

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/
SPECIAL RECREATION PROGRAM ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

August 15, 2011

6: 00 P.M.

The Douglas House
732 North Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 360-4760

Members Present: Melissa Juarez, Mercedes Rivera, and Christian Torres

WPD Representatives: Julie Schneider, Kari Drew, Maria Owens, and Whitney Malone

Members Absent:

Sharon Lambert, Susan Johnson, Susan Smock, Greg Petry, Bill Sarocka

Welcome:

Julie Schneider opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. at the Douglas House.

Review of Minutes from April 18, 2011 Meeting

No revisions required of April 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes.

Identified Priorities to Discuss

SRSNLC Resource Fair – Thursday, October 6, 2011

Schneider reported that the 3rd Annual SRSNLC Resource Fair is being held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 in Round Lake. The event will be held at the Round Lake Area Park District Sports Center located at 2004 N. Municipal Way, Round Lake Beach. Owens announced that she sent vendor invitations on August 12. Within the same day or one day later she received confirmation from seven organizations that are interested in attending as a vendor for the event. Member, Juarez reviewed Owens vendor list and provided a few additional contacts. Owens will send the vendor packets to these organizations the week of August 15. Members Juarez, Rivera and Torres all announced that they are available and set to volunteer at the Resource Fair. Juarez is going to check with her sister-in-law and niece to see if they are interested and available to volunteer to translate at the event. Juarez also has a contact with social workers of the Round Lake School District and will research securing individuals to translate. Drew reminded Schneider that Special Recreation has staff member Elizabeth Rivera is bilingual and could be scheduled to translate at the event.

Fundraising Effort

Schneider announced that the first Polar Bear Plunge Planning Meeting has been set with the Polar Bear Plunge Committee for September 7 at 10:00am at the Douglas House. No official planning has taken place. David Motley of the City of Waukegan informed Schneider that the program planning input and support from the City of Waukegan will remain the same as it had

for 2011. Special Recreation staff asked Committee Members if they had any connections to secure sponsorships or had any new promotional techniques to explore to please share them with Special Recreation staff. Rivera reported that her son Tony works for Coca Cola in Park City. His supervisor recently asked if he still had connections with special recreation as they are looking for local businesses to establish a sponsorship/volunteer opportunities or involvement with. Juarez has a contact with Jester's and will inquire into their interest in participating in the Donation Card or sponsorship of Polar Bear Plunge.

Partners in Parks Golf Outing –

Schneider reported that the Waukegan Park District rescheduled the Partners in Parks Golf Outing to September 16, 2011. Committee Member, participant, Torres has agreed to volunteer at the fundraising event held on Hole 17. Schneider reported that she is scheduling the two Special Recreation Interns to assist with the event and will seek to have participant Donna Wagner volunteer at the event as well.

SRSNLC-Waukegan Goals

- i. Creating a process to identify core program areas. Schneider briefly explained the two new initiatives that Special Recreation will be implementing starting this fall.
 1. Healthy Minds- Healthy Bodies Veterans Initiative: Schneider explained the HMHB program to the committee. Juarez suggested Schneider contact Baxter as an alternative funding source. She commented that they have grants for health and wellness. She is not aware if grant awards revolve around having a 501C-3 status.
- ii. IAPD Power Play Grant – Afterschool Health and Wellness: Schneider explained that Special Recreation received the grant from the Illinois Association of Park Districts to offer an afterschool program. Malone's major project has been to design the lesson plans, promotional items, and recruitment of participants for the thirty-six week program that has been named Power Playing Kalisthenic Kids (P2K2). The program is scheduled to begin on August 31 if the minimum number of participants can be recruited. Juarez provided contact names and phone numbers to Owens of a nutritionist and fitness consultants that The Center for Enriched Living has secured through a grant they are implementing. She said they may be willing to be a guest speaker and provide program plans that will easily meet the needs of Special Recreation participants for its health and fitness programs. Juarez also stated that North Pointe Achievement Center also offers health and wellness training which Owens may want to research attending.
- iii. Brainstorm Special Recreation family program ideas & pricing: Drew reported that she will continue to offer the Family Frames program. It met with good success in the Spring season. Drew also reported that Access for All Days is a program offered by the Museum at Navy Pier. If arranged and secured Navy Pier offers the transportation to and from Navy Pier for the program. The program is offered in the Fall brochure.
- iv. Brainstorm database of charities and business to request funding support: Schneider acknowledged that she will double check with Alicia Mentell the status of the agreement that the Waukegan Park District- Sports Park is working out with Coca Cola. Committee member Rivera reiterated the contact her son has with Coca Cola and his supervisor's interests in working out a volunteer sponsorship with Special Recreation.
- v. Brainstorm Green Practices for Special Recreation: No input or discussion was generated.

Priorities for Next Meeting

1. SRSNLC Resource Fair – results of the October 6 Fair
2. Polar Bear Plunge Planning and promotion: Sunday, January 1, 2012
3. Partner's In Parks Golf Outing Report- results of the September 16, fundraising effort
4. SRSNLC- Waukegan Goal(s) –Program Advisory Committee support

Questions, Comments, Concerns:

See attached document of proposed 2012 meeting dates.

Set next meeting date:

Date: **Monday, October 17, 2011**

Time: **6:00 p.m.**

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm