

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

Date: October 11, 2017

Time: 2:30pm

Location: University Recreation and Wellness Center

Attendees:

Sam Palmer - Chair, All Campus Representative
Sarah Heemstra - Vice Chair, All Campus Representative
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness
Beth Ashfal - Facilities Subcommittee, Recreation and Wellness
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul
Bennett Olupo - Minnesota Student Association
Sarah Holtz (proxy) - Panhellenic Council
Fardowsa Hassan - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
Chloe Huelsnitz - Council of Graduate Students
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee, Recreation and Wellness
Connie Magnuson - School of Kinesiology
David Okita - Civil Service Minneapolis
Brady Sloan (proxy), Ryan Warren - P & A
Griffin Ehlen - Interfraternity Council
Fardowsa Hassan - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence

Regrets:

Max Chu - Minnesota Student Association
Abby Doeksen - Undergraduate Housing Representative

Staff Advisors:

Ryan Townzen - Recreation and Wellness
Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness

Guests:

Lisa Lemler - Recreation and Wellness
Dr. Tony Brown - Recreation and Wellness
Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness
Mark Joekel - Recreation and Wellness
Rahul Rajan - Recreation and Wellness
Luke Day - Recreation and Wellness
Greg Jamieson - Recreation and Wellness

I. Call to Order

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The September 8, 2017 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. After a short review by the Board, Mr. Okita motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Bennett. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

III. Introductions

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

IV. Updates

Aquatic Center HVAC Project

Mr. Day reviewed the need for the HVAC project in the Aquatic Center. He noted that the current system is currently below the recommended standards for air turnover in an aquatics facility. Mr. Day stressed that the project continues to be long overdue, and it is an important project to address quickly in order for the Aquatic Center to stay competitive in their industry and to avoid any further (potential) harm to patrons/users.

Ms. Ashfal noted that discussions remain ongoing about project funding, noting the timeline for the project has moved to Spring 2019, most likely April - June (from Spring 2018). Recreation and Wellness has committed to funding (approximately) one-third of the project costs, Facilities Management (FM) remains committed to contributing funds for this project, and Athletics remains a pending party to assist in funding this project.

Dr. George Brown noted while we do understand the financial burden of this project, it is important to add that it is important to gain a strong commitment from the University for this project. He suggested that the Board create a “resolution” or statement to “echo” the urgency of this project to the greater University community.

Mr. Palmer opened the floor for questions on this topic:

1. Mr. Palmer asked Mr. Day about any potential consequences to the facility or the facilities’ users if the project continues to be delayed. Mr. Day responded to this question with two main points: First, structurally/mechanically, no, the delay of this project will not have a significant negative impact on the facility; second, programmatically, yes, he highlighted that any delay in the project will continue to turn away potential future or current renters/users from renting/using the space until it is updated, including large-scale (National), revenue producing events.
2. Mr. Okita asked if any other building systems are affected and if the building quality will continue to decline in the Aquatic Center. Mr. Day responded no, and that the building will continue to be functional (operating at almost 50% below normal HVAC capacity), and that is the current staff’s biggest priority in that space.
3. Mr. Okita followed up with asking if there were any other liabilities to consider with this project. Ms. Ashfal responded that so far, no major additional liabilities have had to be considered, but we should be prepared to address any liability concerns should they come up.. Mr. George Brown added that this issue has been relayed to the appropriate University departments.

4. Ms. Huelsnitz asked for clarification on where the resistance to the project is coming from. Dr. G. Brown responded that some project parties are resistant to the proposed project (new HVAC system), and would prefer to “exhaust all other program options.” Mr. Day responded in agreement to Dr. G Brown’s response, and Dr. G. Brown added that he is confident our department (Recreation and Wellness) has exhausted all other options and this project should move forward.
5. Mr. Olupo asked, what the likelihood of the Athletic Department supporting the project financially is. Ms. Ashfal responded that they remain uncertain of their commitment.
 - a. Ms. Heemstra followed up and asked if reaching out to any other parties, like current student athletes, would be helpful to build support for this project. Mr. Day responded that student athlete support for the project already exists, but the high cost of the project (and the large commitment needed from Athletics) does not help to make this project a priority.
 - b. More discussion on this question was had by the Board, and Dr. G. Brown and Mr. Day assured the Board that all necessary steps were being taken to move this project forward, and the current Aquatic Center facilities will continue to operate at their highest capacity with support from all current facilities and maintenance staff to produce the best possible air quality. In doing that however, we are experiencing increased operational costs. They both stressed that while we continue to exhaust all current resources to do that, we should still consider this project a priority.
 - c. Dr. Brown noted that additional financial streams are being considered for this project, but highlighted that our commitment to not adding this to a Student Fees increase will continue to remain a priority (RecWell is “strongly opposed” to adding this to a Student Fees request).
 - d. Mr. Olupo asked how many students know about this project, and how students might be able to put some additional pressure on project organizers to get this resolved. Mr. G. Brown responded that he is uncertain of the “broad knowledge” of the issue. Ms. Heemstra added that while we do want to gain support, the timing of that support is important, and may want to wait until closer to the anticipated project date.
 - e. Mr. Okita asked if there were any additional “state” funding opportunities. Dr. G. Brown responded that the department is considering all available funding options, including funding from the Minnesota Swim Association and other “state entities,” which Mr. Day identified as a “major user” of the Aquatic Center facilities. He also noted that small revenue streams should be considered to supplement this project.

