

2nd Annual Interagency Meeting

March 17, 2018

Hosted by the Whitemouth River Recreation Commission (WRCC)

Location: Council Chambers office, RM of Whitemouth, Municipal Office

1. Introduction / Attendance:

- Courtney Bangert – Rec Director (WRRC)
- Manny Sikkenga – CDC, WRRC
- Marilyn Sitar – Community Wellness Program (IERHA), WRRC
- Martin Saxler- Chair - WRRC
- Pat Porth – Whitemouth Library, Whitemouth Museum
- Loraine Henderson – Whitemouth Rec Association
- Darlene Pluchinski – Happy Hours Seniors Club
- Nina Kaczmarek – Whitemouth Library
- Teri Walker – Whitemouth & District Health Auxiliary, Elma Community Club, Whitemouth Library
- Helen Schiefelbein – Youth Program at Whiteshell Baptist Church, Whitemouth Library, Whitemouth & District Health Auxiliary
- Christine Gross – WRRC Board Member
- Shannon Malkoske – Whitemouth & District Lions Club
- Murray Barkman – Seniors Housing project
- Marilyn Ruta – Seven Sisters Community Club
- Leah Hinrichs – Cheer Coach and Teacher at Whitemouth School
- Carol Ans – Happy Hours Seniors Club & columnist for the Clipper
- Bob Porth – Whitemouth Museum
- Al Chartier – Whitemouth Reynolds Chamber of Commerce
- Anthea Lewis – Whitemouth Reynolds Chamber of Commerce

2. About the WRRC:

- Courtney reviewed the WRRC's Mission Statement & Organizational Goals, and Rec Director's Role.
- Both roles involve being aware of the recreation needs of the citizens and community and planning and implementing programs that will effectively meet the recreational needs of the community in conjunction with and in support of other organizations.
- Office hours – Tuesdays, from 12 noon – 4:00 pm at present. In future will have some evening hours.
- Newsletter deadline – entries due the last Monday of every month. (RM info – just before that). Email event information you would like included in the monthly newsletter to Courtney at: recreationdirector@whitemouthriverrec.com

- Website: www.whitemouthriverrec.com
- Phone number: 204-348-2221 ext. 4.

3. WRRC Recreation Survey Report:

- There were 58 responses.
- Please see attached for complete summary.
- Here are a few highlights:
 - Demographics of respondents & general questions:
 - Mainly women
 - Highest response rate – 51-60 years of age
 - Didn't get youth responses. Leah Hinrichs offered to take this to the Whitemouth School and ask students to fill out the survey.
 - Most responses came from Whitemouth although good response rate from Seven Sisters and Elma
 - Saturday was preferred day for activities, Friday the least preferred.
 - High degree of interest in:
 - Hiking
 - Tai chi
 - Snowshoeing
 - Pilates/ yoga
 - Walking
 - Dance
 - Swimming & water activities
 - Fishing
 - Farmers markets
 - Gardening
 - Landscaping
 - Board Games
 - Reading/ Book Club
 - Painting
 - Pottery
 - Woodworking
 - Photography
 - Best way for finding out about rec:
 - #1 = WRRC Facebook!
 - #2 = Websites - WRRC website or Rm of WM website
 - #3 = Other – eg) newsletters, newspaper, posters etc.

- Volunteering - Less than half indicated they would be willing to volunteer in some way shape or form, from donating time or money, and/or volunteering at a one-time event versus ongoing volunteerism.
- Questions or comments that came up while reviewing survey:
 1. Is the mandate of the WRRRC to promote school use? Answer from WRRRC – no, the mandate is to provide recreation which meet the needs of the community; the location is determined by what best meets the needs of the community while supporting existing community facilities. It was suggested that the rec facilities and rec commission can work together to promote affordable and sustainable recreation.
 2. If there is a need for kids programs, why the lack of attendance at programs that were offered? (eg: library) Maybe groups need to work together more so kids activities in different communities don't happen on same days.
 3. Populations – want to see programs in each community – SS/ Elma/ Whitemouth, encourage Mennonite participation and Hutterite community.
 4. We are all allies not opponents, need to work together. Also need to remember we can't please everyone.
 5. Facility – has anyone asked the Mennonite community for use of their school? Teri – will be doing T-Ball through the Elma CC and might ask the Mennonite School for use of their baseball grounds.
 6. Many say they do not know a program is going on until after the fact. How do we let people know what is going on? (Survey indicated most see information via facebook, and to a lesser degree websites. Least favorite was "other" which encompasses more traditional methods such as posters and bulletin boards).
 7. We used to have a welcome wagon to welcome people to the community and to provide info on the RM and what is available. It was suggested that perhaps this could be offered through the CDC. Martin will check in to this. It was noted that local realtors do hand out this package.
 8. No age demographic represented for youth – how would they like to receive information? (Twitter?? Instagram?) Hopefully we will get more information from the surveys which will be done by students.

9. School bulletins – anyone can request to have one mailed or emailed to them. Good way to keep up with what is happening at the school, including sports events.
10. Promotion:
 - i. WRRRC answering machine – could have voice recordings of current events
 - ii. Word of Mouth – each community club can share each other's events with its members at meetings, etc.
11. Discussion about taking responsibility, parents and community. Want something done? Ask a busy person!! Some people can commit to volunteering for a one day event, however do not want to participate year round or make an ongoing commitment.

