

Town Hall Meeting Notes- Summer Games

Friday May 24, 2019

Attendees: Rob Wagner, Bruce Barnett, John Christiansen, Pat Ronnfeldt, Connie Williams, Sherrie Fischer, Mackenzie Helgerson, Darlene Lowe, Sydney Dommer, Daphne Becker, Nancy Shannon, Dave Weaver, Tanner Nissen, Ray Strekal, Corey Leonhard, John Kliegl, Jason Miller, Dawn Criss, Jenny Taylor and Bruce Wilson

#1. Review of the Priorities discussed at the 2018 Town Hall Meeting

- a. Leadership Conference
- b. Recruiting new coaches
- c. More local competition
- d. Local fundraising

#2. What's going well?

- a. Summer Games delegation packet pickup location
- b. SOIA response is better and especially with physicals
- c. Changes in track schedule so that athletes are on the track and less waiting/down time
- d. Weather plan went smooth except for cancelling Bocce

#3. Physical Discussion?

- a. Size of the physical and delegation manager keeping records those for events. (Binders)
- b. Length of the packet and getting physicals completed by parents/guardians.
- c. Getting physical renewed and suggestion to get renewal forms to guardian/parent after the 2nd year
- d. Like the automated response to confirm physical delivery and prompt response to revision/additions
- e. Overall agreement that the new packet rollout and process is going well.

#4. What's not going well?

- a. Weather cancellation policy and consistent plan on how athletes get advanced to State Games
- b. Is this policy clear to Area Directors and the field?
- c. Volunteers- use of college students as coaches and how they get their hours in for requirements and then don't show up. This is not the best in developing the coach/athlete relationship.
- d. This situation shows an example of the concern with recruiting coaches to delegations.

#5. Open Forum Issues:

- a. Status on Leadership Conference?
- b. Is it possible to get delegations housed on the same floor at Summer Games to help in supervision?

- c. Discussion on the SOIA relationship with University of Northern Iowa and volunteers at Winter Games. We are working with University of Iowa, Loras, University of Dubuque and Clarke to fill the spots that are now available.
- d. St Ambrose Unified Intramural Basketball has been a good addition and has assisted in getting more local competition.
- e. Discussed idea of having the Mid-Winter Basketball Tournament be a 2 day event.
- f. Question if the delegation managers/coaches are willing to spend more time with the extra responsibility, organization, fundraising and travel to these additional competitions?

#6. Fundraising

- a. How do Area Directors/Delegation Managers raise funds to support their local programs?
- b. School stipends, like coaching stipend, for Special Olympics school delegation managers?
- c. Influences of the Unified Champion Schools program's growth and effect on school/delegation support for competitions.
- d. Polar Plunge and funding of local programs.
- e. Status of the Truck Raffle for this year? Kubota may be doing a sponsorship program and may look at raffling a Kubota Utility vehicle.
- f. Discussion of costs for transportation to events and that the State Office will not be able to provide that funding.
- g. Discussion of athlete conduct and how it can be addressed within the schools

#7. Introduction of Dawn Criss as the new South/East Region Director

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm