



P.O. Box 6728 Scarborough, ME 04070
Tel. 207-252-0636 www.merpa.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Zoom

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call To Order
Karyn MacNeill Sabrina Best Deb Smith MacNeill [10:01a]
Jen DeRice Joe Crocker Tyler Stewart Erika Dube
Nicole Welch Hillary Hallett Deb Gendreau Lisa Thompson
Zach Schrock Tracy Willette Doug Beck
2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes
 - a. Hallett/ Dube; all in favor unanimous
3. Treasurer Report
 - a. Joe emailed a report nothing major to highlight.
4. COVID Budget
 - a. Nothing to report.
5. MRPA Annual Budget
 - a. Proposed 21-22 Budget was reviewed by the board. Motion to accept Welch/Hallett; all in favor unanimous.
 - b. Will do sent to membership by Feb 16 for the required 30 day posting to membership.
6. Intent to Serve
 - a. Currently there is a candidate for each position with no contested positions. Those attending the virtual business meeting will be able to vote as normal, there will also be an absentee option on the website.
 - b. A 'Meet the Candidate' Zoom will be held prior to the Annual Conference.
7. Annual Conference
 - a. Business Meeting will be held March 18 at 10am virtually. Budget and Board votes will take place.
 - b. Subcommittee and Regional Reps should be prepared to provide a quick update.
 - c. Registration is open, goal is to get 40 individuals. Reminder that NRPA certification has changed their standard 60 min = .1 CEU.
 - d. Lisa provided an update on the Annual Awards and there are candidates in all categories. There will be a virtual award ceremony for Monday Night of conference. There was discussion around looking at offering a Special Pandemic Award or highlighting communities that went above and beyond in response to the pandemic.
8. Sub Committees
 - a. Youth Sports: Tyler provided an update;
 - i. Discussion on how Rec departments can help support Phys Ed activities in our programs.
 - ii. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would like to invite the Maine Recreation and Park Association to become a National Youth Sports Strategy (NYSS) Champion. Deb mentioned it appears that this group is looking for endorsement and support.
 - iii. Discovered two new Youth Sports organizations that provide trainings and online resources.
 - iv. Discussion on how to use Russell Packett scholarship funding, explored options of including a High School or College student scholarship.
 - v. Youth Sports Philosophy was finalized; Motion to approve Stewart/Thompson; all in favor unanimous.

Youth Sports Philosophy for MRPA

The Maine Recreation and Park Association philosophy on youth sports is to maintain an enriched quality of life for Maine youth through creative and meaningful sports and leisure experiences to form a harmonious relationship between sports, people, and their environment.

MRPA promotes the benefits of youth sports to provide fun, active, and educational experiences, intended to support the healthy development for children and to serve as a positive outlet for parents to connect with their young athlete.

Youth sports provide opportunities for children to create lifelong positive physical activity habits, improve social skills and have confidence in their abilities to succeed. MRPA measures success by the positive development of youth through sport.

b. Legislative Advocacy:

- i. Erika provided an update on the Vaccine advocacy efforts being made and recapped the SMART meeting on Vaccine information.
- ii. Doug offered a successful Advocacy 101 Zoom.
- iii. Deb sent an op-ed article on the benefits of parks and recreation to the Sun Journal in response to the Lewiston Recreation situation.
- iv. Doug reported update on LWCF that has just passed in Congress DOI Order #3396.

DOI Order #3396 will:

- Undo damaging restrictions on federal LWCF projects
- Revise the LWCF Stateside Manual to remove the changes imposed by Sec. Bernhardt on Jan. 19, and start a new revision process
- Restore funding for ORLP

9. Programming

- a. Track and Field will be holding a Tri-State meeting soon to discuss virtual options.
- b. Ticket Program – Deb sent the board a basic FAQ around the program and is looking for feedback.

10. Membership

- a. Deb reported that we are on track to renew most communities with a few new ones. Commercial membership is coming in slowly.

11. Other Business –

- a. Joe talked about the Esports League in Maine that Whitney Dorsett (South Portland) has taken on. Talked about the ease of starting the program and some other benefits. Joe will provide information to Deb to send to the membership.

12. Next meeting – March 18, 2021 at 10am during the Virtual Annual Business Meeting at the Spring Conference.

13. Adjourn (Gendreau/Dube); all in favor unanimous

[11:40a]