

MRPA Fitness and Wellness/Facility Section Meeting Minutes Friday, June 26, 2009: Valleyfair

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm

Attendees:

Cindy Higgins, Nicholas McArdle, Michelle Snider, Lisa Jost, Angie Olson, Amy Crary, Mike Bauer, Mike Mattson, Patrice Atkinson, Brad Martens.

Patrice Atkinson and Brad Martens provided a background of both the Fitness and Wellness Section and the Facility Section.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Welcome: Melanie & Kim from Valleyfair spoke about the availability of consignment tickets available for communities. Consignment tickets can be purchased for \$25.50 and are non-dated so can be sold all year. Regular value is \$37.99.

Core Topic: Asset Management

Tom, Maintenance Manager with Valleyfair gave an overview of his role at Valleyfair in asset management. Tom is in charge of park maintenance, rides, equipment, service, non-destructive testing and more.

A typical day for his crew begins with morning inspections from 6:00 am-10:00 am. After the inspections take place, the operations group then tests the equipment. Evening work includes cleaning and greasing of the rides. The biggest job is the roller coasters which requires a great deal of inspection. A third party is hired to test the equipment. Law states that each year 10% of the coaster equipment must be tested, Valleyfair test 100% annually. Valleyfair is a non-union shop. It is difficult to find anyone with amusement park experience so Tom looks for people with mechanical backgrounds and teaches them to work on rides. There are 40 employees working on mechanical items and two clerical staff.

Any items found to need attention are entered into a daily work list and assigned a number. All equipment is tracked separately and includes hours worked on, dollars put into the equipment and hours used. All items are tracked through Microsoft Access.

Mike Mattson, Director of Arena Services & Buildings with Ramsey County spoke about his experience with managing assets. Mike stated that you can't have a good asset management program without a good preventative maintenance program. Start by consulting with all maintenance staff and by assessing current conditions of equipment and inventorying the equipment. Find the lifecycle of equipment. This can be found by searching on Google for "component lifecycles". Should be an amount of \$5,000 or greater to make it on a life cycle list.

Assessing of current conditions can be difficult on certain items. Ramsey County has used thermal imaging of electrical equipment and taken oil samples on compressors which are sent Eau Claire for testing. This can help to predict problems in advance. In 2004, Ramsey

County hired Inspec to assess all bituminous and come up with a schedule for replacement. It was found that it was easier to pass through items with more information gathering and more data.

Equipment/Operations managers need to be stewards of equipment, land, etc. It is best to track all items honestly with proper data so you can make the best recommendations possible. If problems come up later that you already identified, you can stand tall knowing you did everything you could in advance.

Ramsey County uses a work order system created on an Excel spreadsheet. The program "MainSaver" was purchased several years back but proved to be very cumbersome.

Tour:

Attendees were given a tour of Valleyfair by staff.

Announcements:

1. Upcoming Meetings for the Facility Section:
 - a. Tuesday, September 8th: Energy Efficiency
 - b. Tuesday, November 10th: Strengthening Your Message Through Data Collection and Reporting

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned

Additions:

Patrice Atkinson has provided the following contacts to help with asset management:

Brian Kiley brian.kiley@onesourcefitness.net
One Source Fitness (suggestion)

Marcus Heygster, asset management software
Phone: 1.800.730.9965
Direct: 1.801.265.9500 x2209
Email: MarcusH@QQest.com
Website: www.ManagerPlus.com

Brad Martens stumbled upon an interesting program called "Microsoft InfoPath". This program has asset tracking abilities. If anyone has experience in the program please let Brad know.