

**University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Friday, January 26, 2018

**Time:** 9:00am

**Location:** University Recreation and Wellness Center (Multipurpose Room 7)

**Attendees:**

Sam Palmer - Chair, All Campus Representative  
Sarah Heemstra - Vice Chair, All Campus Representative  
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness  
Sonya Ewert - Professional Student Government  
Bennett Olupo - Minnesota Student Association  
Makayla Koehn - Panhellenic Council  
Samson Ghirmai - National Pan-Hellenic Council  
Dr. Connie Magnuson - Faculty - School of Kinesiology  
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee, Recreation and Wellness

**Staff Advisors:**

Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness

**Guests:**

Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness  
Lisa Lemler - Recreation and Wellness  
Linda McKee - Recreation and Wellness

**Regrets**

Chloe Huelsnitz - Council of Graduate Students  
Max Chu - Minnesota Student Association  
Abby Doeksen - Undergraduate Housing Representative  
Griffin Ehlen - Interfraternity Council  
Jonang Thao - Multicultural Greek Council  
Azhar Akesh - International Student and Scholar Services  
Fardowsa Hassan - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence  
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul  
David Okita - Civil Services Minneapolis  
Ryan Warren - P & A Staff  
Ryan Townzen - Recreation and Wellness

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

**II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The December 6, 2018 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. A quorum was not met, so the approval of the Minutes was tabled until the February 23, 2018 meeting.

**III. Introductions**

Chair Palmer welcomed the group, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

**IV. Updates**

Chair Palmer welcomed Ms. Ashfal to speak on some updates with Recreation and Wellness Facilities projects:

*a. Recreation & Wellness Center - North Building, St. Paul Gym*

Ms. Ashfal presented an update to the group about the damage to the North Building of the Recreation and Wellness Center that occurred on January 2, 2018. She detailed that after a pipe burst in the Cooke Hall skyway which caused the sprinkler system to break, the North Building experienced excessive water damage. The damage extended to the North Building elevator, North Gym, Upper & Lower Fitness centers, and multiple staff offices.

The damage was discovered at approximately 4:00am and prompt responses from Facilities Management (FM) and RecWell Staff helped to minimize the potential for further damage. Clean-up was started immediately, which included carpet removal in all damaged area, and sanitation to Environmental Health standards.

Beth announced that the pipe and sprinkler system damage has been repaired. She also noted that all displaced staff have been returned to their offices, and the North Building is fully operational, with the exception of the North Building elevator. New carpet delivery and installation, as well as repair to the North Building elevator, is estimated at six to eight weeks. Dr. Brown noted his appreciation for the prompt clean-up response and repair efforts.

The Gymnasium at the St. Paul Gym experienced water damage from January 13 - 14. Prompt responses from RecWell staff, FM, and Emergency Management helped minimize the damage. The flooring in the space, while damaged, was deemed safe for use. The flooring in the Gymnasium will be maintained to ensure it's safety, but will need repair. Repair is currently scheduled for May 2018 to ensure no lapse in Youth Programs programming.

Ms. Ashfal detailed that both the North Building and St. Paul Gym damage will be covered through insurance.

*b. URW Sports Field Complex (Dome)*

Excessive snow accumulation damaged the URW Sports Field Complex (URW-SFC) on January 23, 2018, causing it to deflate. RecWell staff responded promptly, and Yeadon and PCL, the outside contractors for the project, were on-site quickly to help with repair.

RecWell currently has temporary occupancy of the space, but it is still not operational. Any displaced programs were relocated to appropriate spaces, and a small amount of programming was canceled due to facility availability.

Ms. Ashfal noted that this damage will also be covered by insurance.

Ms. Heemstra asked the group if the Board could offer any support in communicating with the University community about incidents that impact program of facility availability (spread the word). Ms. Ashfal agreed that “the more hands in situations like this, the better” and encouraged the Board to use its unique position on campus to help ‘spread the word’ about these incidents/projects.

*c. Fieldhouse/Super Bowl Event*

Ms. Ashfal updated the Board that the Fieldhouse will be used as the employee check-in for the Super Bowl. They will be occupying the space from Monday, January 29 to Monday, February 5, 2018. RecWell does stand to benefit by the rental, profiting almost \$26,000.00 in rental fees. Ms. Ashfal presented traffic and facility maps, detailing the impact to surrounding areas.

Ms. Ashfal announced that the Cuningham Group was selected as the contractor for the Fieldhouse update project. Final designs are in process. RecWell is appropriating \$6.2million to the project (\$5 million from HEAPR funding, other funding from capital enhancement fee and reserves).

Mr. Olupo asked about the ability to use the current Fieldhouse space for Tennis events. In response to his question, Ms. Ashfal detailed RecWell’s current relationship with the Baseline Tennis Center to offer tennis programming and explained that the current Fieldhouse space can in fact be used for tennis.

*d. Aquatics*

First, Ms. McKee announced the that HVAC repair project proposal was denied for the current fiscal year. She noted that she is still “hopeful” that the project will be approved as designed and planned during the next fiscal year. Ms. McKee provided a short review of the project, noting that a total removal and replacement of the existing system is needed. The project total costs are estimated at \$12.5 million.

