**MRPA Programming Section Meeting**

Friday, December 18, 2020 | Zoom Conference Call

AGENDA

Meeting was called to order by Jacob at 10:02am. Approval of Minutes: 1st Meredith, 2nd Kiley

Additions to the Agenda: Someone would like to add the topic of Spring Events

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| Jacob Anderson, Brooklyn Center | Aaron Thelen, New Hope |
| Steve Krueger | Abbie Kline, Red Wing |
| Tanya Love, Elk River | Lakeville |
| Joy Handt, Blaine | Chaska |
| Adriene Vassar, Maple Grove | Michael |
| Natalie Anderson, Elk River | Stephanie Schutta, Shoreview |
| Lisa Abernathy, St. Louis Park | Trevor Magnuson, Moorhead |
| Dawn Larson | Amber, Nisswa |
| Melissa Bernhard, Northfield Community Ed | Eric Anderson, Owatonna |
| Marvin Johnson, Anoka Hennepin Community Ed | Brandi Thomas, Annandale Community Ed |
| Meredith Lawrence, Mendota Heights | JJ Williams, Washington County Parks |
| Carissa Goebel, Brooklyn Center | Sam Murphey, West St. Paul |
| Chelsea Swiggum, Inver Grove Heights | Mark Schneider, Shakopee |
| Paige Marschall | Jessica Abrahams, Owatonna |
| Corrie Scott, Big Lake | Scott Berggren, Crystal |
| Nick Thompson, Apple Valley | Chris Richardson, Bemidji |
| Erin Link, Chaska | Jon Hagen, Woodbury |
| Katey Radant, Lakeville Community Ed | Kiley Rondeau, Plymouth |
| Nikki Callahan, Owatonna | Ann Davy |
| Liz Amici-Floyd, Ramsey County | Deb Weinreis, MRPA |
| Steve Skinner, Apple Valley | Dawn Larson, Elk River |
| Moorhead |  |
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If you are not listed as attending the meeting, please contact Aaron Thelen at [athelen@newhopemn.gov](mailto:athelen@newhopemn.gov)

