

MRPA Programming Section Meeting

March 20, 2009

10:00am

Chanhassen Recreation Center

“Hot Topic” and Discussion: Adult Programs- Issues in programs and what’s new in sports and beyond.

Attendance:

Lisa Abernathy	Falcon Heights
Kristin Aarsvold	Edina
Jason Hicks	Bloomington
Sara Woeste	Minnetonka
Anny Davy	Mninetonka
Reed Smidt	Woodbury
Dan Lauer	Plymouth
Aimee Peterson	Chaska
Kristin Hoemberg	Plymouth (intern)
Erica Anderson	Plymouth
Jim Lombardi	St. Louis Park
John Stutzman	Chanhassen
Eric Boettcher	Roseville
Roxann Maxey	Roseville
Andy Soltvedt	New Brighton

Agenda:

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

Welcome and Introductions

Additions to Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

- Motion made by John Stutzman and seconded by Dan Lauer

Topic Discussion: Adult Programs- Issues in programs and what’s new in adult sports and beyond.

Topic Discussion

Question was asked if any cities have seen a decrease in numbers in their adult leagues?

- Many cities have not seen a decrease in their league enrollment numbers. Discussion of the economy and that more may be staying in town this summer and recreating closer to home.
- Both Chaska and Plymouth have unaffiliated volleyball to keep the cost of the league down.
- Roseville asked what cities do if a team's sponsor pulls out at the last minute. Plymouth notifies the teams ahead of time that if their sponsor pulls out there is no refund. St. Louis Park refunds a percentage based on the timing of the notification, when schedules are set, etc.
- Reed Smidt asked the group if any city has looked at doing a wood bat Softball league for a change. John Stutzman said that from a coaches stand point it would be fun to do for kids but wasn't sure it would be league potential. Reed Smidt also asked the group what cities allow alcohol in the playing area. In Plymouth they can't have alcohol within 500 feet of the playing area but they know people do not abide by that rule. In New Hope they do allow alcohol in the playing area and so far teams have policed themselves because they do not want to lose the privilege. Bloomington has an ordinance set regarding this issue so it is the police to enforce the rules not the park and rec.
- Price increases in leagues? St. Louis Park, Roseville, Chaska and Bloomington did increase. Woodbury increased last year so did not this year and Plymouth did not increase rates this year.

Other Adult Programs

- Plymouth has been offering different language classes.
- Roseville is trying gardening clinics and cooking classes.
- Zumba
- John Stutzman is working with his senior coordinator on combining the senior programs with the youth- Grandparents and child crafts, woodworking, etc.
- New Brighton has begun putting age ranges on the program rather than a label of "senior" on programs.
- Badminton leagues - Plymouth has a big interest.
- Open Lacrosse
- Bocce Ball
- Dog Training
- Strollersize
- Mom and Baby programs

Professional Connections

- Nate Rosa will be going to Mankato Wednesday, September 9th to talk to classes and then attend the majors meeting in the afternoon.

- St. Cloud- Aimee and Jim touched on the change of the department up at SCSU and how the interest in MRPA has changed so many instructors are hard to cooperate with having us attend classes.
- The group is looking at targeting University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse.

Workshop Committees and Roundtables

- Summer Leadership Workshop- Lisa Abernathy reported the workshop committee has set the schedule for the day and will be getting the flyer to MRPA soon to be distributed. The fee for the workshop did not increase this year so it will be \$30 per person or if a city signs up 4 or more people then it is \$25 per person. The Eagan Community Center will be hosting this summer's workshop.
- Farmers Market - No update.
- Intern Best Practices- No update.

Updates

MRPA

- A new Design Institute will be implemented April 21- 22nd. It's aimed at non planners who are interested in learning more about the four components of design- natural resources influences, operation and maintenance perspectives, outdoor education programming and park design principles. More information will be on the MRPA website and coming to you through emails.

Board Update:

- Dan Lauer reported the board has finalized the meeting schedule for the year.
- They are looking at changing the bylaws to coordinate with their realignment of the northern territory.
- The board will meet with the legislative committee late in March.

The next Programming Section Meeting will be held Friday, April 17th at Shoreview Community Center.