



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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Zoom

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call To Order

Karyn MacNeill

Jen DeRice

Tyler Stewart

Sabrina Best

Hillary Hallett

Lisa Topsham

Deb Smith

Doug Beck

Nicole Welch

MacNeill [10:04a]

Erika Dube

Joe Crocker

Zach Schrock

Absent: Tracy Willette, Deb Gendreau and Gary Colello

2. Approval of June 11, 2020 Minutes as amended (DeRice/Dube); all in favor unanimous

Erika proposed amendment;

“Erika asked if MRPA would make any announcement once the MPA decision would make a stance on Fall Sports.”

Erika thinks her comment was misunderstood, she was trying to suggest that MRPA make a stance on which guidelines they would follow MPA or Community Sports Guidelines.

New Language: “Erika talked about providing a statement of clarity from the board that provides direction as to how municipal recreation is categorized and identifies the recommended guidelines amongst the various governing boards for youth sports in Maine.”

Discussion: Deb would like to note that there should be a discussion at some point on Erika’s suggestion about MRPA making a statement on which governing body it will fall under.

3. Treasurer Report

Joe emailed the report to the board and highlighted Nina’s effort with the past transactions, so the balance sheet is accurate. The cost for Nina’s work was \$240 Quickbooks and \$120 grant work.

4. COVID Budget Updates

Deb put together a revenue and expense update and this can be reviewed quarterly. Expenses are estimated to be \$11,925 between now and the end of December. Currently the checking account balance is roughly \$43,000. Erika mentioned that there may be some members that are unable to continue membership this year or the normal benefits are no longer being available (conferences) and put together a creative approach to talking about all the benefits still being offered. There was some discussion on including the Commercial Members as Zach mentioned last meeting.

5. Maine Economic Recovery Grant for non-profits update

Deb filed this grant and the notifications will come out in October.

6. Annual Conference Discussion

Nicole mentioned that the Samoset would like to pencil in a date for Next Fall in anticipation of the Spring conference not being a go. Deb said the Samoset will NOT be able to host a March conference and are pushing for an October date which seems to be filling up. Open dates: Oct 10, 11, 12 Oct 17, 18, 19 (Sunday Monday Tuesday) Oct 26, 27, 28, 29. Our deposit from last year was held and could be applied to next years conference. **Hillary talked about Potatoes and Soccer season being a conflict for October.** Jen felt that it might be best to skip spring conference all together for 2021 and wait to hold it 2022 back at the Samoset to allow for budgets to recover. Still look to hold the Fall 2021 Workshop as normal. Zach brought up a concept of virtual trade shows, Vermont is doing something like this. The idea is to keep the commercial membership point of view.

Deb asked if a survey or message should go out to membership about the Spring conference not being held based off the Samoset. After discussion a motion was made

Karyn Motion: “Send a message to membership that Samoset will not be allowing gatherings including our Spring 2021 conference. The board will get back to the membership with more info.” Hillary second; all in favor unanimous

This topic will be on the October Agenda.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. Youth Sports Subcommittee – Tyler’s subcommittee will be meeting next week and plan on discussing the MPA decision and how that impacts Rec programs. Monthly trainings among other topics. Karyn asked if this group could take a look at the discussion around where MRPA falls under MPA or Community Sports Guidelines. Tyler said he will bring it up, however it has been the understanding that MRPA does NOT want to take a stance on these types of topics or issues. Tyler talked about how each community is setup differently and how that could be difficult. Doug mentioned that IF schools’ properties are LWCF funded there has to be access to the public. Under the LWCF there is a joint use schedule that would need to be referenced.

b. Legislative Advocacy work/sub-committee possibilities – Deb talked about Matt Foster in Farmington is interested in supporting the board in this topic. Deb talked about how there are some current and past board members that typically would advocate when needed. Deb is bringing to the board how this subcommittee would be formed (board lead or non-board member lead). Tracy has offered to mentor Matt if the board decides supporting Matt being the chair of a Legislative Advocacy subcommittee. Jen talked about the need to form this subcommittee and not rely on specific individuals to step up when needed. Tyler, Karyn, Erika, and Zach expressed interest in being involved in the committee. After some discussion, the board supported Deb to work with Matt and Tracy to begin forming the group, goals, objectives, potential members, etc.

c. Regional Meetings – Hillary talked about in person meeting started back up last month and seem to be going forward. Erika is hoping to work with the SMART group to get topic suggestions and continue with the zoom meeting format.

8. Other Business

Deb talked about how the board recognize the professionals in our State in specific on how they responded to COVID-19 pandemic and how MPRA can say Thank You. NRPA will be coming out with something on this but Deb wanted to put this out to the board to start brainstorming. Some ideas could include a video and talking about Parks, challenges, successes, and struggles.

9. Next meeting – October 8, 2020 at 10am

10. Adjourn (Hillary/DeRice); all in favor unanimous

[11:20p]