

NHRPA Business Meeting

February 10, 2017

Primex, 46 Donovan Street, Concord, NH 03301

9:30-12:00 pm

Members Present: Greg Bisson, Arene Berry, Eric Feldbaum, Matt Casparius, Tara Barker, Tara Tower, Wendy Werner, Meghan Spaulding, Christine Collins, Aimee Gigandet, Donna Keuthe, John Kohlmorgen, Renee Sangermano, Rick Deshernais, Andy Bohannon

Staff Present: Kerry Horne

Meeting Called to Order: 9:32 am

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the January 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed.

Tara Tower had two corrections from the January Meeting minutes.

- Under the President's Report: On the third bullet point, it currently reads "There is a record number of attendees and it should be "There are a record number of attendees.
- Under the President's Report: On the fourth bullet point, the last sentence currently reads "Once the Board finishes updated it, it will be sent out to the membership". The word "updated" should be "updating".
- Tara Tower made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as amended. 2nd by Arene Berry. Approved 15 – 0.

Treasurers Report: Arene Berry talked briefly about the budget.

- We are currently 66% of the way thru year and her report shows percentage used to date.
- Top half of the report is the income which shows that we brought in \$52,000 to date. The budget we approved estimated that we would generate \$64,000 for the year so we are already 80% of the way to our goal.
- Tara Tower made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by Andy Bohannon. Approved 15-0.

Executive Director Report:

Kerry Horne reported that we have two new commercial members which are Gaga Court and Mick OGara from NH-Fun.com. Online renewals have been running smoothly. There are a few members that have no renewed yet but overall no issues.

A. **Membership:** We have a total of 250 members at this time which are broken out as follows:

- Agency 51
- Associate Members 12
- Board or Commission 1
- College/University 19
- Commercial Members 52
- Honorary 3
- Non Profit Partners 2
- Professional Members 108
- Retire Professional 2

B. **Grant Writing Workshop:**

As of 2/9/17, the grant writing workshop on March 10th currently has 24 registered attendees and we are still a month away so it should be a good turnout.

C. **Mail Location:**

We need to discuss the location of the NHRPA mailbox which is currently at DRED. DRED doesn't want it anymore and so we will need to think about a new location to send all mail. Eric Feldbaum reported that

changes are possibly coming to DRED and so he said we can hold off on this for now until we see if those changes are going to occur.

D. Fundraising/ Fun Pass Books:

- Currently have 7 communities selling Fun Pass Books which is fewer than we've had in the past although NHRPA is getting a larger percentage from Breathe NH.
- Kerry is working to update all forms, policies and procedures for fundraising programs. She is working with Arene to coordinate all fundraising programs moving forward.
- New policy that we are no longer accepting checks being made payable to NHRPA. Payment must be made through the recreation department selling the tickets and there will be predefined payments established with each fundraiser to ensure we are receiving payments. For Fun Pass Books, payments are due in March, July & October. Communities will be responsible for any lost tickets.
- The summer tickets fundraiser will be coming in early spring. She is currently working to get prices from participating commercial members.

Presidents Report:

- Networking Lunches:** Greg reported that he is looking to the possibility of scheduling networking lunches after all trainings/meetings for the future as a way to encourage more people to come to meeting. It was suggested that maybe we charge a nominal fee for training and include the cost of lunch with it.
- District Meetings:** Greg reported that the Seacoast Region just recently met and one of their topics was how to attract more members to the regional meetings. Rick Deshernais suggested that each region could be responsible for hosting a CEU training workshop in their region.
- Work Plan:** Greg reported that we have not finished editing the work plan and so if you have any edits to please send them to Kerry.
- Budget Timeline:** We will be sending out reminders to all committees to submit their budget to the Executive Board for 2017/2018 year by April so that we have time to review it and have them approved at our June meeting.

2017 Granite State Track & Field

Christine Collins reported that the Regional Meet has been scheduled for Saturday June 17th and registration will start at 9:00 am and the meet will start at 10:00 am. Volunteers should plan to arrive between 8:30 – 9:00 am. The locations are still being finalized at this point but they are hoping to have it in Rochester and Lebanon.

Rick Deshernais reported that the State Meet will take place on Friday, June 23rd from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. The location has not yet been finalized but they are hoping to have it at the University of New Hampshire in which case they hope to also get some UNH students involved. He is going to reserve the facilities in Pelham up just in case UNH isn't available. He said that he expected to have the locations finalized by Mid-April.

Donna Kuethe talked about conversations she had at the Northern New England Conference with VT and Maine about future collaborations. It's not something we are going to try to do this year but down the road it is the direction they would like to head.

