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Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2017
Bangor Parks and Recreation
647 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04401

MINUTES

Present: Steve Balboni, Tracy Willette, Deb Gendreau, Hillary Hallett, Jason Hanken, Doug Beck, Joe Crocker, Jen DeRice, Denise LeBlanc, Linda Brooks, Karyn MacNeil.
Executive Director Deb Smith

Call To Order 10:05AM

The Minutes from the September, 2017 meeting were reviewed
Motion to Accept Willette/Second Kaherl, No Discussion, Approved Unanimously

The Monthly Budget Report was presented. It was noted that the ticket program still has \$3000.00 that is still outstanding.

Motion to Accept Willette/Second Gendreau, No Discussion. Approved Unanimously

Board Development Discussion

Steve reviewed the meeting with students at St Joseph's College and asked for input from the Board regarding the presentation to the students. It was noted that the students only attended the MRPA presentation.

Majority indicated that focusing on smaller college groups would be more beneficial in getting the MRPA message out to students and not continue to schedule regular Board meetings on campuses. Deb Smith said she would follow up with contacts at UMM, UMPI, UMaine, and Thomas College.

Deb Gendreau summarized her recent presentation to students at Husson University.

It included several Power Point slides detailing the operation at Bangor Parks and Rec. She also mentioned there were slides added describing MRPA and the organization.

The Board discussion concluded that it is important to encourage students to get into the field and start a career in the profession.

A good start to accomplishing the goal is to tailor these presentations to the class audience and it will be a good tool to use for these presentations.

Deb Smith discussed the draft Mentoring Program.

The goal would be to develop an application process where a mentor could be appropriately matched with a mentee.

Both Steve and Deb referenced a model from Illinois they found at the NRPA Congress. That program seemed to be more “event” driven in that mentors/mentees met at scheduled events sponsored by the state association. Doug discussed developing a program that could create a rapport that would match interests and needs of mentee.

Still some Board discussion regarding the need for an application fee, how much the fee would be and whether it was needed at all. No consensus Board discussion as to whether the events were necessary. Steve clarified they were only intended to bring the group together as needed. Doug mentioned there is a similar mentor/mentee program being done by a trails group he works with.

The Board established the following actions and dates

Announce the start of the program at the Fall Workshop on 10-20-17

Mentee/Mentor application will be live on the website on 10-31-17

Changes are due to the Exec Dir by 10-25-17

Mentee/Mentor candidates notified by 2-10-18

Must attend the 2018 Annual conference.

Existing Programs and Initiatives

Hotshot

Andy discussed changes that have been done to the handbook which include:

Participants must compete in a local competition and finish 1st or 2nd.

In order to advance to a regional, must compete in regional and finish 1st or 2nd. If either 1st or 2nd place finisher cannot participate in the state competition, follow the order of finish for next eligible participant.

The Board supported program decisions and changes.

There was a brief Board discussion about how to encourage more local departments to participate. No consensus

Deb S and Andy both discussed the process with the state competition and the Red Claws. We have a two hour block of time to load in, run the event, and load out.

MRPA Track and Field

Deb Smith informed the Board that Funtown/Splashtown is interested in being a sponsor. The Board authorized Deb follow up and negotiate an agreement with them.

This started a broad sponsorship discussion. Tracy indicated he had files from previous Board discussions about this topic and will share information with Deb Smith.

Facility Maintenance Training

It was noted that 65 registered for the October training which was held in Mechanic Falls. There was positive response from attendees and the Board discussed on how to build on this enthusiasm and expand similar type of trainings.

NRPA 10 Minute Walk program

Doug reviewed with the Board NRPA's 10 minute walk initiative. Further information can be found at nrpa.org.

SCORP Funding Request

Doug summarized the SCORP is and the desire to create a more informative report that reflects what is available for recreational amenities around the state. In order to accomplish this, he is requesting MRPA to contribute funding to assist with this effort. The goal is to generate an additional \$150,000 to accomplish this. Deb G asked what MRPA could do for this effort. Doug suggested a onetime donation of \$5,000.00 toward the initiative. Tracy motioned and Deb G seconded to include a one-time \$5,000 donation toward the review and rewrite of the SCORP as part of the FY 19 MRPA Operation Budget. The discussion was that there was concern that the request was still vague and the Board needed more detailed budget information on what the money was to be used for. The motion was doubted and failed 7-3. Doug indicated he would come back to the Board with more detailed information.

MCC Discussion

Doug reviewed the purpose of the Maine Conservation Corps and its scope is often not understood. He will be making a presentation at the Fall Workshop to better inform members.

Committee Reports

Spring Conference

Karyn and Andy met with staff from the Holiday Inn by the Bay. There are some concerns for the 2018 Annual Conference.

The Parking Garage will be under construction and not available.

The staff at the Holiday Inn seems to be somewhat ambivalent to our event.

Karyn has reached out to the Samoset and there seems to be enthusiasm from their staff at hosting our event.

The Board supported continuing the dialogue with the Samoset and pursuing other options for the 2018 Annual Conference.

Tickets

It was noted that overall ticket sales seemed to be less than last year, with no definitive explanation.

The Board Adjourned to Executive Session

The Board Returned from Executive Session

The Board approved the action discussed in Executive Session

Adjourn at 12:35PM