

NEWPRO Minutes
Appleton / April 17, 2008
10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Introductions

Introductions were given with the following people in attendance: Tim McGuire – Appleton, Bill Lecker – Appleton, Niki Wendt – Appleton, Kabel Helmbrecht – Appleton, Chad Hoerth – New London, Amanda Geiser – Town of Menasha, Laura Gorges – New London, Laura Wayne – New London, Pat Baye – Green Bay, Ann Peot – Green Bay, Veronica Robinson – Oshkosh, Tony Nowak – Greenville, Larry Buck – Appleton, Vince Maas – Oshkosh, Sara King – Howard, Judy Judd – Shawano, Al Schaefer – Kimberly, Marty Will – Appleton, Kent Kostelecky – Marinette, Tom Ludwig – Neenah, Dennis Swoboda – Two Rivers.

B. Welcome – Host Report

Bill Lecker, Director of the Appleton Parks and Recreation Department gave the report. Items that were discussed:

- Diversity and the increase in some minority communities/populations. Currently Appleton is working with their intercultural coordinator to get information out in Hmong and Spanish.
- Regional cooperation – working together with surrounding departments on programming opportunities.
- Activate Fox Cities - an initiative we are participating in with the YMCA to get people out and active.
- Electronic communications - we are working towards the ability to use our information electronically and eliminate some of our paper usage.
- Current projects of interest: we are exploring a park on the SE side of town, the Riverfront project, the College Ave. bridge project, re-lighting the ball diamonds at Appleton Memorial Park.

II. Reports

A. WPRA – Sara King reported:

- Summer ticket program tickets have come in.
- NPSI for Playgrounds is coming up November 2-4. They need a minimum of 40 to run the training. Information is on the WPRA website.
- Scholarships are available through the NRPA for those interested in attending the NRPA Congress in Baltimore. Information is on the WPRA website.
- May is Community Fit Month.
- The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 7th in Manitowoc.

B. Park Section – Tim McGuire reported:

- Park Section is working on finalizing their conference topics. Topics will include: Regionalizing cooperative agreements with other agencies (schools, counties etc.), turf management policies, security issues in the parks, installing playground equipment.
- Tim spoke briefly about the ability of section members to attend meetings and whether or not there is a way to make it easier for those having to travel so far i.e. teleconferencing.

C. Recreation Section – Sarah King reported for Jeremy Crees:

- At the last meeting Rec Section voted on the Board Governance and they choose option 1 with no voting student member.
- The next Rec Section meeting is April 18.

D. Aquatics Section

- The Aquatic Technician Workshop is being hosted in Green Bay on April 23rd and in Holmen on April 30th.

- The Aquatic Seminar is scheduled for May 16 in Sun Prairie. Information on these workshops/trainings can be found on the WPRO website.

E. Other

- Al reported that the Brewers Game/Tailgate Party deadline is today (April 17th). Currently there are more than 100 people registered.

III. Topics

A. Guest Speaker: Pete Scheuppert, Sports Sales Manager of Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau

Pete gave an overview of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and talked about how he sells sports in the area. He also gave ideas for grants available to communities and spoke briefly about bids for tournaments.

B. Creative Ideas for Staff Orientations

Ideas were discussed on how to keep your staff orientations interesting. Keeping things interactive (quiz show at the end of the training), spreading out the times for training, inviting guest speakers were all ideas shared. Tim McGuire talked about training for his parks staff where they set up an obstacle course and give new staff the opportunity to operate the equipment before putting them out in the field.

C. Ordinance Samples Needed: regulating for-profit groups in profit-making activities within your municipal facilities

Discussion was held on whether or not you allow peddlers in your parks. Any department with information or ordinances/policies should contact Chad Hoerth in New London.

D. Training Staff on Physical Contact and Treatment of Children

Niki Wendt is currently working with her HR Department to establish guidelines that will help educate seasonal staff as to what is and what is not appropriate behavior with children. None of the departments/agencies present had any guidelines currently established. If anyone has any information please contact Niki.

E. Lifeguard Staffing: Did you have trouble finding lifeguard staff for this summer?

Kabel Helmbrecht discussed the shortage of lifeguard applicants for this year. Oshkosh has seen the same low numbers of applicants. Neenah said that they have a “How to be a Lifeguard” curriculum in their High School so that helps draw interest. Green Bay said they have a very strong Junior Guard program and because of that have not have many problems hiring lifeguards. There was also discussion on whether or not departments reimbursed their employees for training costs. Some departments reimburse them for certain trainings while others do a partial reimbursement. Those who reimburse them for trainings will often times reimburse them at the end of the summer (as to avoid them paying for the training and then the employee leaving).

F. How have the new pool codes affected you?

Most departments were across the board with their changes (new signage, new test kits, a lifeguard staffing plan).

G. Other Topics

The current NEWPRO account balance is \$447.11

H. Neil Anderson, Director of Operations from the Appleton Family Ice Center gave a tour of the facility.

I. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday May 15th in Manitowoc.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Wendt