University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 25, 2019
Time: 9:00am
Location: University Recreation and Wellness Center (Multipurpose Room 7)

Attendees:
Sarah Heemstra - Chair, All Campus Representative
Amelia Kreiter - Vice Chair, Council of Graduate Students
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness
Giovann Alarcon Espinoza - At-Large Representative
Raymond Muno - Civil Service Minneapolis
Brandi Hoffman - Faculty P & A, School of Kinesiology
Ryan Warren - P & A Staff Representative
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee
Sena Muledhu - National Pan-Hellenic Council
Gerry Weber - Interfraternity Council

Staff Advisors:
Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness
Jaime Medina - Recreation and Wellness

Guests:
Drew Devore - Recreation and Wellness
Mark Joekel - Recreation and Wellness
Mitch Hoffman - Recreation and Wellness
Linda McKee - Recreation and Wellness
Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness

Regrets
Holly St. Clair - Minnesota Student Association
Molly Hynes - Minnesota Student Association
(currently vacant) - Multicultural Greek Council
Kimberly Rosenfield - Professional Student Government
(currently vacant) - Housing and Residential Life
Azhar Akesh - International Student and Scholar Services
Taechrissae Feser - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
I. **Call to Order**
Chair Heemstra called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
The December 7, 2018 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. After a short review by the Board, Mr. Warren motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Alcaron-Espinoza. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

III. **Introductions**
Chair Heemstra welcomed the group, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

IV. **Program Update - Outdoor Adventures**
Chair Heemstra introduced guest Mitch Hoffman, Outdoor Center Director with University Recreation and Wellness, to speak and highlight his program area. Mr. Hoffman noted that the Outdoor Adventures (OA) program offers participants a deep and connected experience while at the University of Minnesota, highlighting past program alumni experiences and their current work, current programming/trips, their equipment rental program, office remodel exploration plans, climbing wall landing surface upgrades, and sponsorship and events updates.

In his highlights, Mr. Hoffman shared the following:

- **Current Programming & Trips**
  - Trip registration and wait lists for 2019 (so far) have reached capacity. The limited space offered continues to be a challenge for the Program with the increasing demand for more programming.
  - OA has recently formed a new relationship with a third-party travel operator, G Adventures, to test and experiment with a new international trip model. G Adventures helps to organize, plan, and staff these trips, offering a more cultured and unique experience for OA program participants.

- **Equipment Rental Program**
  - The OA equipment rental program has grown for (at least) the 10th consecutive year. This program has helped remove barriers for program participants and is an area of significant opportunity and future growth for the program.
  - A challenge with this program is the limited space in the Outdoor Center (OA’s office space).

- **Office Remodel Exploration Plans**
  - The OA program office is in the process of proposing a remodel of their office space with RecWell. Their goal and purpose with this proposal is to maximize office space and improve the staff and customer experiences.

- **Climbing Wall Landing Surface Upgrade**
  - This area of the Outdoor Center gets a high volume of use, and the climbing program sees regular high-volume participation. With that high-volume use, the equipment experiences significant wear-and-tear per square foot.
  - The current landing mat is in need of replacement, and estimated replacement cost is $45,000.00. This item is included in the OA budget every 4-5 years.
Sponsorship and Event Updates
- Mountain Hardware has partnered with OA and gave them $20,000.00 to help cover equipment replacement costs. They will be attending the 2019 Comp de Bloc event to help support the OA program and AORE.
- The OA program is scheduled to host the 2019 Comp de Bloc event on April 5-6, 2019. The event will partner with AORE, Mountain Hardware, and local vendors to help support outdoor adventure programming, and is a competitive community event.
- The 2019 OA Gear Sale is scheduled for the spring 2019 semester and typically generates $11 - $14,000.00 in revenue for the OA program.

Mr. Hoffman invited questions from attendees. Questions included:
- “Are there any connections with Wilderness Inquiry?” Mr. Hoffman responded that there are no formal existing relationships with WI, but that we (OA) have similar goals to share OA programming with the Twin Cities metro area.
- “Has OA offered any for-credit courses with any existing programming?” Mr. Hoffman responded that no, that has not happened yet, but is something the OA program is currently exploring.

