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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Conference Call

9:00 am – 10:00 am

1. Call To Order

Matt Tobin

Jen DeRice

Tyler Stewart

Zach Schrock

Karyn MacNeill

Hillary Hallett

Lisa Topsham

Deb Gendreau

Sabrina Best

Doug Beck

Nicole Welch

Erika Dube

MacNeill [10:00a]

Deb Smith

Joe Crocker

Gary Colello

Absent: Tracy Willette

2. Approval of May 14, 2020 Minutes (Tobin/DeRice); all in favor unanimous

3. Solidarity Statement Discussion:

There was discussion on if MRPA should put out a statement in regard to the recent death of George Floyd. MRPA has moved forward already and posted a statement and most the board felt it would make sense for MRPA to move forward with the proposed statement with the change in the last sentence. The board discussed being committed to find ways to educate and evolve the board and state when it comes to racial related matters. Karyn felt we needed to push this statement out sooner rather than later and the board gave full support to move forward. If anyone had suggestions on language to send ASAP to Karyn.

4. Subcommittee Reports

a. Campout Programming – Lisa had 20 communities signed up and there is a zoom meeting today to talk about how this event will go. Promotion, ideas on how to put this together, and empowering the local communities will be discussed. The goal is to have this as a State event that is ran locally and open to any community. Shannon Moss with CBS13 and Forecaster are on board to feature the event. Lisa will explore Northern media outlets to get on board.

b. Merchandise – Nicole has put out an RFP on an online store and have heard back from 3 vendors. Nicole will keep the board updated with final vendors as today is the deadline with the goal of getting the online store up and running within a few weeks.

c. Youth Sports Subcommittee – Tyler has worked with Deb on a vision statement and how the website link could look. Tyler has connected with 6 members across the state to get the committee going. The Vision statement is about ‘coming together’ and centralized location for grants, trainings, professional development for MRPA members (NAYS), the Hot Shot and Track and Field can move under this umbrella. There could be a MemberZone for resources which can help increase membership. Tyler also mentioned using this outlet to help push the Russell Packett Scholarship. Members of the subcommittee would be made up of Sabrina (Auburn), Anthony Johnson (South Portland), Gary (Bridgton), Matt Gilbert (Falmouth), Nick Cliché (Portland), Kevin Senal (Fort Fairfield). Jen and Erika felt this is a great time to insert MRPA has a leader in youth sports for the state with the COVID situation going on. Tyler would like to get the website up and running by Fall the latest with all the resources.

d. Municipal Parks Deferred Maintenance – Doug talked about 22 responses to the survey that went out, there are some larger departments in the state that have not yet responded. Estimate total of need right now from the survey’s collected is \$14, 450, 020 and the total of unfunded outdoor funding available is projected at \$35 million which leaves \$15 million that is still available. This information will help when advocating legislature to fund an outdoor infrastructure bill. There are some challenges with the current economic status and the idea of adding taxes to already struggling economies. Doug’s goal is to get this information put together and in front of legislature by January which leaves this summer as the big push to collect data.

Karyn talked about the annual awards being announced and the award winners will be recognized in their communities. Deb will connect with Tracy and Lisa to talk about how this process will happen in the Fall, possibly Fall Workshop.

5. Other Business

Matt mentioned the NEPA conference in September is still looking to happen but waiting on hotel discussions which will happen later next month.

Erika asked about Fall programming in person for regional meetings or fall workshop. Erika is hoping to get SMART meeting back up in the Fall and get dates on calendars for Sept-May dates. Matt talked about NEPA holding zoom CEU and webinars thru August right now. Karyn suggested planning the topics and not locations. Doug suggested putting out a survey to collect feedback on what members would prefer; in person or zoom. Tyler mentioned seeing an increase in guest speakers available for online versions vs. in person. MAHPHERD cancelled their fall conference and Deb talked about a survey that resulted in uncertainty from members on travel and budget concerns. There was also feedback from speakers and vendors that would not attend which also played into the decision. Erika talked about having the zoom meeting with SMART due to the number of members being hard to get good discussion going and allowing for everyone a chance to talk. Debbie talked about how there is an increase in participation with zoom but there is less discussion. Erika will work on topics and possible speakers and explore webinar zooms.

Deb sent out the survey from UNH on COVID summer and Deb suggested everyone to review it and we can discuss anything if needed.

Joe updated the consultant for Quickbooks and Joe will show the board the new system of how things will be organized but was very optimistic with the meeting.

Karyn talked about Matt Tobin no longer being a voting member of the board come the August meeting and wanted to recognize him for all his support and commitment he has provided the board over the many years.

6. Next meeting – changed to August 20, 2020 at 10am

7. Adjourn (DeRice/Tobin); all in favor unanimous

Submitted by MRPA Secretary

Sabrina Best

[9:48a]