University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/11/2020
Time: 8:30am
Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees
Mackenzie Boivin - Chair, All Campus Representative
UJ Bhowmik - Vice Chair, Professional Student Government
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee
Kenzie Maybrun - At-Large Representative
Danielle Sorenson - At-Large Representative
Breanne Krzyzanowski - Civil Service
Peg Hanssen - Civil Service
Kevin Ross - P&A Staff Representative
Brandi Hoffman - Faculty P&A, School of Kinesiology
Andrew LaFortune - Interfraternity Council
Caroline Pavlecic - Panhellenic Council

Staff Advisors
Rahul Rajan - Recreation and Wellness
Kaiti Goff - Recreation and Wellness

Guests
Luke Day - Recreation and Wellness
Beth Asfahl - Recreation and Wellness
Jessica Couillard - Recreation and Wellness
Caley Conney - Recreation and Wellness
Ashlee Miller - Recreation and Wellness
Jaime Medina - Recreation and Wellness
Cody Mikl - Recreation and Wellness
Lisa Lemler - Recreation and Wellness
Eric Paredes - Recreation and Wellness
Ben Kohler - Recreation and Wellness

Regrets
Tyler Vongphachanh - Multicultural Greek Council
Katherine Chicoine - Housing & Residential Life
Rennato Alarcon - International Student and Scholar Services
Vacant - Minnesota Student Association
Vacant - Minnesota Student Association
Vacant - Council of Graduate Students
Vacant - National Pan-Hellenic Council
I. **Call to Order**

Chair Mackenzie Boivin called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The April 17, 2020 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. Ms. UJ Bhowmik motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Kevin Ross. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes was passed.

III. **Introductions**

Chair Boivin welcomed the group and invited all attendees to introduce themselves and state their term limits.

IV. **RecWell Program Updates**

Chair Boivin asked Mr. George Brown to introduce the RecWell Program Updates. Dr. George Brown shared his thanks for the group’s participation. He started by recapping the changes and news from RecWell since our last meeting in April. The Les Bolstad Golf Course reopened its doors first on May 1, 2020. He explained that golf emerged early as one of the safest recreational activities during the pandemic. The Golf Course continues to have record capacity usages and has served as a revenue boost for RecWell. Minneapolis facilities opened in a phased manner beginning on July 20, 2020. RecWell is currently sitting between Phase I and II of its reopening plan. The initial reopening was primarily fitness based with many new safety features. Much of the reopening was contingent on MDH and HERO approvals. No steps were taken without these approvals. Communications challenges continue to be a concern throughout this process. Two weeks later the St. Paul Gym was reopened. While the numbers in St. Paul are not the same as Minneapolis facilities, we anticipate that number to grow as students return to campus. Each program area also had to submit a proposal. Some of these included; lap swim, pool rental, Center for Outdoor Adventure equipment rentals and reservations, Group Fitness, Competitive Sports, and Learn to Swim. The Reopening Document, created by Eric Parades and his team, began as a 33 page document is now well over 100 pages. It contains every nuance to reopen and to stay open. Mr. Brown continued by saying, what is going to be discussed by the RecWell staff present on the call; Facility Operations, how we have carefully reopened and released programs, and the support services of Communications, Membership, IT, Finance, and Budget.

According to the data the Golf Course is seeing a Ninety percent fill of their tee times. A growing number of students have been using facilities at RecWell. This week we saw 2000 visits in a single day, almost double from the previous week. We anticipate that this number will grow as students arrive on campus under the Maroon and Gold Sunrise plan. Mr. Brown also emphasized that these increases mean a bigger responsibility to maintain the safety of our patrons. The patrons surveys found the biggest question is how will the safety and distancing be maintained while patron traffic increases and also how will the mask and safety plan be ensured.

RecWell has become the primary flu vaccination site in collaboration with Boyton. The clinic is doing appointment only operation out of the Aquatic Center Lobby. In addition to this clinic, RecWell will also become a COVID-19 testing site with a tentative start date of September 21st. This would be located in the North Building in the southernmost area of the courts.

Mr. Brown noted that there has been some support and some pushback from patrons on the new enhanced mask policy that began this week with limited exceptions to being in the water, immediate hydration, or showering. Previously the policy also made exceptions for high exertion activities following the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.
Finance Updates

Mr. Brown introduced Ms. Karen Lovro to give an overview of the current financial budget operations at RecWell.

Ms. Lovro began by talking about the closing of fiscal year 20. $3.5 Million of reserves were used to close FY20. This was significantly due to the numerous refunds given in Membership and Youth Programs. So far this fiscal year there has been $957,000 in expenses. 4.5 Million in student service fees have been allocated this semester and we hope we can retain this by remaining open and providing our services to students. Our goal right now is to minimize spending and maximize services offered. While we are trying to have revenue generating programs operating right now, we are heavily reliant on the student service fee money. Ms. Lovro said so far we have done a great job keeping spending low and that eighty-five percent of spending has been COVID-19 related. This included increased spending on safety measures, cleaning, and retrofitting equipment. Self-generated revenue had previously been close to forty percent and now is almost barren.

Competitive Sports Updates

Mr. Brown introduced Ms. Jessica Couillard to give updates on Sport Clubs and Intramurals and staffing. Ms Couillard began by explaining the current climate in sport clubs across the country. With the health and safety guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and their adult sport guidelines and working within the constraints of our budget. In addition, they are now working with the constraints of campus with changed building hours and the curfew for students living in on-campus housing. Another constraint is five percent of the current intramural programming is naturally socially distant. We would be adding programming such as quizzes, E-sports, and bingo that have the competitive element students are looking for but can be done socially distant.

Ms Couillard went on to describe how the semester is going so far, we have had to push back the registration and start date of programs two weeks to correspond with the two-week push back of in-person classes. We also hope to implement virtual programming for those students in on-campus housing to reach out and involve the freshman class. Ms. Couillard continued by touching on the changes to the Sport Clubs. All clubs have been restricted to practice only. We have also followed SUA’s guidelines to not allow in person meetings until classes resume in person. Another challenge is working with the athletic facilities we traditionally use for practices that have additional restrictions for use given to them by the Big Ten and NCAA.

Ms. Couillard expressed that the biggest challenge has been having to let go of hundreds of staff who were previously officials and supervisors for the program.

Ms Couillard finished by saying their goal for the year is to engage freshmen in new ways so they are aware of the programs and could participate in the future. She also expressed being impressed with the students for working so hard to plan for their practices and make them work under new regulations. She applauded them for their creative thinking and their hard work.

Fitness Updates

Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Ben Kohler for Fitness updates.
Mr. Kohler explained that fitness is split into three distinct areas. For group fitness classes, they have seen small but growing numbers of participants. They worked hard to make it accessible and started only charging $35 for the semester. Class sizes have been reduced to encourage social distancing. Group Fitness classes will also begin to be available on the RecWell Youtube.

V. **Project/Facilities Updates**
Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Luke Day to provide some project and facility updates. Mr. Day gave a new project update for Cooke 15 Pool. The pool is in need of some major renovations in the near future. He also updated the Aquatic HVAC project that is ongoing by explaining that there are more repairs needed in the basement of the Natatorium to get rid of some ground water entering the mechanical rooms.

Mr. Day went on to describe all of the new cleaning and safety protocols that have been implemented. There are multiple levels of cleaning to ensure equipment is clean. The clean/dirty tags are being used on equipment to indicate to staff what needs attention. Fitness areas will also close for part of the day each day to allow it to be sprayed down. Plexi-glass has been installed throughout the facility. There is also a new hand washing station at the entrance for patrons to utilize.

Mr. Day passed it off to Ms. Beth Asfahl for more facility updates. Ms. Asfahl provided updates on the Fieldhouse Project. They are hoping to add more accessible restrooms to the space in the near future but will need help to fund the project. She noted the new History Wall in the Event Entrance of the Fieldhouse that was recently installed. Another project is at the Boathouse that is a shared space between RecWell and Athletics. It is in need of major renovations and Athletics is looking for financial help in the project. Over the closure, Ms. Asfahl noted that many lighting and ceiling tile upgrades happened in St. Paul Gym. For all showers across all facilities, dividers had to be installed to keep patrons separate while showering, they are still working on adding some in the Aquatics Locker Rooms. Lastly, Ms. Asfahl noted that she has been working closely with Kinesiology to ensure time and space for PE under the many new restrictions.

VI. **Communications Updates**
Mr. Brown introduced Ms. Caley Conney for updates in communications. She started by introducing herself in her new position managing communications. Ms. Conney then explained some of the new things in communications. They have started more regularly adding stories to the blog and social media to keep patrons engaged, particularly during the closure. In addition, there has been an increase in emails and signage directed to patrons. They are balancing keeping patrons informed and keeping a consistent brand message.

VII. **Committee Updates**
A. **Mental Health Board**
Ms. Kenzie Maybrun gave updates for the Mental health board. She said they are working hard to provide services to students under the current situation and they discussed using RecWell spaces in the near future to reach students.

B. **Food Steering Committee**
Mr. Brown is hoping for someone to join Food Steering Committee

VIII. **Zoom Chat Notes**
A. Mr. Kevin Ross asked if French Meadow will reopen. Ms. Beth Asfahl responded stating they do plan to reopen with more limited hours on September 21, 2020.
B. Mr. Ross asked if contactless entry would be temporary or permanent. Mr. Brown responded by saying that was a permanent transition.
C. Mr. Ross requested a link to the RecWell blog website. Ms. Conney shared:
https://umnrecwell.exposure.co/

IX. Adjournment
Chair Boivin called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Peg Hanssen motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Ms. Brandi Hoffman. With no objections, the motion to adjourn was passed at 9:31am.