

BCRPA Regional Meeting Minutes **Prince Rupert June 26, 2009**

BCRPA Update (Suzanne Strutt)

Active Community funding is on hold as the provincial government has not come through with its grant as yet. Suzanne is working diligently with various ministry's representatives to ensure the funding comes through. Her feeling is it will be less than it has been but that it will continue. In the meantime BCRPA is searching out new supporters of all their programs.

Suzanne also shared that the BCRPA will be presenting to the Provincial Government a report, detailing the need to upgrade and renew recreation and parks infrastructure. Further to this the BCRPA will be sending a request for a letter of support to all municipal councils in B.C. Prior to this happening all Directors will receive a copy of this request prior to their council receiving theirs. Upcoming grant, Everybody Active due date August 16th.

Regional Training Strategy

This topic was only introduced at the meeting but there was a great deal of interest for our region to better coordinate training that all our departments require.

The training at the top of list included;

- Ice Makers
- Pool operators level 1 and 2
- Fitness Leader training
- Aquatic staff workshops
- High Five
- Basic Refrigeration

The discussion centered around setting out a predetermined schedule for when and where the above will happen so courses can be booked and that cost sharing can be set up to cut costs for everyone.

The scheduling of these events have been tabled until the meeting in the Fall

Regional Marketing Efforts

To date for the last couple of years Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat have joined forces to produce a Tv commercial promoting active healthy living. There was interest in the group to continue and potentially expand what is being done by bringing on other cities as well.

Further to the marketing strategy discussion was had on promoting community vs community challenge of some sort. Ideas are to be brought to the Fall meeting for discussion and planning so that the information can go into all of our Winter Recreation Guides.

Round Table Updates

Prince Rupert:

- Pool will be shutting down to install new ultra violet system
- Facility hours have been cut back over the summer months
- Converted old squash court into community theatre
- Kyte club starting up
- Youth Carpet bowling starting
- New portable Disc golf set was purchased and will be used in camps this summer
- Employee wellness pilot program has become a regular program. In its trial period it had 1600 uses and 50% of city staff reported using it.

Terrace:

- Mechanical and East Wall being redone, new HVAC system in the Aquatic Centre
- Aquatic Centre shutdown end of August to replace boiler and finish East wall
- Old ice rink, being upgraded for NHL game in the fall; boards, glass and acoustical issues and new bleachers in the new rink are being addressed
- Decided not to produce a summer recreation guide but try other marketing techniques for this year
- Received the Food and beverage grant from BCRPA
- Day camps starting up soon
- Created seniors month where they have different activities for them each day with the highlight being a spa day and Poker Fit (prizes for the best hand at the end of the week).
- New partnerships are being developed in the community with the department which have proven to be very positive
- Trail development is in progress with the millennium trail being the highlight
- Terrace will be assisting the Nisg'a to host the Elders conference in July.
- Terrace passed a bylaw to form an athletic commission to be able to host contact sports such as boxing and wrestling
- Received a \$100,000.00 grant to paired up with there Kraft Hockeyville money to support the upgrades on the sportsplex.
- Hosting the 2010 B.C. Winter Games
- Applied for \$900,000.00 and received \$700,000 in various grants

New Aiyansh

- Two university recreation students working in the department this summer
- Partnership with YMCA in Prince George established and receiving gym equipment (relationship with the YMCA is over 100yrs)
- Received Healthy Foods and Beverage grant from the BCRPA
- Preparing for youth camps and field trips for the summer
- The Nisga'a Nation is hosting the First Nations Elder Conference this July

Kitimat:

- Fitness Classes will be by registration only over the summer months
- Hosted one of the pilots for Boomer Boot camp
- Just hosted the 1st Annual Kitimat Valley Run Walk Festival with guest Dr. Art Hister. 150 attended Dr. Art Hister and 200 people were involved with the run/walk festival. This was supported through a \$10,000 Walk B.C. grant
- Reopened the Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre officially on April 4th after a lengthy retrofit and upgrade.
- Have found regional visits to the Aquatic Centre are occurring quite frequently. Many schools are using it as their year end trip.
- Swim Lessons are going strong with wait lists
- Will be conducting the second of two activity level survey supported through Active Communities and the BCRPA grant in September of this year.
- Played host to the Bullorama event which was a sell out. The organizers did very well after expenses and may become an annual event.
- Some issues with clean up and scratching of the cement floor and then cleaning it properly but overall very successful event
- Will be launching a new website as part of the District of Kitimat new website sometime this summer

Next Meeting October 8th 10:30am @ Terrace Sportsplex
Mark your Calendars!