V. Financial Update
A. Student Service Fees Request
Chair Heemstra invited Ms. Lovro to share updates on the FY20 Student Service Fees Request.

Ms. Lovro shared that the RecWell student service fees presentation is scheduled for either February 15th or February 22nd. She noted that she will share the finalized date with the URWAB when it is announced.

Next, she shared that OSA has established a floor salary for student wages, which will have a significant impact on RecWell’s FY20 (and beyond) budget. With these increases, RecWell will also have to plan for compression and is working to prepare and propose changes in their (RecWell’s) student salaries structure.

Ms. Lovro shared her concerns around planning for unexpected utility (stormwater) fees. She noted that RecWell has been assessed these fees already in FY19, and was given no advance notice by the University. The rough estimated amount she plans to include in the FY20 budget for RecWell’s utility fees is $200,000.00 (estimates shared by Facilities Management). She shared that she has struggled to communicate with or has not received responses to her inquiries from Facilities Management after asking for a proper estimate, but will continue to pursue that accurate information.

Ms. Lovro shared that the University has encouraged units to budget for at least a 2.5% increase in salaries, noting that there has been and (probably) will be more significant increases in fringe expenses for FY20. She added that FY20 budget planning will “be a challenge” for RecWell.

Ms. Lovro shared a handout with attendees that reviewed the fee structure and estimates. She noted that RecWell department reserves are healthy and internal contributions will
continue to be made to those reserves. She then invited questions and discussion from attendees. Questions and discussion items included:

- (question) “What percentage of faculty and staff have RecWell memberships?” Ms. Lovro and Mr. Joekel responded that about 20% of University faculty and staff have current RecWell memberships.
- (question) “Where does the other 40% of revenue come from?” Ms. Lovro and Dr. George Brown responded that the other 40% of department revenue comes from internally generated funds (Youth Programs, sponsorships and partnerships, etc.).
- (question) “Does RecWell have a 20-30 year plan to help plan for maintenance projects or any deferred maintenance?” Ms. Lovro replied that yes, these plans do exist. She added that RecWell does has increased it’s contribution to Facilities Management as a ‘supported unit’ to receive a higher level of service and support, but has not received a satisfactory level of service and support with recent projects and requests.

B. Creative Revenue Streams
Chair Heemstra and Vice-Chair Kreiter called for attendees to brainstorm and share ideas to create creative revenue stream ideas with them.

VI. Facility Updates
A. Aquatics HVAC
Chair Heemstra invited Ms. McKee to share a brief update on the Aquatics HVAC project. She shared that outdoor construction began in mid-December, and indoor construction is scheduled to begin on March 27, 2019. The project is currently on schedule (for completion prior to June 7, 2019).

Ms. McKee shared that a new scoreboard and safety railings are being added to the project (current scoreboard cannot remain in-place with new HVAC system; new safety railings are being installed to remain code-compliant and increase the safety of all attendees).

Programming scheduled for March 27 or after will be relocated.

B. Fieldhouse 51:45
Chair Heemstra invited Ms. Ashfal to share a brief update on the status of the Fieldhouse renovation project. A mock-up of the project is being built on the south side of the facility outside Cooke Hall (the exterior siding), and indoor construction is scheduled to start on April 15, 2019 (with an anticipated end date of December 2019). All programming during that time will be relocated.

Ms. Ashfal announced that artificial turf will be installed on the east side (interior) of the facility to help accommodate additional programming, and the west side will remain a rubberized surface (including the track). She invited questions and comments from attendees and announced she (and Dr. George Brown) will prepare visuals to share with the group at the next meeting.
VII. **Staffing Updates**
Tabled until February 2019 meeting.

VIII. **Announcements**
No announcements were shared.

IX. **Adjournment**
Chair Heemstra called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Muno motioned to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Mr. Warren. With no objections, the motion to adjourn was passed at 9:59am.