

Association Of Recreation Councils
Meeting Minutes

Monday March 30, 2015 7:00 pm @ Bourne Building, Parks and Rec Main Office

- Call to Order by Randy Cole, President, at 7:00 pm.
- Approval of Minutes: The November Minutes were approved by all those present.
- In Attendance: Jeremy Kortright; Recreation Superintendent; Amanda Venable, RHM; John Campbell, Mark Raithel, BCRC; Barb Taylor, Randy Cole; CMRC; Pam Dietrick, MRC; Craig Beckley, CRC; Paula Blundel, SRC; Mary Ann Gearinger, SRC; Don Cornell, RHM; Deanna Shawndlesthous, WNMRC; Eric Scholz, URC; Jolena Spielman, LRC; Kathy Baryliski, Sandy Burr, Ron Katenbaugh, FCNC; Lisa Graham, CMRC.
- Finance Report: Jeremy stated that the balance remains the same at \$536.69 with not transactions in the past year.

New Business

A. Election of Officers:

Jeremy mentioned that there were three individuals nominated for the election. For Chair Eric Scholz; Vice Chair, Amanda Venable; and for Treasurer Mark Raithel. Barb Taylor made a motion to accept those nominated for those positions. Paula Blundel seconded the motion. Randy asked for a show of hands to vote in the new officers. Everyone present voted in favor.

New officers from FY 16-FY17 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017) are:

Chair: Eric scholz

Vice Chair: Amanda Venable

Treasurer: Mark Raithel

B. Concussions

Jeremy mentioned to all present that the councils are required to comply with the state law concerning concussions in sports. To be compliant with this Maryland law each council needs to do the following each season:

- a. Education of the participants, coaches, and parents of the risks involved and the signs/symptoms associated with concussions.

- b. Maintain a waiver for all sports activities that requires participants to acknowledge that they understand and are aware of the risks associated with concussions.
- c. Implement a “return to play” policy for each program that requires individuals who have been suspected of having a concussion to visit a doctor and get signed approval to “return to play”. Jeremy provided the group an example of the “return to play” policy/form that the Parks and recreation division uses. He also informed them that he would email them a copy for their use in their programs.

Each council that has active sports must be compliant in all three aspects in regards to concussions in order to maintain their access to public facilities (i.e. School Gyms, Park/school fields, etc).

- C. Group discussion: Carroll Manor (randy Cole) brought up the issue they had recently with a “out of control” parent. The individual allegedly assaulted someone at a recent basketball game. Randy explained that this person was not an authorized coach for the team, however he volunteered at the score table and occasionally filled in as assistant coach. Lisa Graham added that the CMRC board reviewed the evidence with their attorney and the board determined that the entire family would be barred from participating in any CMRC programs in the future. The mother of the child has appealed the ruling for her child and the board is considering the appeal in the near future. Randy mentioned that this individual had issues with other groups in the past and had he or the CMRC known they would have specifically made certain he did not volunteer for the youth teams in the hopes of avoiding this type of situation. He asked the group about the possibility of starting a shared list, but realized that this would be difficult to track. Jeremy mentioned that MARPSA has dealt with this issue in other areas of the state and rather than taking a “list” approach to avoid the problem the group decided to proactively promote “good sports” characteristics and encourage positive behavior. This approach has been very encouraging to all those involved. Jeremy reminded the councils that training and educating the participants on expectations via a “code of conduct” is essential to changing the culture of sports. Craig Beckley mentioned that he had a similar issue with a youth who recently was “bullying” other participants and when he removed the youth the parents threatened him. Since this issue Craig stated that the council has a “3”

strikes policy, however that many of the code of conducts and policies in place that deal with this type of behavior need updated. Jeremy stated that he would send information about various codes of conducts recommended by MARPSA to all the councils. He also stated that every council has to identify what they are all about (competitive or recreational) when it comes to sports programs. He mentioned again that developing a culture of promoting positive outcomes and encouraging character growth is both for the parents and youth in their communities and that establishing a code of conduct is an essential step in that direction. Lisa mentioned lastly that councils need to make sure they follow their by-laws and constitutions in dealing with these types of issues.

Council reports:

Catoctin Council: Craig mentioned that the council board has entirely changed and they are starting softball games.

Urbana Rec council: Eric mentioned that lacrosse is expanding and that the council is evaluating the possibility of adding a volleyball program in the future.

Woodsboro Council: The Council is struggling with enrollment numbers in programs. Many of the council volunteers do not have children in the programs.

Libertytown council: The council has a new board and is struggling to get volunteers.

Carroll Manor: Lisa mentioned the Community grant the council received for the land. They are also pursuing some additional trainings for their volunteers.

Middletown: Pam said that they had 1,000 people at their recent marble event. The Egg hunt went really well. On may 16th they will have a “color me spring” event. They have also been approached by individuals interested in “pickleball”.

Rose Hill Manor: The Easter Egg Roll is coming up next Saturday. On April 11th Bell and History Days is also going on at RHM.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Nature Council: Nature Fest is scheduled for April 25th at Catoctin creek Park. A Purple martin colony has been installed at Catoctin Creek.

Ballenger Creek: Basketball season is over and soccer is getting started. The council is looking into getting volunteer/mentors.

Senior recreation Council: The senior council is active with various groups and activities. Exercise had 120 at the program this morning. The council celebrated 20 years in existence this year.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 pm

Next Meeting is August 10th at 7 pm.