

MRPA Programming Section Meeting

January 21, 2011

Plymouth Creek Center

Attendance (23):

Becky Sola, Shoreview

Lisa Abernathy, St. Louis Park

Kerry Phillips, Eagan

Jenny Kordon, Brooklyn Park

Pat Busch, Brooklyn Park

Michelle Snider, MRPA

Tonya Love, Elk River

Holly Kaufhold, Victoria

Reed Smidt, Woodbury

Jim Lombardi, St. Louis Park

Jared Flewellen, Hastings

Travis Karlen, Plymouth

Jessie Converse, Plymouth

Nick Thompson, Inver Grove Heights

Roxann Maxey, Roseville

Andy Soltvedt, Golden Valley

Eric Boettcher, Roseville

Mike Anderson, Oakdale

Jen Graham, Inver Grove Heights

Kelly Mertes, Richfield

Jason Eisold, Richfield

Steve Skinner, Apple Valley

Margo Prasek, Fridley

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order by Reed Smidt at 10:06 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Additions to the Agenda

Jen Graham would like to add a Membership Committee Update.

Approval of Minutes

Andy Soltvedt approves, Roxann Maxey seconds.

Professional Connections Update

- Minnesota State University, Mankato will have a Job Fair on February 9th. Information was sent out by Michelle Snider via e-mail.
- The U of M (Twin Cities) will have a Job Fair on February 16th. This event is free to attend. Contact Kelly Mertes of Richfield for more info.
- Winona State University – Jared Flewellen will be organizing a group of professionals to speak to a class in mid-February. Contact Jared if you would like more info.
- St. Cloud State University – Kelly Mertes and Aimee will look into making a connection with the professors at St. Cloud.

Speaker

Randy Otten, President of Dryland Hockey Inc.

www.drylandhockey.com

coachotten@drylandhockey.com

- Randy Otten presented information about his Dryland Hockey business that began three years ago. His company contracts with cities to bring affordable hockey to youth and adults. The official name is Ball Hockey – not Floor Hockey because of the equipment worn and ball used instead of a puck. They run tournaments, leagues, and workshops during the summer. It's affordable: 3 weeks - \$36, 6 weeks - \$66, league - \$180.

- What the city partner needs to provide: paved rinks (1 or more), promotion and support, needs to make arrangements by April 1st for this summer season. Dryland Hockey provides everything else including insurance and an exciting website.

Topic Discussions

Volunteers

- Roxann Maxey, shared her leaders in training program which meets once per week and focuses on team building, leadership and job skills. Jr. Leaders then volunteer in the parks program. She does require an application.
- Travis Karlen, shared that in Plymouth they have a Volunteer Coordinator that uses a Volunteer online computer system that keeps track of volunteer hours, requests and more. They also host an annual recognition dinner where each current volunteer brings a guest (who has not previously volunteered).
- Kelly Mertes uses volunteer match.com where many corporations (ex. Target and General Mills) go to find opportunities. There is a membership fee of \$50 per year.
- Jenny Kordon, uses many high school volunteers from Key Club and National Honor Society. They also have a Leaders in Training program that potential volunteers can pay to attend.
- Kerry Phillips, uses High School Volunteers and has also found many from Rasmussen College. They have a minimum age of 14 years.
- Kelly Mertes, uses boy and girl scouts with parents. The U of M Recreation Dept (contact Connie Magnuson) and Sororities/Fraternities are also good resources.
- Plymouth and Bloomington both use an online system for coordinating volunteers. Jenny Kordon mentioned that Juners is a free system online.
- Andy Soltvedt shared that in New Brighton Brad Martins will often send out volunteer requests to those that have turned in job applications.

Summer Staff: Hiring Process

- Plymouth, Fridley and Woodbury include a skill info supplement to their application.
- Tonya Love conducts group interviews in Elk River. Becky Sola came and observed last year and used the same format last year.
- Becky Sola started conducting group interviews last year. She had 5 sessions with 12 applicants in each. They were required to participate in a variety of activities and senerios.
- Steve Skinner asked about what others wages are for summer employees answer varied between \$8-10. Thought it would be a good idea to do an annual wage survey.
- Jenny Kordon mentioned that they have used the Tree Trust for summer youth workers. The Tree Trust pays the salary, but the staff report to the Recreation Department. Reed Smidt and Andy Soltvedt have also used Tree Trust.
- Reed Smidt asked what types of incentives people are using to keep staff happy when most have had pay freezes.
- Nick Thompson mentioned that he gives more hours to the staff that are excelling.
- Travis Karlen pays his staff mileage if they are working at multiple locations.
- John Stutzman will round his staff meeting time from a half hour to an hour.
- Travis asked if anyone has movies in the park and if they own there own screens.
- Roxann Maxey just bought an inflatable screen from Target.com last year it is about 12x8 feet and was fairly inexpensive. Works much better than a pull down screen on a stand – always blew over.
- What time do most start the movies...advertise dusk usually anytime between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m.
- Edina attaches a screen to the back wall of their amphitheater. St. Paul used the side of a truck.

Membership Committee

- Jen Graham passed out a survey for the Membership Committee. The committee would like to have some feedback from the active membership in order to plan how the committee will continue to support MRPA members.

Workshop Committees & Roundtables

- Reed Smidt, presented the flyer for the 5K Walk/Run/Marathon Roundtable which will be held on February 8th in Bloomington.
- The Leadership Workshop Committee will be meeting following this meeting. The workshop will be held on May 21st this year.
- Casual Connections will have their next event on Feb. 23 in the West Metro. Currently looking for a location, please contact Roxann Maxey if you know of a good place that could accommodate about 25 people.

MRPA Update, Michelle Snider

- The Board will meet next Wednesday.
- The Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony were held on January 13th. Roxann Maxey was awarded the Meritorious Award for the Programming Section.
- 2011 Conference Committee has sent out their Call for Proposals for the upcoming conference which will be held on September 20-23 at Mystic Lake.

Next Meeting: February 18th at Woodlake Nature Center in Richfield