



Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

Park Section Board Minutes

Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

January 9, 2007



I. Call To Order

B. Rafel called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

II. Roll Call

Attending: Lynda Schmidt, Kathy Gruentzel, Duane Hofstetter, Kelley Woldanski, Bob Rafel, Cindy Robles, George Pinney, Jeff Gorman, Dave Mehls, Chad Brown, Tim McGuire, Tom Barnes,

Guests: Tom Blotz – DNR, Ray Maurer – City of Oconomowoc

III. Minutes

Minutes from the December 14, 2006 meeting were reviewed. L. Schmidt moved to accept; second by K. Gruentzel. Motion approved.

IV. Reports

a. Chair report

No report.

b. Chair Elect report

No report.

c. Past Chair report

L. Schmidt is finalizing Spring Workshop details.

d. Secretary/Treasurer's report

C. Brown handed out an updated Park Section Committee contact list and budget information. L. Schmidt was able to get remaining 2006 funds used for busing in the 2007 Summer Park Tour budget. This line item should be noted in the 2007 budget for future year planning.

T. Barnes moved to accept Treasurer's Report; second by D. Mehls. Motion approved.

e. Region 1

D. Mehls reported that Region 1 will be meeting January 24 in Chippewa Falls. They are looking at meeting at some of the smaller, northern communities.

f. Region 2

T. McGuire reported that NEWPRO will meet in De Pere on January 18.

g. Region 3

C. Robles reported that they will meet January 11 in Madison.

h. Region 4

K. Woldanski reported that SEPRC will meet in Cedarburg on January 24. B. Rafel added that SEPRC talked about the Park District issue and did not put forth a stance until more information is gathered. T. Barnes asked about WPRAA forming a Task Force for this issue.

i. Rep at Large

D. Hofstetter stated that Tom Blotz from the DNR will report on changes and work being done on the Stewardship program.

Additionally, he added that Law 109-432 was being worked on, funding \$150 million for LAWCON for 10 years. This will be dedicated money specifically for use within this program. Members are encouraged to lobby at the local level to more monies through this program and additionally, from other state and federal programs.

Tom Blotz distributed a draft of the Stewardship program proposal. Governor Doyle wants to add the Stewardship program to the on going budget talks and will likely want a position for his State of the State Address. Reauthorization of the program is on the table and a Stewardship Advisory Council has been created which includes members of WPRA. Steve Thompson will be encouraged to attend these meetings and express the concerns of WPRA and the Park Section.

D. Hofstetter continued that discussions have arisen about funding the program and administering the nature-based aspect of the program at a 75/25 ratio (related to active recreation). It is being encouraged that "nature-based" be removed from the program language and the DNR be allowed to administer the program with respect to nature-based versus active recreation. Also being stressed is the program funding level be at \$15 million. Currently, the program is funded at \$8 million. These monies aren't currently being spent due to the restraints nature-based is making on municipal and non-profit acquisition and development.

At the next Park Section meeting, it was suggested that a resolution be passed on to the WPRA Board in regards to this important issue.

T. Barnes spoke about the importance of smaller communities getting involved in lobbying for their needs. Currently, they are eliminated from Stewardship monies due to the nature-based restraint on acquisition. D. Hofstetter added that the League of Municipalities, which many small communities are members of, did not add this issue to their list of topics for lobbying in 2007 but should be encouraged to take action.

D. Hofstetter will get members information on Stewardship for their use in lobbying their state representatives.

j. Rep at Large

T. Barnes spoke about the affect that Stormwater Utilities and other tax units are having on Park and Rec departments. This is especially evident with park waterways and their use and maintenance. Tom Blotz added that members are reminded that these Utility Districts can apply for Stewardship and LAWCON grants.

k. State Park Subsection

l. Committee Reports

Urban Forestry – No report.

Park Conference Committee - G. Pinney discussed current conference topics and members added their input. G. Pinney will take those suggestions and forward them to the committee for final consideration. He added that Kalahari is being very proactive with gifts and add-ons for the conference.

WPRA Report – No report.

V. Unfinished Business

a. 2007 Meeting Schedule

B. Rafel distributed the 2007 Park Section meeting schedule. T. Barnes made a motion to approve the schedule with changes to the time of the March 8 and July 18 meetings; second by D. Hofstetter. Motion approved.

b. 2007 Chairman Goals

B. Rafel handed out his list of goals for 2007 for review.

c. Update on 2007 Summer Park Tour

T. McGuire stated that he received the information from the 2006 Summer Park Tour from Shawn Schmidt. Busing for the 2007 Tour was paid for with remaining funds from the 2006 Park Section budget. Rates for the tour will be needed by the March 8 meeting for submission to the WPRAs Board.

d. Park Section Foundation Scholarship Criteria

L. Schmidt passed out a draft of criteria for scholarships. She asked that these criteria be reviewed and passed onto the Foundation for their review and use.

T. Barnes suggested that we simply use WPRAs Foundation criteria with the stipulation that these funds only be used for Park Section members.

T. Barnes made a motion:

Remaining 2006 Park Section funds to be donated to the WPRAs Foundation (approximately \$2900). \$1500 is to be made available to Park Section professionals for scholarships to any 2007 WPRAs conferences using current WPRAs Foundation criteria. A Park Section representative will be made available as an advisor to the Foundation for deciding scholarship winners. Remaining funds will be re-evaluated in 2007 for use in subsequent year's scholarships.

Second by L. Schmidt. Approved unanimously.

VI. New Business

a. 2007 Annual Conference Topics

G. Pinney discussed that handouts and topics that will take place at the Annual Conference. The Park Section will investigate putting on a Pre Conference Institute on Park Design. K. Woldanski already has speakers for the Institute and she will work on final details for this opportunity.

G. Pinney added that there are 10 time slots and 2 rooms for a possible total of 20 educational sessions.

VII. Other Business

T. Barnes asked that Bob Rafel get the WPRAs Board to form a Park District Task Force for information gathering and dissemination.

L. Schmidt asked the WPRAs Board update sections on the restructuring of the board's composition.

VIII. Adjournment

K. Woldanski made a motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm. Seconded by L. Schmidt; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad D. Brown, Park Section Secretary