

MRPA Programming Section Meeting

March 18, 2011
Blaine City Hall

Attendance (15):

Margo Prasek, Fridley
Janelle Crossfield, Fridley
Alex McKinney, Three Rivers
Jerome Krieger, Blaine
Tom Godfrey, Blaine
Mike Anderson, Oakdale
Steve Skinner, Apple Valley
Eric Boettcher, Roseville

Roxann Maxey, Roseville
Andy Soltvedt, Golden Valley
Paul Schmitz, Robbinsdale
Teresa Gangelhoff, Mendota Heights
Marvin Johnson, Anoka-Hennepin CE
Jason Hicks, Bloomington
Pat Tuma, New Brighton

Agenda:

Meeting was called to order by Roxann Maxey at 10:07 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Additions to the Agenda

Jerome Krieger has a message from Kristin Aarsvold regarding "Bully Free Parks."

Approval of Minutes

Andy Soltvedt approves, Eric Boettcher seconds.

Professional Connections Update

- Jerome Krieger, a graduate from St. Thomas, has connected with the University and is participating in their "Take a Tommie to Lunch" program next week. He has made contact with a few professors and will explore ways that we can involve St. Thomas students in the MRPA.

Topic Discussions

Adult Athletics

- Roxann Maxey asks what new sports have been popular for people.
- Steve Skinner shares that bocce ball has really taken off. The southern cities each do a different sport – ex. Bocce Ball, Kickball, Dodgeball, Wiffleball and Badminton
- Jason Hicks also has a popular Bocce Ball league and has had requests for more playing areas be added to their parks.
- Steve Skinner added that Badminton has been popular, even in the hot summer. They have an open program - \$3.00 for 2-3 hours. Pickle Ball has also been popular among the senior population; they have courts on their paved ice rinks. Edina has pickle ball on the tennis courts.
- Steve Skinner has adapted some of their basketball courts for Equavolley. Groups bring their own poles, nets and balls. The game is similar to volleyball, but with an 11 foot net.
- Roxann noticed that women's softball has been down in Roseville and asked if other communities were noticing that.
- Andy Soltvedt and Jerome Krieger agreed that women's softball was down in Golden Valley and Blaine as well.

- Steve Skinner shares that they had to turn away about 30 teams this year.
- Jerome Krieger said that softball teams have been lower, but thinks that they will come up in the next few weeks.
- Eric Boettcher shared that it's similar in Roseville, they are currently a bit down from last year. He has had requests for a 35 and over league, does anyone do that now.
- Jason Hicks mentioned that Garrett in Burnsville has a 40 and over league.
- Andy Soltvedt has been looking into that in Golden Valley.
- Eric Boettcher shared that they do have a senior softball league in Roseville. They have noon games and usually show up early and stay late socializing.
- Roxann Maxey asked if anyone has tried any unique marketing for Adult Sports.
- Eric Boettcher shared that they have been using Facebook quite a bit.
- Jason shared that they use the Constant Contact e-mail newsletter system.
- Jason Hicks asked if anyone else has been getting requests from MN Amateur Soccer?
- Eric Boettcher and Jerome Krieger have both turned them sent them to the National Sport Center because they don't have any available fields.
- Lacrosse – Roseville has one field designated to lacrosse.
- Jerome Krieger has had Ultimate.
- Pam Schmitz added that there is an active Ultimate group that runs tournaments throughout the area so it's not worth competing with them. They have a website.
- Disc golf is popular in Roseville. They don't reserve the course, but have had groups organize tournaments, etc. They have been respectful and let the public play through.
- Roxann Maxey asked what people were doing for officials, contracted or hiring on your own.
- Andy Soltvedt, hires his own and sends them through the USSSA training. Many others contract with someone to provide the umpires.
- Pat Tuma has her umpires on the pay role.
- Eric Boettcher contracts for all umpires - softball, basketball and soccer.
- Jason Hicks, uses Recreational Sports Officials Association.
- Teresa Gangelhoff uses South St. Paul Officials Association
- Concessions? Golden Valley stopped providing, Apple Valley has a small offering, but it is not a money maker.
- Steve Skinner asks if anyone has beer sales. No one does. Apple Valley does allow beer and wine coolers in their parks. A-ha...restate - Apple Valley has had to turn away 30 teams from their softball league this year.
- Roxann Maxey asks if people have had many complaints about drinking during softball leagues.
- Jerome Kreiger says that he usually receives about one each year.
- Eric Boettcher has found that less teams are sponsored. Does anyone allow teams to register before they have the full payment?
- Andy Soltvedt, requires teams to pay, if they find a sponsor later he will reimburse.
- Pat Tuma used to if she knew the sponsor, but has stopped because of the high manager turnover rate at places like Champ's.
- Teresa Gangelhoff requires a deposit.
- Managers Meetings – do you require that managers attend?
- Jerome Kreiger has his meeting in conjunction with the pick-up of softball, schedules, etc. He requires that new team managers stay for the meeting, returning teams don't have to stay.
- Marvin Johnson, has a meeting a week before and requires teams to attend.
- What do people use for season rewards?
- Andy Soltvedt and Jerome Krieger give out T-shirts.
- Pat Tuma has a monetary prize or gift card.
- Jerome Kreiger uses gift cards for play-off prizes. Amounts around 1st - \$20, 2nd – \$10-15
- Marvin asked if others penalize teams if they register for the state tourney and then don't show.

- Pat doesn't penalize teams, but she stresses the importance of attending games and tournaments during her power point presentation.
- Marvin Johnson doesn't allow teams to attend tournaments again if they don't show up.

Archery Programs

- Steve Skinner would like to start an archery program and is wondering if anyone else would like to partner with Apple Valley to recruit and train instructors.
- Alex McKinney, shared that Three Rivers has an excellent training program and has instructors that they can send out to other locations to teach classes.
- Pam Schmitz added that they had Three Rivers teaching their classes and help set up their program. They are now doing the program on their own and it has been well received.
- Alex McKinney added that they have ranges at Elm Creek and Carver Parks where groups can come in for classes. They also provide outreach where they'll bring the equipment and set up at your location.
- Pam Schmitz is interested in starting a parent/child class.
- Marvin Johnson, shared that they run archery through the Phy Ed classes in Anoka Hennepin.

Agenda Addition: Bully Free Parks

- Jerome Kreiger shared the following information from Kristin Aarsvold. Kristin is looking for ways to combat bullying in the parks. She has reached out to many other cities to see if anyone has policies in place. So far not many cities have anything in place. She is going to continue working on this project, if anyone has any resources to share that would be helpful.
- Marvin Johnson added that Anoka Hennepin has many resources on their website that could be helpful.

Workshop Committees & Roundtables

- The Leadership Workshop Committee will be held on May 21st. Margo Prasek passed out registration forms, the registration deadline is May 9th.
- Casual Connections met in Woodbury at the end of February. The next meeting will be at the end of April.

MRPA Update, Andy Soltvedt

- The March meeting was postponed due to the weather. The next Strategic Planning meeting will be in North/Central MN, please feel free to attend or send input to your Board representative.

Roxann Maxey makes a motion to adjourn, Andy Soltvedt seconds.

Next Meeting: 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 22 at the Oakdale Discovery Center.