

NEWPRO Minutes
Waupaca / May 17th, 2007
10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Introductions

Introductions were given with the following people in attendance: Jim Ash-Waupaca, Niki Wendt-Howard, Ginger Miller-New London, Bob Rundle-Fond du Lac, Jim Kluge-Neenah, Laurie Olson-Neenah, Brad Lange-Allouez, Tina Westergaard-Green Bay, Denise Larson-Manitowoc, Paula Rahn-De Pere, Jeremy Crees-Manitowoc, Sara King-Bellevue, Heidi Darrah-Bellevue, Matt Amundson-Appleton, Tim McGuire-Appleton, Kabel Helmbrecht-Appleton, Jody Brooks-Sheboygan

B. Welcome – Host Report

Jim Ash, Director of the Waupaca Parks and Recreation Department gave a brief overview of the park facilities they maintain. The city also operates a beach facility in the summer where they provide swim lessons and water aerobics.

II. Reports

A. WPRA – Niki Wendt reported:

- Organizational Study: On March 7, 2007 the WPRA Board of Directors approved the motion to obtain RFP's regarding the governance of the State Association. Steve contacted three management consultation companies. A report was disseminated to the Board from CeJay Associates, LLC on May 1, 2007 for their review. John Gulick from CeJay reviewed his two recommended options for a Board reduction, as well as the reasoning behind the two. He also recommended removing the Executive Committee, since there was a duplication in responsibility, and indicated that WPRA should continue to enhance communication among its membership. Following extensive discussion by the Board, a recommendation was made to create a Task Force to take the consultant recommendations, along with the results of the Focus Group. Roger Kist appointed Board Members after the meeting to serve on the task force.
- Please help support WTRS with their brat fry fundraiser! The brat fry will be June 15, 16 and 17 from 10:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. at the Pick N Save in Oshkosh. If you are interested in helping out, contact Connie Geisthardt
- The next Board of Directors meeting is August 22nd in La Crosse.

B. Park Section – Tim McGuire reported:

- Summer Park Tour will be held in Appleton July 18 – 20, 2007
- Talked about geocaching and how the DNR is now making people fill out applications and register their caches.
- Park Design Award entry forms were distributed.
- Talked briefly about the Emerald Ash Borer and how the WDNR prohibits visitors from bringing firewood into a state park, forest or other DNR land from greater than 50 miles away from that location or from outside the state of Wisconsin. You will be violating federal and state laws and subject to substantial fines.

C. Recreation Section – Matt Amundson reported:

- The deadline for the Youth Leadership Workshops is May 25th.
- Rec Section discussed the Spring Workshop and the majority favors the one day workshop format.
- The next Rec Section meeting is scheduled for May 18th.

D. Aquatics Section – Ginger Miller reported:

- The aquatics seminar schedule for May 18th in Eau Claire has 48 participants registered.
- The aquatics facility tour will be August 10th in the Fond du Lac/Oshkosh area.
- Nominations are currently being accepted for Chair Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Region II, Region IV and two at large representatives.

E. Other –

- Denise reported that the Impact Magazine deadlines have changed from the 15th of the corresponding month to the 1st of the month.
- 135 people attended the Foundation's Brewer Tailgate Party. \$1,600 was raised through the Foundation from the event.

III. Topics

A. Does anyone conduct criminal background checks on participants?

Jody Brooks discussed how they have a sex offender using their fitness center and was looking for advice from other departments. Jim Ash was directed to call the state probation and parole office. Some departments suggested posting pictures at your facility of sex offenders in your area or keeping a log book for staff.

B. Leagues that require WIAA officials, Legion/Babe Ruth

Brief discussion was held on how to find umpires and about the training offered and pay offered.

C. New Minimum Wage Law – How will it affect your department?

Most departments commented that depending on the increase it would definitely affect their budget.

D. Website Resources

The NRPA website has numerous links in it to access great information. Most departments commented that they just do a web search when they are looking for items/ideas.

E. Dogs in Parks/Leash Policies

In Neenah, dogs are allowed in the parks but they must be on a leash and on a paved trail. The owner must also have a disposal bag with them for any waste. In Howard they are permitted in their parks in any area that will not interfere with the use of the parks by other people (not allowed in buildings, picnic areas or sport areas). They must also be kept on a leash not more than 8 feet long. Brad Lange has received a lot of information on this topic through the WPRA Listserve. If anyone would like the information, you can contact Brad.

F. Park District Update

Senator Alberta Darling invited Joe McLafferty, Roger Kist and Steve Thompson to a special meeting on May 4th to discuss the language in the legislation that was opposed by some of the WPRA membership. The meeting proved to be very productive, and the Senator agreed to remove the statement "and no county may contain more than one district if the county itself is part of the district." This now means that municipalities within a given county can create their own park districts, in addition to the county creating their own if preferred.

Following extensive discussion by the Board at our May meeting, it was moved that this issue be placed on the 2008 Board Ballot requesting that the membership vote to support the proposed Park District legislation or oppose it. This will be a binding referendum vote, and the Board will endorse the results of the membership vote, and this will become the position of the State Association.

Additional information on the legislation will continue to be posted on the WPRA website for membership viewing, including the full copy of the proposed legislation. Regions and Sections should continue to encourage the membership to review this material, and then to vote when they receive the ballot.

G. Seasonal Brochures

Departments brought their seasonal brochures to share. Discussion was held on distribution of the departments brochures (should they be mailed, distributed through the schools etc.). Departments who used to mail them and now do not (to save cost) commented that they have seen a decline in program participation from not mailing them to their residents. We also discussed advertisements in the brochures and how that is handled. Some departments solicit their own while other departments have companies do this for them.

H. Other Business/Topics to Share

Ginger Miller discussed the NEWPRO Lifeguard Competition for this summer and costs that are involved. A motion was made and seconded to allow an amount, not to exceed \$200, to be used to help fund the 2007 competition. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Rundle talked briefly about Community Education Programs, specifically summer schools. For the cost they can offer their programs, it really makes it hard for recreation departments to compete.

I. Location of upcoming 2007-2008 NEWPRO Meetings

Locations were chosen for the upcoming NEWPRO meetings. Niki will check on dates with these departments and email a confirmed schedule out to region II members.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Wendt

Region II Representative