* **C’mon Man stories -** None
* **Governor’s New Order Affecting Programming/Facilities (Impact on Programs, and Staff Impacts – Full time and Part time)**
* Brooklyn Center – Everyone still on staff. Opening up Fitness rooms on Monday.
* Apple Valley – Currently have gyms and meeting rooms only so not opening, but some activities may occur, although probably won’t open until January 4th as we don’t have much in the schedule at this time.
* Maple Grove – Furloughed all parks and rec staff to 20 hours a week the last 4 weeks, but moving back to 40 hrs with reassignment to other facilities in the city.
* Inver Grove Heights – Have the following amenities: pools, fitness centers, ice sheets, gym. Planning to partially open up. A portion of staff going back to work and some staff may be furloughed.
  + Mendota Heights – are you running camps? IGH says no camps over Winter break. Summer brochure is on hold.
* Elk River – Currently has an open position but will not hire this position at this time as it is on hold.
* Nisswa – She just started in October but they have a small team. Planning to offer outdoor skating rinks, no gyms scheduled because it’s in the schools. Hopeful that rinks will be used outside in January.
* Red Wing – Two staff on furlough and have shifted their responsibilities to the six that are not furloughed.
* Mendota Heights – Question – Are there any in person programs being offered at the end of this month?
  + Deb MRPA – please forward any questions regarding EO and Deb can try to clarify with task force.
  + Plymouth – Yes in person education (science explorer) classes will take place, as long as instructor and students are ok with it.
  + Marvin Johnson – Enrichment programs are allowed, sports are not allowed until Jan 4th.
  + Shoreview – Yes running preschool and distance learning classes.
  + Annandale – Yes education classes/childcare classes will be run.
  + St. Louis Park – Nature Center is running youth enrichment programs at limited numbers since it’s education based.
  + Brooklyn Center – Aquatics side of things are unsure as they are still looking into this.
  + Ramsey County – Tamarack Nature Center is still running primarily outside and they partner with the school district on this, so it is a bit different.
* Question - What is everyone’s plan regarding Outdoor Rinks?
  + Brooklyn Center – Will open rinks, no warming houses.
  + Albert Lea – Will do the same.
  + Woodbury – Same.
  + Apple Valley – Planning to open warming houses (25% of capacity). Working with hockey associations to coordinate possible time on ice after the order is complete.
    - Conversation later took place that per the Executive Order Warming Houses are not allowed to be open.
  + Annandale – Rinks open, no warming houses.
  + St. Louis Park – Rinks will open when ready, no warming houses at this time. Possibly January 4th or 10th as they clarify order then we are adding porta potty’s at some sites to accommodate park users due to buildings not being open.
  + Washington County – Outdoor Executive Order says warming facilities cannot be open.
  + Inver Grove Heights – Asked a question - Deb since you’ll be getting many questions in the next few days, can you put together and answer sheet after connecting with the task force?
    - Deb says yes.
  + Conversation came up about the Executive Order – states that Warming Houses must remain closed at this time.
  + Crystal – Question - Wondering if anyone is saying anything on max capacity for rinks? They are looking to put signs up saying 15 people max.
    - Meredith – Deb can you add this to the questions?
      * Deb says yes
    - No other responses to the question.
    - Chelsea – Outdoor must be 12 ft apart, how are you enforcing this?
      * Crystal – utilize signage and some staff will go around to make rounds but won’t necessarily enforce numbers.
      * Tanya – She is getting pressure to look into renting winter tents and heating, so wondering if anyone has insight or recommendations?
      * Crystal – Metro Tent Rental
      * Chelsea – South Suburban Rental in Newport. Previously she worked in Big Lake she purchased a large tent which was spendy but it was a great option for overhang and structure with open air space.
      * Meredith – Deb can you ask the task force for clarification of how many people can be on outdoor rinks at first for non-organized play?
      * Steve – Based on the EO it says on page 8 warming houses may be open, but on page 11 it says warming house are closed at this time.
      * Maple Grove – Central park loop they are taking reservations for 1 hr 45 min timeslots. Restrooms open but people can’t stay in building if not using restroom. They are using SignUp Genius reservations are limited to 90 people.
    - Woodbury – Saw a concept that outdoor dining may use individual fishing tents or houses with heaters at restaurants, so maybe people in your community to lend/rent them?
* **Spring Events – Any ideas coming up?**
  + Shakopee – Planning to run the Annual Egg Hunt. It will be outdoors and people will have to select a timeslot when they register.
  + Apple Valley – Normally they have a big February indoor/outdoor event but looks like it will be strictly outdoors/virtually this year, but still planning to move forward.
* **Summer 2021 (Brochure Schedule and New Program Ideas)**
  + Crystal – Deadline for Spring/Summer combo is January 4 then comes out first part of March, but this year they are breaking into 2 brochures. Spring comes out in March then Summer will come out in May.
  + Shoreview – April
  + Moorhead – First week of February
  + West St Paul – Mid-March
  + Plymouth – Early March
  + Shakopee – Spring/summer brochure normally is mailed the second week of March, and this includes programming April thru August.
  + Unknown City – February
  + St. Louis Park – Spring/Summer brochure deadline is around this time, so in January and it is then sent out in mid-March. It will likely be electronic again.
  + Shoreview – Printed
  + Elk River – They haven’t had printed program guide since 2016, then in 2018 the City Manager said he was wrong in taking away the printed brochure. Now the Parks & Rec department works with Community Ed and they partner on their youth guide to include programs together.
  + Unknown City – Electronic only so they can update info as regulations change.
  + Crystal – Printed brochure goes with city newsletter.
  + Plymouth – Both printed and electronic
  + Shoreview – Print
  + Blaine – Electronically monthly
  + Red Wing – They send brochures out through the school as well as in the kids backpacks
  + Shakopee – Spring/summer brochure is going to be much briefer, basically listing programs and pointing people to our electronic copy on our website which has more in depth info.
  + Hastings – Currently going electronic and also in the quarterly city newsletter
  + New Hope – Question – Are you planning normal programs in the Summer or are you planning with COVID restrictions, or listing a COVID page in front of the brochure?
    - Plymouth – Virtual and in person programs. They will have a page in guide with COVID protocols and then a symbol with virtual programs.
    - Shoreview – They have a dedicated page for COVID restrictions and will also be limiting enrollment in the classes.
    - Red Wing – Normally a printed brochure. Our hope for planning in person programs but will make notes saying programs are subject to change. We are doing both online and in-person classes for spring.
    - Elk River – Planning as if having COVID restrictions so they can change, adapt and add enrollment.
  + Jacob – Question – New Program Ideas?
    - Steve – At the Pool they are planning to incorporate much more cleaning and splitting the day, so there will be a pool cleaning break.
    - No other responses
* **Playground Programs**
  + Crystal – Still planning to run them. Last year the program didn’t go but will have limited capacity.
  + Shoreview – Planning to run program with COVID plans and max capacity of 25.
  + Plymouth – Same
  + New Hope – Planning to run programs with max capacity, add cleaning and sanitizing of equipment/supplies, social distancing and cancelled for rain days because cannot social distance inside shelter building. Although we will incorporating tents for sprinkling days and as a shade structure.
  + Tanya – They have cancelled for rain days for past 10 years. They do have tents for shade and sprinkle rain. Question – Does anyone do playground programs at Nature Centers or in the Nature?
    - Tamarack Nature Center does it well!
  + Blaine – Question regarding performers in the park. Is there a new spreadsheet with contacts on musicians? The one I used hasn’t been updated since 2010.
    - Steph – There was one that was updated in 2016 and she will share this with us. Question - Deb is the Jamboree going to happen again? Deb says no it’s on pause.
    - Elk River – Was there a group that used to meet to discuss entertainment?
      * Fridley – Yes says it was a Round Table that used to be around.
    - Hastings – Kerry Philips, city of Eagan used to have the most updated one. Maybe someone can contact her for it?
* Amber - Question via chat – Can adults practice on January 4th like youth?
  + Some discussion around this saying no, not on the 4th but after the 10th they can practice/play games.
* Unknown City - Question – Is anyone opening indoor ice?
  + Ramsey County – Yes opening on the 4th but only for limited use based on orders.
  + Shakopee – Yes opening on Jan 4.
  + Woodbury – They think they are opening the Ice Center but they don’t know enough about it to know details on it.
* **Anything else?** 
  + Jacob says if you have additional questions you can send to Deb and she’ll get clarifications from the Task Force!
  + Scott Berggren – shares in the chat: Entertainment in the park suggestion: <https://www.compas.org/>
* **MRPA Updates** 
  + **MRPA Connections Group –** Jacob says use this when you have questions or insight!
  + **Deb MRPA** – Membership renewal and awards have been sent via email. Deb says thank you for all for your help with everything!
  + **Scott MRPA Board** – He finished his 1st year on the board, bit only attended 2 in person meetings so it was different this year. :) Working on 2021 budget, policy manuals, annual meeting and board member renewals next year.
* Upcoming Programming Section meeting is on January 15, 2021 and February 19, 2021 via Zoom. Looking at doing April & May meetings outdoors at a park possibly?

Jacob adjourned the meeting at 11:01am.

**Adjourned**