

HOSTED BY:
Chippewa Falls Parks and Recreation Department



REGION 1 - PAPRRO
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Carrie Ottum and Chad Duerkop (Eau Claire Parks, Recreation & Forestry); Gary Barnett (Menomonie Parks & Recreation); Steve Peterson (Black River Falls Parks & Recreation); Debra Goldbach & Erin Turner (Altoona Parks and Recreation); Dick Hebert and Josh Kriesel (Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry); Karyn Powers and Dan Fiorenza (Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry); Dan Wick and Tyler Ketterhagen (Onalaska Parks & Recreation); and David Wierzba (MSA Professional Services)

1. **Meeting called to order at 10:38am**

a. Introductions

2. **Approval of minutes from September 20, 2017 meeting in Altoona.** Barnett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Peterson second. All present voted aye.

3. **Overview of Chippewa Falls Parks and Recreation Department – Dick Hebert (Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Director) and Josh Kriesel (Recreation Supervisor)**

Most recent completed project is the Welcome Center & Small Animal Exhibit at Irvine Park and Zoo. It was a capital campaign goal of \$3.25 million and raised \$4.25 million. Will use the additional monies to install cameras around the park.

River Front Park – Completed phase I. Phase II will include a plaza, fountain, and amphitheater.

Glen Lock Lake park – Upper Damn location will include: handicapped fishing pier, boardwalk, kayak and canoe launch. Lower Damn location will have a Riverwalk. It is a \$2 million project and have received \$1.1 million from grants.

4. WPRRA Sections Updates

a. **Recreation Section: Tyler Ketterhagen**

- i. Finalizing speakers for upcoming conference
- ii. Any ideas for topics or speakers e-mail [Tyler](#)

b. **Parks Section: Steve Peterson**

- i. Joint Spring Workshop, April 5-6, 2018 in Rothschild, WI
- ii. Register today at [2018 Joint Spring Workshop](#)
- iii. Parks Section is seeking input for conference topics and speakers. Steve will e-mail Carrie a list of possible topics. She'll pass along to Region 1 members.

c. **Aquatic Section: Chad Duerkop**

- i. Seeking for Region 1 Aquatic Section representative. Please e-mail [Chad](#) with nominations

d. **WPRRA Board of Directors: Carrie Ottum**

- i. Young Professional Network is looking for a Region 1 representative
Email [Anthony](#) Iracki for more information.
- ii. Impact Magazine deadline is March 1. Publication date is May 1.
- iii. **PRMonthly Deadlines:** The PRMonthly is e-mailed to all members of WPRRA on the third Friday of each month. The *deadline for submitting information is the Monday before*. Email information to the [WPRRA](#) office.
- iv. 2018 Conference Committee theme: Building Outstanding Opportunities.
- v. [2018 Joint Spring Workshop](#), April 5-6 at Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild, WI
- vi. Don't forget to [renew](#) your WPRRA membership.

5. Discussion:

a. **15 Year Old Lifeguards Law**

- i. Duerkop shared other aquatic professionals in the state feel 15 years is too young for someone to be a lifeguard.
- ii. Smaller towns have trouble recruiting lifeguards and sometimes have to recruit from larger cities.
- iii. Powers stated the American Red Cross needs to make an effort to promote the lifeguard class as an option for a Physical Education class in high schools. It will benefit YMCAs, cities, counties to have hire young staff who might stay for a few summers.
- iv. Herbert shared there is an employee shortage all over. Private businesses are changing standards as well.

b. **Employee Wages and Incentives**

- i. Wausau is offering a \$200 bonus for staff who work all 9 weeks of the summer season.
- ii. Eau Claire and Onalaska recently implemented wage increases.
- iii. Fiorenza asked if they were required to show subsidies. Eau Claire had a service modification passed by City Council and reduced hours at their outdoor pool to be budget neutral. Onalaska said they were not asked to show subsidies.

c. **Super Pass Program**

Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls/Menomonie offer a collaborative Super Pass program. The Super Pass is a 10-punch card to visit Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls or Menomonie pools.

- i. Eau Claire gives a Super Pass to individuals who purchase a Family Membership prior to the pool opening.

d. **Independent Contracts**

Wausau asked how agencies handle independent contractors. In the past individuals had to be employees. Only businesses could be independent contractors.

- i. Chippewa Falls – Contract with officials
- ii. Eau Claire – adult league officials are independent contractors

e. **Svinicki Association Management, Inc. (SAMI) Feedback**

SAMI is currently serving as executive management for the WPRA until December, 2018.

- i. Powers asked when the website was going to be updated with the new logo. Ottum stated the WPRA Board of Directors meeting is on January 30 and will have more information after then. Powers suggested raising fees and hiring someone for the legislative issues.
- ii. Peterson-it was nice to receive information about park related topics such as Stewardship grants.
- iii. Wierzba-it was accommodating to have the registration booth open for vendors to check-in for the trade show.
- iv. Wick-worked with SAMI on conference. Went well and sold out trade show.

f. **Adult Athletic Leagues vs. Open Gyms**

Ottum asked if other agencies were seeing a decline in adult athletic league participation and were only offering open gyms for adults.

- i. Chippewa Falls implemented self-officiating for their women's volleyball league and has received good feedback.
- ii. Black River Falls – contracts with the Lunda Center to offer volleyball leagues. Helps to keep fees down. Can charge \$110/team instead of \$180/team. Has seen a decrease in men's softball, but increase in co-ed softball participation.
- iii. Menomonie – Basketball is self-officiated, but does hire a scorekeeper. Indoor pickleball is only open gym.
- iv. Onalaska – Increase in kickball league. Doesn't not offer open gyms anymore.
- v. Wausau - started to offer family tennis lessons and has become popular.

g. **Upcoming Park Projects**

- i. Altoona - River Prairie Event Center. Altoona Park – getting new playground equipment. City hired City Planner-taking over playground planning.
- ii. Wausau – County restrooms and developing river front property to include track, fitness equipment, concession stand, playground and climbing wall.

6. **Meeting adjourned at 12:28pm.** Powers made a motion to adjourn; Wick second. All present voted aye.

Next PARPRO Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

10:30am

Onalaska Parks and Recreation Department

Location & Agenda to follow