



Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association

Park Section Annual Meeting Minutes

New Richmond, Wisconsin

May 20, 2008



I. Call To Order

G. Pinney called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. Roll Call

Attending: George Pinney, Chad Brown, Dave Mehls, Steve Brunner, Duane Hofstetter, Tim McGuire

Excused: Cindy Robles, Ray Maurer, Kathy Gruentzel, Jeff Gorman

III. Minutes

Minutes from the March 13, 2008 Annual Meeting were reviewed. S. Brunner made a motion to accept with an amendment that Tim McGuire was excused; second by T. McGuire. Motion approved.

IV. Reports

a. Chair report

G. Pinney met with the WPRAs Board in Manitowoc. Proclamations are available from WPRAs in regards to Community Fit Month in May for municipalities to use.

The WPRAs Governance issue was covered and the board elected to accept Option #1 with the addition of the Student Section member. At the Annual Meeting, this issue will be taken in front of the entire WPRAs membership for adoption. By laws will then need to be changed and the effects will take place in 2010.

The hours an individual must work in order to be placed into the State Retirement Plan is being discussed for changes. Currently, 600 hours per year are needed but a movement to have that changed to 1000 hours is taking place. The Park Section may want to adopt a resolution in support of these changes to help municipalities in hiring part-time, seasonal workers.

A Host Report will be added to all subsequent Park Section agendas. Dave Mehls from New Richmond gave a report: New Richmond is 8000 strong while serving the surrounding communities for a total of 15,000 users. A new sports complex is being built and some restructuring of the Park & Rec is taking place. A Youth Sports Association has been formed to help fund new facilities. Thanks to Dave and New Richmond for hosting.

b. Chair Elect report

C. Robles forwarded an email to George stating that for the 2008 Budget, there should be an increase in postage and mileage.

c. Past Chair report

No report.

d. Secretary/Treasurer's report

C. Brown produced the Park Professional and Young Professional of the Year forms for publication on the WPRAs website. The forms were approved by the Park Section Board.

An update on the dealings with the Conference Committee was given; all educational sessions and Pre-Conference Workshops are completed. Members are reminded that the banquet is on Wednesday night this year with the social and concert on Thursday.

e. Region 1

D. Mehls reported that Region 1 accepted Option #1 with the addition of the Student Section representative for the WPRA Governance question.

f. Region 2

T. McGuire mentioned that the USTA has grants that will cover not only equipment and teaching but facilities and maintenance as well.

Secondly, Region 2 discussed staff appropriate touching, language, and dress and how it relates to their programs. This is becoming an important issue for all departments.

g. Region 3

No report.

h. Region 4

S. Brunner stated that Region 4 accepted Option #1 with the addition of the Student Section representative for the WPRA Governance question as well.

The DNR Stewardship program was also discussed with Dan Kaemmerer from the DNR giving a presentation on what the hunting provisions in the administrative rules could mean to those applying for grants. Individuals are encouraged to go to the Public Informational meetings around the state.

i. Rep at Large

D. Hofstetter had copies of a letter sent to the Wisconsin State Journal in response to the DNR Stewardship allowance of hunting on all grant land as well as plans for Mt. Horeb's new skate park.

j. Rep at Large

No report.

k. State Park Subsection

No report.

l. Committee Reports

Urban Forestry – No report.

Conference Committee – see C. Brown's comments.

WPRA Report – No report.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Park Section Board Manual

Lynda Fink and Ray Maurer will work together to finalize this manual.

b. Park Section Design Awards

Comments from R. Maurer were discussed. S. Brunner moved to accept the award form and rule changes to include the elimination of the Project Categories. Only the dollar categories will separate projects and only one Award of Excellence will be given for each dollar category. Award of Merit will be given out but they will not present at the Park



Design Award session at the Annual Conference. The Emeritus Section will continue to judge these awards. Second by D. Mehls; unanimously accepted.

VI. New Business

a. 2009 Spring Workshop Topic Ideas

G. Pinney has seen a speaker on Recreational Immunity that was excellent. Since this topic has been recently covered, this topic should be saved for future consideration.

G. Pinney would like to get topic ideas from all members ASAP. S. Brunner mentioned that Green Construction and Alternative Fuels is a hugely popular topic that may need to be covered. WPPI and WPS can help with speakers and T. McGuire may have ideas for other speakers.

VII. Other Business

G. Pinney wants to name a member to the DNR Urban Forestry – Invasive Species Committee. Simon Widstrand from the City of Madison has expressed interest. His membership in WPRA needs to be confirmed but the Park Section will endorse his naming to the committee if a current membership is on file.

B. Rafel should be contacted for the Call for Nominations forms to be disseminated through the membership for Region Representatives to the Park Section Board.

VIII. Adjournment

D. Hofstetter made a motion to adjourn at 11:52 am; second by T. McGuire. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad D. Brown, Park Section Secretary