

CIP Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 13, 2010 John Wenck's house

Present: Ray Knight, John Holzmueller, Ned McPartland, Pam Brennan, and John Wenck
Special Guest: Mike Smith

Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report, as Bill is on Project AWARE.

Mike Smith Q&A session regarding liability:

Mike was quick to state that he is not an expert on the subject of liability, and that he is not a tort lawyer, but has some familiarity with tort law. He noted that he has experience working in the attorney general's office for the State of Iowa. Further, he has been working on similar issues with his church--he and Nate are offering paddling outings and instruction. They have looked into insurance, but it can be expensive and/or difficult to get liability coverage for on-water events. They have looked into Jester Insurance. (I remember Mike Delaney from RRWA indicating they recently were told they could no longer get event insurance for on water participants from Jester).

We provided a background to Mike Smith on how we conduct our outings: we are not incorporated, don't require a waiver, and do not require life vests to be worn. We also don't require folks to register. Anyone can attend our outings, not just CIP members. We have a disclaimer that basically puts the burden of safety on the participants--they are responsible for matching their skill level to the outing, wearing a life vests, and knowing the inherent dangers of paddling.

Mike said that type of mindset has probably not been tested in a court of law, but he didn't think it would fare too well if tested. Leaders of an outing in particular would be exposed to liability risk if something were to happen based on our policies. The more steps you take to assure the safety of participants, the less negligent you will appear in front of a judge or jury. Incorporation can act as a shield, but other steps should be taken, such as, requiring waivers that educate the participants about the inherent risks of paddling, requiring life vests, and perhaps event registration that could help leaders manage the outing.

Mike thought it would be a good idea to also have Nate talk to our group, but he felt we were fairly exposed to liability risk with our current way of operating.

He also said that he would work on a waiver for the "Paddle to the Park" event we have in the works, as well as help us incorporate our group. We were appreciative.

Paddle to the Park Event

City of Des Moines Park and Recreation decided to sponsor the event, providing a 15-passenger van and driver for shuttles. They would also like to set up a booth at the picnic area. Prior to their involvement the group was a bit soft on the idea due to liability

concerns, but this renews interest in the event. John asked the group permission to use Constant Contact for the event registration. He noted it would cost \$22 for the two months we would need to have the event duration run. It would also give us a chance to see how we could use this for future CIP events if we wanted to. A motion was put forth to okay use of the event registration tool for \$22 and the board unanimously approved.

July 27th Update: [currently, the Iowa DNR is also sponsoring the event by providing a 2nd 15-passenger van and driver for shuttling. Des Moines Fire & Rescue will also be on hand. Don Tripp, director of DSM Park & Rec, told John Wenck that they will now call the shots regarding safety, and make the decision on whether to have the event or not due to water levels, etc. Melanie Doser with I-Cubs recently stated they can't go any lower than \$22 per person for the event, and that a minimum of 25 registrants is required to have the event. An event web page and registration page have been created and currently 6 have registered]

Approval of June 8th Minutes

The minutes for June 8th were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Newsletter

Discussion occurred regarding CIP newsletters, whether the electronic and paper newsletters should merge, or if the paper newsletter should be reduced to the first one of the year. We all agreed we should have Steve Parrish at the meeting to discuss this issue. [Steve will be able to attend the next board meeting].

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Wenck.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, August 3rd, 6:30PM at John Wenck's house.