

MRPA Programming Section Meeting

December 19, 2008

10:00am

Edina City Hall

“Hot Topic” and Discussion: Youth Volunteers & Leadership Programs

Attendance:

Lisa Abernathy	Falcon Heights
Andy Soltvedt	New Brighton
Kristin Aarsvold	Edina
Kari Hemp	Bloomington
Steve Skinner	Apple Valley
Jody Griffin	St. Paul
Sara Cahill	Monticello
Roxann Maxey	Roseville
John Stutzman	Chanhassen
Jen Saver	Rec. Graduate
Bethani Gerhard	MRPA
Eric Boettcher	Roseville
Michelle Snider	MRPA

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order by Andy Soltvedt at 10:00am

Welcome and Introductions

Additions to Agenda

-Lisa Abernathy announced WILS upcoming Professional Development Workshop being held Wednesday, January 21st from 8:30am- 4pm at the Maple Grove Community Center. The theme this year is Renew, Refresh, Recycle... Ourselves. Vicki Snyder who presented at the MRPA conference will be one of the key speakers at this event as well as Environmental coordinators from the MPB to talk about incorporating recycling efforts in facilities and programs. Non members can also get a discounted WILS membership rate if they attend this workshop.

Approval of the Minutes

- Steve Skinner approved the minutes from the November meeting.

Topic Discussion: Youth Volunteers & Leadership Programs

- Andy Soltvedt opened discussion asking if people were experiencing changes with the recent budget cuts. John Stutzman asked the group about their scholarship policies. Below is what was reported from each city:
 - o Apple Valley- They get very few requests for scholarships but do offer 50% off of program fee. They require documentation.
 - o St. Paul- Gives \$100 per family to be used on programs.
 - o Roseville- Currently gives \$100 per person. Family has to come up with 20% of program fee and the City covers the rest up to \$100. They require a valid ID with the scholarship application.
 - o Edina- \$100 per family. They have to show documentation of fee reduced lunch.
 - o Bloomington- They give a 75% reduction in the program cost. They can get 4 per year and 3 have to be used towards summer programs.
 - o Falcon Heights- 50% of program fee is waived. Each child is allowed 3 scholarships per calendar year.

Topic Discussion

- Kristin Aarsvold suggested looking at the City of Brooklyn Park's Leader program. Edina has utilized them in programs due to them not offering many programs for that particular age group. This way they be involved and be extra hands helping staff. A minimum fee is charged.
- Bloomington uses volunteer leaders at their playground program. There is a special person who is responsible for these volunteers.
- Roseville has LIT (Leaders In Training) program. There is a fee associated with this program. When they didn't charge a fee to be a LIT they didn't get as much of commitment from applicants as they do when they do charge a fee. Currently they charge \$22.00 and are asked to commit a minimum of 3 hours. A paid staff is assigned to them and they attend a portion of staff training, have regular leadership meetings and they participate in team building and leadership activities throughout the summer. Their summer coordinator supervises them along with her summer coordinating duties.
- New Brighton does use volunteers. They have to go through same application process as a paid staff but do not have to fill out all employment forms, just the background check.
- Falcon Heights does have Junior Leader program. They are trained along with paid staff and then solely on their duties. They are placed in programs based on their availability and skill. Currently there is no fee to be a junior leader but they are considering charging a small fee.

- Andy Soltvedt asked if anyone has a youth liaison on their Park Commissions. Many do but it varies if that student has voting rights.
- Andy asked what other type of programs or event cities use volunteers for. Edina uses many in their ski and golf programs as well as their special needs and theatre programs. They are hoping to gain more volunteers for Edina special events specifically. Chanhassen looks at the school and the different clubs- NHS, Key Club any club looking for volunteer hours. They created new programs from this, finding a person who specializes in something and who volunteers their time to teach the program.
- Types of Recognition for volunteers?
 - o Chanhassen gives a letter to person stating their hours and what they volunteered for.
 - o Bloomington holds a city wide breakfast where volunteers are recognized and given a gift.
 - o Roseville holds a dinner and gives a gift to each volunteer.
 - o Edina holds a small ceremony for its Leaders In Training so their families can be involved.

Professional Connections

- U of M - no update. Possibly a visit in the spring.
- St. Cloud- no update
- Minnesota State- Mankato- will be holding a Job Fair in early February. Look for a flyer coming out from MRPA.
- Winona- Job fair in February. Contact Jared Flewellen if interested in going.

Workshop Committees and Roundtables

- A sign up sheet for workshops and roundtables was sent around.
- Farmers Market Roundtable will be held Friday, February 27th from 9am-3pm at the Eagan Community Center. Topics of discussion will be planning, recruitment of vendors, policies, licenses and other resources. Flyers will be coming out soon.
- Steve Skinner updated the group on the Disney Institute coming up in April. Details are wrapping up and advertising will be finalized in January. The Disney Institute will take place on Thursday, April 30th at the Plymouth Creek Center in Plymouth.

Updates

MRPA- Michelle Snider

- Election results are posted and were sent out through email.

- Andy Soltvedt will be receiving the New Horizon award at MRPA's Annual Meeting/ Awards Ceremony being held Thursday, January 8th at Maple Grove Community Center.
- Michelle met with Sajai and discussed possibilities of working with them kicking off their new curriculum aimed at getting kids outdoors. They will be attending the programming meeting in Hastings in January. They may be a good resource for the Summer Leadership Workshop.
- MRPA's online registration is coming closer to going live. They got a view on how both work so will be deciding soon which one they will be using.
- The UAAA Hall of Fame banquet will be held Friday, January 16th in Brooklyn Center.
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Board Update:

- Michelle reported on Dan's behalf. The board approved the legislative platform so they will monitor what's happening throughout the year.
- The editorial board for the MRAP magazine will be setting the calendar on Monday, January 12th. They are looking for more people so if interested contact Michelle.

The next Programming Section Meeting will be held Friday, January 16th in Hastings.