment of the featured speaker.

19. The WPRA Board decides to place the Park District legislation as a “binding referendum” to the membership. A majority decision by the membership will become the official stance of the State Association.
20. The Governance Task Force decides to place three questions of the 2008 ballot to solicit membership feedback regarding the Board governance. The first statement indicates that the Board should not have Section Chairs serve on it; the second statement indicates that the Board should not have Region Reps on it; and the third statement indicates that the Board composition is fine as is.
21. Three Legislative Alerts are disseminated regarding the next Stewardship Program and Fund. A special alert is sent that addresses hunting on local park lands.
22. A Call to Action is implemented on June 8, 2007 requesting that WPRA Board Members contact the Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee to urge their support with the next Stewardship Fund and Program.
23. The Executive Director develops a draft “Policy of the Board” regarding the governance process, job descriptions, chairperson’s role, and board member’s code of ethics.
24. The Executive Director develops a draft of the Strategic Plan for the Future Vision 2015 to continue the work on the adopted Strategic Plan.
25. The Deputy Director develops a draft of a “Friends of Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Group” for Board consideration in generating needed funds to operate the State Association.

COMMITTEE/SECTION/TASK FORCE

1. The Professional Development Committee decides to conduct a second leadership academy in 2008 at the Aurora University – George Williams Campus. Two tracts will be provided: One for returning or second year participants, and one for first time registrants.
2. The 2008 Legislative Platform is completed. Both state and national issues remain generic, with no specific reference to individual bills or pending legislation.
3. Fees for the second Leadership Academy are approved by the WPRA Board on May 9th: Member-\$459; Non-Member-\$509.
4. The WPRA Foundation agrees to provide \$2500.00 to support speakers for the second Leadership Academy.
5. The Aquatic Section successfully hosts 5 Aquatic Technician Workshops throughout the state.
6. The Aquatic Section Seminar takes place on May 18th at the Eau Claire Park & Recreation Department with 40 registrants.
7. The Annual Fun Run/Walk of the Recreation Section will have a .1 CEU component at the 2007 Annual Conference.
8. The Recreation Section decides to take on the Annual Summer Leadership Workshop for seasonal and part-time employees. This will become a Sub-Committee of the Section.
9. The Pre-Conference Booklet is completed by the Deputy Director and disseminated to the membership and speakers.

10. Joe McLafferty, Chair of the WPRA Legislative Committee sends letters to Representative Kitty Rhoades and Senator Russ Decker, Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee urging them to support the extension of the Stewardship Funding through 2020 and in removing the “nature-based outdoor recreation” restriction from the legislation.
11. Joe McLafferty selects two WPRA members to Co-Chair the 2009 WPRA Annual Conference & Trade Show at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Wisconsin Dells.
12. A Legislative Alert is disseminated on June 19, 2007 regarding the “Play Everyday Act” and the “IMPACT Act” to the membership. The Play Every Day Bill would help to promote the national recommendation of physical activity to kids, families, and communities across the country. The “IMPACT – Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity Act that addresses the growing public health problem of increasing rates of obesity, being overweight, and eating disorders, as well as the related serious chronic conditions.
13. The Awards Committee selects the 2007 State Association Award recipients:
 - Professional Award of Merit:
 - George Wilson Service Award:
 - Partnership Award:
 - Fellowship Award:
 - Elected Official Award:

ASSOCIATION PERSONNEL

1. The Executive Director and President attend the NRPA Spring Board of Trustees Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from April 19-22, 2007.
2. The Executive Director agrees to run as the President for the American Park and Recreation Society, the largest membership branch of NRPA.
3. The Executive Director agrees to run for a second term on the NRPA Board of Trustees.
4. The Deputy Director attends the NRPA NAC Program Planning Meeting.
5. The Deputy Director provides a presentation on Customer Service Training to part-time staff for the cities of Ashwaubenon and Oshkosh that brings in revenues for WPRA.
6. The Deputy Director provides a presentation at the Aquatic Seminar in Eau Claire.
7. The Executive Director is invited to attend a special meeting to discuss the future of the Regional Councils at the NRPA headquarters on June 26-27, 2007. NRPA covers the entire cost for attending this special planning meeting.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

1. The WPRA membership for the second quarter in 2007 is as follows:

	2007 Total 2nd Quarter	2006 Total 2nd Quarter
Aquatics:	164	144
Recreation Section:	484	595
Park Section:	444	427
State Park Subsection	45	33
Zoo Subsection	6	11
WTRS:	63	133
Student Section:	59	*284
Commercial:	140	121
Boards/Commissions	187	112
Organizations:	24	20
Life/Emeritus:	55	61
Office Support:	76	61
	Totals: 1,747	2,002

***In 2006, 240 Student Memberships were sponsored. The Student Membership also includes one professional membership, thus the higher numbers in the Recreation and Therapeutic Sections.**

FINANCIAL STATUS

1. The financial status for the Association for the Second Quarter in 2007 is as follows:

Total Revenue:	\$ 176,212.29
Total Expenditures:	\$ 236,405.73
Net:	\$ -60,193.44 (2nd Quarter 2006: \$ -67,843.99)

*****It is typical that the Second Quarter finances are in the red, as income comes into the WPRA Office during the third and fourth quarter for conference registration, discount ticket payments, membership renewals, etc.***