Kerry Horne reported that she has received the signed contracts from Loco Sports & Sylvania already. She also asked the committee if they had given any thought on what to do about athlete recognition. Rick said they were open to ideas but didn't have anything yet. He is going to talk to the sponsors and maybe they could do something special for the first place winners at the State Meet. Christine talked about the possibility of having a food tent along with arts & crafts activities at the State Meeting, but would have to do them while the meet is happening since it's on a Friday night and most people want to get out quickly.

Kerry reported that the packets are online but asked if anything was being mailed out. Rick said that an email blast would be going out shortly with the links to download the registration forms.

Legislative Report:

Since Jeff King was not present, Greg provided the following updates:

- A. Jeff sent a letter to the NH House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee on behalf of NHRPA letting them know that we are opposed to HB582-FN-A. This bill came at the request of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) who is tasked with inspecting over 1300 public bathing facilities and they do not have the staff resources to inspect them all on an annual basis. DES felt they were underfunded and were looking for more money for their budget to support these inspections. The bill proposed creating an Annual License Fee to provide them with additional funding. In their testimony, DES also spoke about 16 incidents of water quality issues. In his letter to the Committee, Jeff King reported that 14 of the 16 issues occurred at private hotels, resorts and health clubs and that none of the incidents occurred at a municipal owned facility. Oftentimes these private facilities do not have Certified Aquatic Facility Operators or Certified Pool Operators which is why the problems occur. He suggested that if this bill were to pass that municipalities should be exempted. He also suggested that this is more of a budget issue that should be addressed through the normal state budget process and not through special legislation. Lastly, Greg reported that Barbara Reed the NH Municipal Association also testified against the bill.
- B. HB399 has to do with the use of pesticides in places where children play. Jeff said that many members of NHRPA & NESTMA have concerns with the bill. NESTMA as an organization can't go and lobby as an organization, but Nick Caggiano did appear before the committee and testified against it.

Northern New England Parks & Recreation Conference:

Tara Tower reports that overall the reviews of the conference have been good. Those who were stuck in the off-site hotel were not happy with it. The vendor hall layout went great and vendors were happy with the format. She said it worked out well having Pioneer and Musco directly hand out the delegate gifts this year instead of people getting them at the registration table. Some people felt that the institutes were too long so they are looking to possibly offer two shorter sessions at the same time as the longer institute as an alternative. Food reviews were much better this year. The Committee has been discussing the pros and cons of having entertainment vs. hospitality suite. The videos from most of the sessions are posted up on the website at this point. The Conference will remain at Attitash for at least next year. The dates for next year are going to be January 9th – 11th, 2018.

Pitch Hit & Run Update:

Tara Barker reported that the date of the event has been changed to May 13th and it will be held at Gill Stadium in Manchester.

NH/VT Workshop:

Kerry reported that NHRPA is going to be handling the registration for the workshop. We do get charged a credit card fee for online registrations that have a fee and so she is talking to Betsy Orselet from VT about whether allow people to pay by credit card and then pass on that credit card transaction fee or whether we have online registration but then tell them they have to mail in a check. They are hoping to resolve that soon so that they can go live in Mid-February.

Old Business

A. March 10th Grant Writing Workshop:

The location of the workshop have been moved to Primex so that Executive Board can meet with Rick Alpers afterwards to finish the goal setting that was started at the Northern New England Conference.

New Business:

- A. Primex is going to be holding a Special Event Risk Management workshop at their facility in May. Dates are to be announced.
- B. NHRPA is going to be partnering with the NH Municipal Association in April on a Special Events Planning webinar.
- C. Aimee Gigandet asked whether we could tape our workshops and post them on the website for those who aren't able to attend in person. Everyone thought this was a good idea and Greg said that he would make sure it happens.
- D. Donna Kuethe reported that the Wink Tapply Conference has been scheduled for the first Saturday in June (June 3, 2017). She said that they are also looking at trying to do something with aquatics like the Wink Tapply program but focused specifically on aquatic staff.
- E. Kerry reported that the Awards Committee is looking for a representative from each district to join the Committee. Donna Kuethe said that they are looking at moving the awards deadline back to May 1st.
- F. Eric Feldbaum reported that there will be no changes to State Parks bus pass program. Information will be posted shortly. He also reported that there is the possibility that the State is going to separate the Resources & Economic Development Divisions from the State Parks Division and said that if this occurs, it would go into effect in July 2017. He will keep everyone updated on developments.

Meeting Adjourned: Eric Feldbaum made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Tara Tower. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Matt Casparius
NHRPA Secretary