



Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

Park Section Annual Meeting Minutes

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

March 8, 2007



I. Call To Order

B. Rafel called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm

II. Roll Call

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

Excused: Cindy Robles

Guests: Ray Maurer, Nathan Nickel

III. Minutes

Minutes from the February 8, 2007 meeting were reviewed. T. Barnes moved to accept; second by L. Schmidt. Motion approved.

IV. Reports

a. Chair report

B. Rafel attended the WPRAs Board meeting and reported that in a 6-6 tie, with President Roger Kist breaking the tie, WPRAs will not support Park Districting legislation. T. Barnes asked that a synopsis or abstract of the Park Districting report be completed and made available to the membership.

Additionally, the WPRAs Board voted to keep the board at the same size with the exception that the Secretary and Treasurer positions will be combined. This will need to be approved by the full membership at the Annual Conference.

A Request For Proposal will be entertained to find an auditor to review WPRAs and the Board.

B. Rafel was asked to investigate purchasing projectors for use at WPRAs events. The cost of these projectors used at convention centers has raised this issue.

b. Chair Elect report

No report.

c. Past Chair report

L. Schmidt reported that there were 107 registrants for the Spring Workshop and everyone should thank the sponsors.

d. Secretary/Treasurer's report

No report.

e. Region 1

D. Mehls reported that New Richmond will host the 2010 Summer Park Tour.

f. Region 2

Tim McGuire passed out the 2007 Summer Park Tour flyer that was approved.

Additionally, geocaching issues have arisen in several parks. C. Brown will forward the geocaching website (www.geocaching.com and www.wi-geocaching.com) for members to see what is in their parks. There are some issues with damage being done to parks and facilities. The Park Section should address permitting and oversight of this activity.

- g. Region 3
No report.
- h. Region 4
K. Woldanski reported that SEPRC met in Sussex with the DNR present to give a report on various grants that are available to departments. The Pre Conference Institute information has been approved and flyers are available.
- i. Rep at Large
No report.
- j. Rep at Large
No report.
- k. State Park Subsection
No report.

l. Committee Reports

Urban Forestry – J. Gorman reported that Dave Jeske has agreed to be the WPRA representative on the Invasive Species committee of the Urban Forestry Council. Also, the DNR is now filling the vacated position of Urban Forester for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Park Conference Committee - G. Pinney is having trouble finding speakers for two topics. He will be moving down the list of ranked topics if no speakers come forward. Risk Management in parks will be investigated for a future Spring Workshop.

WPRA Report – No report.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Update on Summer Park Tour and Fees Adopted
Flyer was distributed and was approved by the WPRA Board at their last meeting. G. Pinney made a motion to approve the 2007 Summer Park Tour fees as presented; seconded by K. Woldanski. Motion approved unanimously.
- b. Stewardship Program Update
D. Hofstetter disseminated an email that was sent by the Natural Resources Board in regards to Stewardship reauthorization. This email contained the removing of nature-based from the project eligibility requirements.

The Natural Resources Board is holding public informational meetings to discuss the program. It was suggested that a WPRA member try and attend each one of these meeting to voice the needs of WPRA and our communities. The move by some groups to attach open hunting rights to land obtained through Stewardship is not a dead issue and members are encouraged to voice their opinions about this development.
- c. 2007 Annual Conference Topics
Above.

VI. New Business

a. WPRFA Scholarship Policies Review

B. Rafel received information from Steve Thompson regarding the policies for scholarships through WRPA. Questions still persist about the role the WPRFA Foundation has and B. Rafel will take the question to the WPRFA Board. It was suggested that the “scholarships” be changed to “educational funds” to avoid problems in the future. L. Schmidt will ask an outside accountant for an opinion on the non-profit status and scholarship use.

VII. Other Business

R. Maurer reported that Jay Jansen is going to need help with the Park Design Awards and that he is willing to undertake that project.

VIII. Adjournment

K. Woldanski made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 pm. Seconded by T. Barnes; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad D. Brown, Park Section Secretary