

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Special Recreation Program Advisory Committee
August 6, 2012**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting of the Special Recreation Program Advisory Committee on August 6, 2012 at the Douglas House, 732 North Genesee Street, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Bill Sarocka who directed a call of the role.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Sarocka.

Also Present: Julie Schneider, Manager of Special Recreation, Maria Owens, Recreation Specialist, Greg Petry, Executive Director, Melissa Juarez-Ehlers, Mercedes Rivera and Christian Torres.

Absent: Sharon Lambert, Susan Johnson, Susan Smock and, Kari Robinson.

Special Guests: Dave Cruz, Deanna Guidry, and Christopher Pace

Due to lack of a quorum, no official board action was taken.

III. Review, Discuss, Decide

A. Healthy Minds- Healthy Bodies Veterans Initiative

- **Materials created:** Schneider reported that Intern, Emily Bihun, has created full welcome packets that are being sent to interested veterans or to interested service organizations that assist veterans. She has also been keeping a database of fitness center and personal training use as well as progress reports of personal training sessions kept by the trainers.
- **Present status of participants:** Schneider reported that there are currently eleven veterans in the program. Schneider with assistance from Intern Bihun is working with staff Donna Sebok of NEDSRA, Coordinator of the pilot Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies program. Sebok has developed a tiered level for personal training sessions. The tier system moves forward in five session increments based upon actual attendance of training sessions. Summary of the use by Waukegan veterans shows about fifty percent regular use of the fitness center as well as sessions with personal trainers throughout the summer months. At the present time Waukegan participants have been using the personal training sessions on a manageable and timely level. A tier system has not had to be implemented.

- **Promotion efforts:** To date the only locations that promotional information has been posted is in the SRSNLC and Waukegan Park District seasonal brochures. To keep the program growing at a manageable rate it is not being promoted on an advanced level at this time. Schneider has spoken with service organizations that assist veterans to explain the program. These contacts have agreed to share the word with veterans that they feel would be a good fit and benefit from the program without over promotion.
 - **Survey and Socials Planning:** Schneider reported that Bihun conducted a Survey Monkey Questionnaire to glean information from the veterans on their interest in social activities as well as how the program is working for them. Very positive results were received on their evaluation of the program. There was not as much interest in participating in socials, nor do many of them want anything to do with publication of their photo or having video taken. Bihun is planning the first social for August 14. A yoga/relaxation session will be followed by a short meet and greet with a healthy snack and refreshment to be served. At the present time Bihun is still receiving responses to participate in the social.
- B. Update on Mandated Reporting –OIG:** Schneider received written confirmation from Lois McCarthy, Attorney at Law from OIG, that Special Recreation is not an organization operated, licensed, certified, or funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services so it does not fall under Rule 50 or 51 jurisdictions. SRNLC does serve adults with a developmental disability that live and work in environments that do fall under Rule 50 and 51. Thus, staff under ethical behavior, should report abuse or neglect of an adult with disabilities to the OIG Hotline 1-800-368-1463. McCarthy is reviewing the policy/procedure information that the cooperative staff of SRSNLC compiled. Once she has completed making notes to the information, she will share her results with Schneider. Schneider is compiling the findings and will follow up with Administrative staff of the Ann M. Kiley Center on August 22.
- C. SRSNLC Resource Fair – Update on location**
- Schneider reiterated that Waukegan is hosting the event at the Belvidere Recreation Center (BRC) on Thursday, September 27, 2012. The fair will run from 6:00-8:00pm. Save-the-Date/Interest flyers were distributed to past participating vendors in July. Maria Owens has received confirmation from three vendors that plan to attend the event. Special guests Chris Pace, Deanna Guidry, and Dane Cruz were excited to hear of the fair. Each of them has asked to be emailed the vendor information as they know of service organizations that would be interested in being in attendance. Once the promotional flyer is revised all members asked to be emailed it as well. They will be more than happy to get the word out about the event in hopes of increasing attendance of patrons.

D. Fundraising Effort

- **Research of Fund Sources for Healthy Minds-Healthy Bodies:** Schneider reported that Donna Sebok of NEDSRA has obtained State 501C-3 status and is now awaiting National status for the Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies program. When this status is achieved she will be seeking sponsorship and grant monies. Sebok reported to Bihun that there may be minimal dollars available in 2012, but the hope is to have larger dollar amounts available come 2013. When financial support is achieved Sebok will provide the opportunity for districts offering the program to apply for match dollars. These monies will help offset the cost of the personal training sessions, socials and fitness center memberships being provided to the veterans.
- **Partners in Parks Golf Outing:** Owens reported that in the one hour they were able to conduct the fundraising effort at the Partners in Parks Golf Outing on Friday, July 13, they made \$120. The weather was very uncooperative and everyone was pulled off the course due to storms.
- **Healthy Minds-Healthy Bodies:** Schneider presented that since the program has been growing slowly she has not sought outside organizations to possibly obtain sponsorship dollars. There is the hope of seeking financial support through the program Donna Sebok will be presenting under the 501C-3.
- **Polar Bear Plunge:** Schneider has made a call to David Motley of the City of Waukegan to confirm if support of the Polar Bear Plunge will be available in 2013. A "green light" has not yet been received. Implementation of this event is not feasible without the support of the City of Waukegan. Schneider reported that the Up North Pub, TR's Front Row, J's Muck, and Green Town Tavern have been successful sponsors of past events as well helping to secure plunge pledgers. Commissioner Sarocka suggested speaking with Big Ed's as a local business that may be willing to become a sponsor of the event. No new promotional efforts were presented but all members and guests agreed to share any thoughts they may have.

E. New Program ideas:

- Member, Juarez-Ehlers presented material on the Illinois Imagines program designed for females with developmental delays. This program comes with a tool kit of activities to assist in presenting safety against sexual assault. Juarez-Ehlers informed members that the Lake County Illinois Imagines Committee will be hosting and all day awareness training at College of Lake County in April. She is looking to help present this program to individuals that plan programs in Special Recreation Associations as they often times have developed repertoire with participants. Hence, participants often times feel comfortable in reporting or talking about cases of assaults to these staff. The training materials were left with Schneider and Owens to review. Juarez-Ehlers would appreciate the opportunity to present the materials at a meeting of Special Recreation Association Directors or Supervisory Staff. Schneider has agreed to seek the opportunity for Juarez-Ehlers to present the program at an Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section/Legislative Advocacy Division (ITRS/LAD) meeting.

F. Priorities for Next Meeting:

- **Date:** Monday, November 12 at 6:00PM at the Douglas House
- **Priorities:** Summary of the Resource Fair, promotion efforts of Polar Bear Plunge; Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies program updates, final results of established procedures of OIG, report of new members and members that have resigned and, presentation of Strategic Plan goals related to Special Recreation.

IV. Closed Session

There was no closed session

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Schneider

Julie Schneider
Manager of Special Recreation