**MRPA Programming Section Meeting**

Friday, February 19, 2021 | Zoom Conference Call

AGENDA

Meeting was called to order by Jacob at 10:00am. Approval of Minutes: 1st Ali Luken, 2nd Mark Schneider

Additions to the Agenda: Mark suggested adding Senior Programs, Lisa Abernathy suggested MRPF Grants, and Stacy Chouinard suggested Black History Month events/programs.

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| Jacob Anderson, Brooklyn Center | Aaron Thelen, New Hope |
| Ali Luken, New Brighton | Stacy Chouinard, Crystal |
| Joy Handt, Blaine | Nicole Gorman, Edina |
| Laura Fulton, Edina | Kelsey Coy, Prior Lake |
| Bri Larson, New Brighton | Lisa Abernathy, St. Louis Park |
| Harper Steinbach, Robbinsdale | Katie Everett, Vadnais Heights |
| Meredith Lawrence, Mendota Heights | Scott Berggren, Crystal |
| Melissa Bernhard, Northfield Community Ed | Jamie Anderson, Bemidji |
| Carrie Anderson, Roseville | Rachel Mikel, Inver Grove heights |
| Liz Jarosz | Deb Weinries, MRPA |
| Bri Anderson, Rogers | Carson Law, Wright County |
| Janelle Crossfield, Brooklyn Center | Samantha Murphey, West St. Paul |
| Mike Ramirez, Brooklyn Park | Amber Peterson, Nisswa |
| Paul Pearson, Plymouth | Amanda Clarke, Edina |
| Mark Scheider, Shakopee | Sue Bohnsack, Eden Prairie |
| Evyn Hubbard, Bloomington | Marvin Johnson, Anoka |
| Nathan, Oakdale | Josh Rockey, Eden Prairie |
| Ben Boldt, Rochester | Sara Armstrong, Washington County |
| Jenny Davis, Albert Lea | Corinne Mitchel, Monticello |
| Sandy, New Ulm | Matthew Mraz, Fridley |
| Tonya, Elk River | Bekah, North Mankato |
| Carissa Goebel, Brooklyn Center | Shea Lawrence |

If you are not listed as attending the meeting, please contact Aaron Thelen at [athelen@newhopemn.gov](mailto:athelen@newhopemn.gov)

* **Spring/Summer Programming**
  + **Staff Planning/Interviews**
    - Brooklyn Center, discussing planning now and interviews will be done virtually. City council passed an ordinance that city jobs minimum wage start at $16.16/hr.
    - New Brighton, planning on going forward as normal, interviews via Zoom, applications to be turned in online or in person.
    - Crystal, planning for normal and hiring for playgrounds and pool, hiring for farmers market and other park jobs, starting with virtual interviews.
    - Blaine, similar to other cities, so far there is over 400 hits on employment page on their website, but they have raised rates from $10 to $13/hr.
    - Roseville, struggling to get applicants right now, but may be because their rates may be lower.
    - Brooklyn Park, trying to work together within department so hire a more general role instead of specific roles.
  + **Program Numbers, Capacity Changes, Governor’s Order Changes**
    - Brooklyn Park, planning for lower numbers then adjust if guidelines increase so we are prepared.
    - Elk River, similar to BP and starting with lower registrations.
    - New Brighton, similar to everyone else and also keeping numbers based on social distance capacity in their neighborhood center.
    - Edina, similar to other cities. Opened registration on Wednesday for Spring/Summer programs and kept registrations low with waitlists. Normally sign up for one park and come as you are able but instead sign up for individual weeks so can accommodate for more people.
  + **Playground Programs – Planning and Field Trips**
    - New Brighton, no field trips planned. Will be using different bins for pods with markers and craft supplies, and pods will stay the same for the summer to limit touch points but supplies will be sanitized in between uses.
    - Fridley, Wednesdays was typically field trip days but instead they will be bring in a presenter instead.
    - Roseville, normally they do offer Friday field trips with surrounding cities but no trips with other cities are planned, so instead Roseville may use city vans to go places instead.
  + **Special Event Ideas**
    - Elk River, planning for July 4th Elk River festival but scaled back.
    - Edina, planning for end of September Art Fair but scaled back as well as Farmers Markets, smaller concerts with mask and hand sanitizer required, fishing event, and pop up art around the park.
    - Question - Are cities saying reservations are required or is drop in ok for events?
    - Edina, will be doing drop in but staff will be there to help with distancing.
    - Brooklyn Center, no reservations right now but staff is planning for drop ins with staff to help patrol.
    - St. Louis Park, concerts are moving forward but not requiring reservations as they will have an Intern to put up signs and set out masks/sanitizer. Parktacular event is going forward but scaling back, as well as the parade will be a drive by.
    - Question - Anyone using Teddy Bear Band?
    - Mendota Heights, yes they used band, spray painted dots, gave out tickets to help with numbers, but didn’t have dancing concerns.
    - Edina - set up cones/tables to block audience from coming forward to dance.
    - Question - Is anyone cancelling fireworks?
      * Brooklyn Center, still doing Earl Brown days but it will look different.
      * Elk River, planning to have fireworks no matter what numbers capacity looks like.
      * Roseville, currently undecided on Rosefest and still deciding what to do.
  + **City Festivals and Parade Plans**
* **Virtual Programming (Equipment, Format)**
  + Brooklyn Center, webcam setup on TV using Zoom/Webex for programs, senior programs like using Zoom.
  + Crystal, webcam setup on rolling TV with laptop mainly being used for dance, the camera hooks up to the TV with a speaker, local CCX Media was used for some virtual programming or creating videos.
  + St. Louis Park, virtual programming free for anyone and Communications department came up with different topics, and Westwood Hills promoted live animals or did puppet shows. Either a regular cell phone or GoPro were used.
  + Brooklyn Park, started with Microsoft Teams but didn’t like it so now they use Zoom. Webcams are set up in the rooms.
* **Senior Programs**
  + New Ulm, fit and strong Arthritis program offered through facility, but in May it will be offered Hybrid virtual and/or in person.
  + Brooklyn Park, some in person programs but Silver Sneakers is currently virtual, in the summer fitness programs were outside but virtual now in the winter.
  + Eden Prairie, surveyed individuals to see what people would participate in, then another survey was sent for those people interested wanting to be in person. Valentine drive thru had over 60 people! Virtual fireside chats are going well.
  + Edina, drive thru events have been successful with fall, Thanksgiving, Valentine and Marti Gras were well attended. Tai Chi, education programming, puzzle swap, library swap are all virtual. Reopening Senior Center March 1st with limited capacity, then April and May exercise classes will be added.
  + Elk River, virtual and in person are both being offered, and preregistration is needed to enter any program.
  + New Brighton, planning to start low key in person programming in mid-April with preregistrations required. Bridge group had 125 at a time previously and they really want to come back but they haven’t brought it back yet even with multiple requests. Day Trips will be offered to drive yourself in May and June, and July, but August a bus is reserved. Mini trips and hiking club will be drive yourself.
  + Brooklyn Center, Aqua aerobics will start to be offered.
  + Prior Lake, Club Prior has been open since mid-February but has been low attended, but there are many interested in attending except they are cautious. Trips are being planned for Summer.
* **Black History Month Events/Programs**
  + St. Louis Park, did a Gnome Hunt in January with clues but this February they are posting clues about people that have been paving the way in the past or present to make a fun event. Additionally a 21 day Race in Equity Challenge was initiated by City.
  + Robbinsdale, started getting various resources out to residents as well. Minneapolis Institute of Art has done a lot as well so check out their website for more details.
* **Outdoor Meetings**
  + We are discussing in person outdoor meetings in April in May so that we can get back together in person. Many people have said they are interested in hosting, but if anyone else has an interest let Jacob know.
* **Anything else?** None
* **MRPA Updates** 
  + **MRPA Connections Facebook Page**
  + **Document Repository**
  + **Deb MRPA –** Softball League Director meeting coming up on March 25. Two umpire clinics in March, hopefully one in Rosemount. Education classes in partnership with Florida Parks & Rec has been going well and there are more still available to sign up.
  + **MRPA Board** – Board meets next week. Racial Equity discussion next week as well. Discussion around how MRPA will support virtual meetings/webinars with committees. New members were sworn in last month.
  + **MRPF Board** – Reach out to Mike Ramirez if you have questions on ideas, or professional development. Looking to build committees so let Mike know if you are interested.
  + **MRPF Grant –** New programs for New Initiative Grant, you need to apply and be a member. Up to $4000.00 for project is awarded and then you’ll need to do a presentation at MRPA Conference to update on how program is going. Spring cycle is due March 26, and then Fall will be November 5. Application posted on [www.mnrpf.org](http://www.mnrpf.org)
* Upcoming Programming Section meeting is on March 19, 2021 via Zoom

Jacob adjourned the meeting at 11:09am.

**Adjourned**