4. Community Planning & Open Discussion:

Community events for 2018 – Send the info to Courtney about your events and she will send the event information and dates to all at this meeting. (Attached).

Community Gardening – identified as an interest in the community. Should we apply for grants? Hold workshops? Suggestion to contact Carol Clegg / Agassi z Horticulture 345-8419 for more info or advice.

Vegan Cooking – interest has been expressed – Courtney is working on this and classes are being planned for Spring.

Community Events List – Suggestion to have community event list posted on the bulletin board at the RM office, and to update list monthly.

Lack of 4H Club / mentoring for youth – Discussion around this being a strong 4H community in past years, however, the lack of a club in recent years has left a gap. Interest was expressed in getting 4H back – is there money in the Rec budget to get club re-organized? Martin will look into that possibility. Leadership needed to re-organize including recruiting community people who have an interest or expertise in various areas. 4H can be held after school to minimize transportation issues, and classes can be arranged at times and days convenient for leaders and students (not necessarily on set days). Benefits of 4H discussed, such as learning life skills, responsibility, common sense, and basic values. It was noted that due to many changes including challenges foster homes face, sometimes there is lack of support from parents and extended family, which has resulted in school trying to fill the gap by creating life skills courses for Grade 9-12 (mental health, decision making, communication, stress management, etc). It was noted that 4H does teach a lot of these skills. The general consensus is that 4H is good grounding for kids, but also provides life skills which can become a career, or hobbies later in life

that are stress relievers. Courtney was asked to take a lead on looking into what would be involved in re-organizing a club.

- Services to Seniors
 - Suggestion to ensure services to seniors are on the list to receive information and contribute to planning ie) trying to get grants, keep seniors independent, intergenerational programming.
 - Suggestion - Would services to seniors like to have their annual walk in the park in conjunction with the Seven Sisters Community Club Paddle Day? Partnerships like this can help organizations achieve goals.

- WRA Curling:
 - Stick curling – A success story was shared! Excellent participation! 34 people curled weekly – all ages – intergenerational – from 8- 82 years old. Over 60 volunteers helped out at the bonspiels. It was a fabulous season! Clinic on stick curling might be offered in future.
 - Floor curling – every Wednesday afternoon – in the Whitemouth Community Hall. Anyone is welcome. Another suggestion– set up a day – when kids can participate with the seniors/ floor curling. Maybe a student could be a leader with organizing this with the younger students.

- Spring Break Day Camp - this year the WRRRC is planning to offer programs in the school during spring break, however next year we could look at halls / other venues.

- Elma Community Club – Kids will be asked to fill out a questionnaire at the Easter event to ask kids what they would like to do. Success story shared - Had a kids social – and 42 kids attended!

- Co-op Trail update – Health Auxiliary is putting in a bench along this trail. Lots of work has been done but project is not complete (examples: archway to be installed, installing benches and lighting, etc). Watch for posters - school and community will be invited to participate in this project for the community. Please see website for further details. Suggestion / request from the Lions Club – For this project to be referred to as a trail or walkway rather than a park, so as to avoid confusion with the Lions Park.

5. Learning Opportunities.

- PAL (Physical Activity Leadership)

- It was noted that it is difficult for fitness programs to be available and sustainable in our communities, due to a lack of local instructors.
- This is where PAL comes in. PAL is a bursary opportunity available to cover training costs for those who want to lead fitness programs in your community. Applicants must complete a short application form, have a letter from a recreation or a community organization confirming that the individual will offer programs, and must commit to offer programs for at least one year.
- Maximum bursary amount is \$500.00. The individual pays the costs upfront, but approved costs will be reimbursed upon completion of the training.
- Examples of training which may be eligible: swimming instructor, coaching courses, fitness courses through the Manitoba Fitness Council, etc.
- Please see IERHA website for more information:
<http://www.ierha.ca/default.aspx?cid=6136&lang=1>
- If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Marilyn Sitar at 204-348-7191 ext. 4240 or msitar@ierha.ca, or Courtney Bangert at 204-348-2221 ext. 4.
- ALF (Active Living Facilitator) training:
 - A one day workshop for learning how to lead group fitness such as walking clubs and basic stretching and strengthening exercises. (No weights or external equipment).
 - Training is free if you will be leading a community program. Next session:
 - Wed, April 25th – Beausejour
 - See attached poster for details.
 - This training is sanctioned by the Manitoba Fitness Council.

6. Funding Opportunities:

- Sunova – has a granting program. Contact Sunova directly for more information.
- Grants – Courtney can send out grant information as she receives it. If you send it to her, she will email to everyone on this mailing list.
- Municipal grant - Municipality does have a \$10,000 annual recreation grant, however amount requested should be matched from other sources. It covers capital purchases, major repairs, etc. To apply for this grant, write a letter to the RM outlining your request. Please note you

need to be available to present your request to the council. There may be additional funds available as well if cost of request exceeds \$10,000.

7. Closing Comments:

- a. Thank-you – Martin expressed a sincere thank-you to all who attended for their interest and input and to Courtney for facilitating and organizing the meeting.
- b. Next annual meeting – Can one of the community clubs offer their space for the 2019 interagency meeting? Meeting usually in Jan -tentative date for next year Jan 19th at 9:00 a.m. (Teri will ask the ECC – at their AGM meeting).
- c. Ongoing/ regular meetings - If you like, send an invitation to Courtney/ rec director if you would like to ask her to attend a meeting for your organization.

Meeting adjourned: 11:20 a.m.