Second, Ms. McKee announced that Aquatics does have approval to move forward with the LED light replacement project, to be paid for by Energy Management. The project is scheduled for April 2018, and is anticipated to offer the program some energy cost savings. She noted that they do hope for some residual improvement in the facility’s air quality with the replacements, considering the current light fixtures run at a very high temperature.

Third, Ms. McKee announced that the Aquatics Program is fully staffed. Mr. Paul Bady was recently hired, and has been an “immediate asset to the Program.”

Lastly, Ms. McKee reminded the Board that the Aquatic Center will be hosting several National-caliber events in the coming months. Two upcoming events include the Men's Big 10 Swimming & Diving Championships and the Men's NCAA Championships. In closing, she called for volunteers for both events.

**V. Student Development Committee**

Ms. Heemstra provided the Board with an update on the progress of the Student Development Committee's 2018 gala event planning. In her update, she noted that a date and location for the event have been finalized (April 7, 2018 in the University Fieldhouse). She and Dr. Brown reminded the Board that the purpose of the event is to honor and recognize RecWell's student staff and their contributions to our Department, and is a commitment to intentional student development efforts Recreation and Wellness is committed to. Dr. Brown noted that all Board members will be extended an invite to the event.

Chair Palmer noted that the event will be funded through internally generated sources, including Google Allo sponsorship funds, in response to Ms. Ewart's question about the source of the event funding.

More updates will be presented at the February 2018 Board meeting.

**VI. Budget Conversation**

Ms. Lovro provided the Board with an update on the FY19 budget preparation. With an upcoming application deadline of February 6, 2018, she reminded the Board that RecWell will not be requesting an increase in funding for FY19.

Ms. Lovro shared a paper copy of and reviewed the department's Public Forum document summary in detail with the Board. The document reviewed the projected FY19 budget, and highlighted important areas of consideration (facility support/maintenance, operations, etc.), noting the the minimum wage increase is projected to have the biggest impact on the FY19 and future years' budgets.

Areas Ms. Lovro noted that RecWell would like to continue to enhance through budget planning include the student development program, social wellness initiatives, and risk management programs. Areas in the RecWell budget that impact the Department's revenue were listed as increase equipment replacement program (postpone a year), systematic increases in staff/faculty memberships, marketing and sponsorship opportunities, and facility space/use revenue.

Given the considerations, Ms. Lovro called for Board support for the department's FY19 request, understanding that a vote would not be possible at the current meeting without a quorum present.

Mr. Olupo asked if the department has considered bringing back alternate membership options (a one-month membership) or an increase in membership rates to increase revenue generated. Ms. Ashfal and Dr. Brown responded that the Department is investigating that option, weighing administrative, economical, and philosophical implications to the Department. Dr. Brown did note that RecWell does recognize the need to increase the Staff/Faculty membership fees, but does want to consider philosophical implications before implementing any changes.

Dr. Brown reminded the Board that RecWell does plan to request a significant fees increase in FY20. He noted wanting to balance the department's philosophical priorities with this request, and minimize primary user displacement with any impactful changes/updates to facilities or programming. Dr. Brown recognized student labor costs as a significant area of financial impact, noting the practice of fiscal responsibility as a continued primary budget consideration. He noted that he believes RecWell is "right sized as a department" and sees no pressing need to reduce any full-time appointments.

Dr. Brown shared that he sees the proposed Internship Program (with \$50,000.00 placeholder in the current proposed FY19 budget) as a real chance to step out and continue reputation of the Department and University. Committed to addressing low wages of URW staff (in comparison to market range), Dr. Brown noted that RecWell's best resources "are our people." He noted that he would like to continue to address this issue moving forward.

Next, Ms. Ewart asked if RecWell, while being mindful that this may incur up-front costs, has considered opening any satellite facilities across campus, specifically on the West Bank, to allow better access to RecWell facilities to professional students (their current schedules and commitments make it difficult to access current RecWell facilities). She noted her support as the Professional Student Government representative of this proposal. In response to her question, Dr. Brown expressed support for her idea, and requested to go on record in the Minutes to say RecWell needs more outdoor field space and a presence on the West Bank. Ms. Ashfal agreed with his request.

Mr. Olupo asked for clarification about the discussion surrounding the St. Paul Campus RecWell projects/updates. Dr. Brown noted that the discussion surrounding any updates to St. Paul RecWell facilities is being largely mediated by the overall St. Paul Campus project. He noted that as long as there on students on the St. Paul Campus, RecWell wants to, and believes firmly in, maintaining a quality presence there (the St. Paul Gym and St. Paul Student Center). He also noted the need for "dire updates" for both the St. Paul Gym and St. Paul Student Center in order to better represent what programming occurs in those spaces.

Lastly, Dr. Brown noted that each campus has unique needs, and as long as there is a need for Recreation and Wellness spaces, RecWell will continue to "fight for the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and West Bank" projects. He added that he would be "willing to entertain a trade of land space to build a presence in or around the West Bank field area" in order to build more field space by the new URW Sports Field Complex (Dome) site - highlighting a "desperate" need for outdoor field space.

## **VII. Announcements**

Chair Palmer shared one announcement with the group - targeted towards the student members in attendance. He announced that RecWell will be hiring for summer positions soon, and to please spread the word to their constituents.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at 10:08am.