Finance Update

Mr. Palmer introduced the finance update from Ms. Lovro. Ms. Lovro first noted that the FY19 budget instructions have just been released for all Units. Recreation and Wellness has been moved to a spring request, providing more preparation time. The Student Fee Committee formation has begun, and is still soliciting members. Initial conversations to identify target areas for increased funding or reallocation have started in order to be best prepared.

Golf Course Update

Mr. Palmer introduced the Golf Course update from Mr. Jamieson. Mr. Jamieson was happy to report that the Golf Course (GC) is having one of its “best seasons ever” and is in great condition

with the extended warmer weather and high student participation. They also recently hosted another successful Roy Griak cross country race.

Mr. Jamieson reported on-going challenges with the GC's recent projects, including GC safety and security. In preparation to resolve those challenges, the GC staff prepared a five-year plan at Dr. G. Brown's request - Mr. Jamieson shared that document with the group. The plan includes an executive summary (including a financial plan, construction plan, and business pro-forma) that has been shared with the University President. With that plan, he noted they will attempt to generate enough sales/revenue to enhance the golf course and "chip away at" any current deficits.

Dr. G. Brown added that while alternative uses for the GC have been considered and the facility does have significant infrastructure needs, thanks to the hard work of the GC staff, he is confident the GC is operating in a more stable environment now than it was in recent past. He noted that we will need to continue to "impress upon the University hierarchy" that deferred maintenance needs can't wait much longer in order to maintain an operational, efficient course and keep maintenance costs as low as possible.

Partnership Opportunity, Events (Boynton Health Service, DRC)

Mr. Palmer introduced a partnership opportunity update from Ms. Lemler. Ms. Lemler reviewed the successful addition of Boynton's physical therapy (PT) services to the Recreation and Wellness Center, reporting an almost 90% appointment fill rate and significant decrease in appointment cancellations - both of which were improvements to the PT services since occupying their space in the RecWell Center. Their occupation did open doors for RecWell student employees to have increased opportunities to shadow PT staff.

Ms. Lemler reported that because of the successful partnership with Boynton's PT services, new opportunities have started to take shape. She is working with Boynton staff to consider adding nutrition services and massage to the current partnership within the "next couple years." Boynton's did present concerns of low program participation in both of those areas, but Ms. Lemler presented confidently that with RecWell's larger and more diverse student audience, those services could prove successful.

Next, Ms. Lemler reported that her recent work and focus-group sessions with the Disability Resource Center provided some ideation around RecWell's current offerings to students of all abilities, including hosting special events. Dr. George Brown added that RecWell has had positive early negotiations with the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute to fill (or re-fill) RecWell spaces with more diverse program offerings or host special events, which is "very in line with RecWell goals."

V. 2017 NIRSA Region V Conference

Mr. Palmer gave a brief summary of the recent 2017 NIRSA Region V Conference hosted by Recreation and Wellness. He and Ms. Heemstra highlighted the success of the Student LeadOn portion of the event which provided a targeted focus on professional development for the over 50 student attendees. Dr. G. Brown noted that the event was enjoyable, and thanked the RecWell staff for their planning and participation.

VI. Google Allo Update

Mr. Palmer introduced an update about the ‘Google Allo conversation.’ Ms. Lemler introduced the opportunity RecWell was presented to work with representatives of Google Allo, who was interested in a potential sponsorship. Final sponsorship details are on-going, and she will update when more details are available. Ms. Lemler added that this new opportunity did start a conversation for how RecWell can leverage themselves and future opportunities if they present themselves in the future, and work has already begun to prepare a clear message on those parameters. The potential funding received from this sponsorship has not yet been allocated, but has been considered to enhance the student development experience and/or social wellness efforts. Appropriate placement of any advertisements included as part of the sponsorship, and an appropriate plan for any “backlash” was highlighted as a priority through discussion this topic.

VI. Announcements

Mr. Palmer called for announcements from the attendees - two announcements were requested:

Mr. Joekel reviewed RecWell’s ‘storyboard’ project - aimed at helping ‘paint the picture’ or introduce our Department to outside groups. He detailed that this resource will be easy to share and will call for contributions/submissions from RecWell users/patrons.

Mr. Palmer and Ms. Heemstra reviewed their recent meetings with new Board members, highlighting that they have been a great way to connect and get to know them.

After this announcement, Mr. Palmer reminded Board attendees that future meeting availability will be collected via Doodle Polls.

VII. Adjourn

Mr. Palmer called for motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Olupo, with a second from Mr. Okita. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was passed (3:31pm).