

## CARA Minutes

**Date & Time:** March 17, 2010 10:00am

**Host & Location:** City of Boulder  
South Recreation Center, 1360 Gillaspie Drive

**I. Recognition of Host:** Jill thanked Lenore for hosting this months CARA meeting. Lenore welcomed all to Boulder where life is great. All the sports staff is housed in the South Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call: Full Members (29):** Aurora, Boulder, Brighton, Broomfield, Columbine Knolls, Commerce City, Denver, Edgewater, Englewood, Estes Valley, Ft. Collins, Golden, Greeley, Highlands Ranch HRCA, Highlands Ranch Metro, Hyland Hills, Lafayette, Lakewood, Longmont, Loveland, Louisville, Northglenn, Parker, Pueblo, South Suburban, Superior, Thornton, Wheat Ridge, Windsor

**Associate Members (0):**

**III. Associate Member Updates:** none

**IV. Introduction of Guests:** Jill introduced John Pryor, who is the new Recreation Coordinator for Highlands Ranch Metro. John is formerly from Ft. Lupton. Bob Adams from Greeley introduced Brian Barnes, the new Recreation Supervisor in Greeley. Brian came from the Town of Berthoud.

**V. Approval of Minutes:** Marc Rademacher, Ft. Collins motioned and Bobby Warner, Windsor seconded that the February minutes be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

**VI. Reports and Discussions:**

**A. Adult Sports – Lenore Knox (Boulder):** the committee will meet after the May meeting. The adult sports survey will be out soon – please take a minute to fill it out.

**B. Gymnastics – Misty Gowdy (Commerce City):** the meet schedule is set and gymnastics is moving full force ahead with over 930 athletes registered to compete. The committee is hoping to find some more host sites for meets – there are very few gyms that can host a meet.

**C. Hershey Track – Marc Rademacher (Ft. Collins):** information about Hershey was passed around. June 19 is the state meet in Ft. Collins. If you have not hosted a meet in the past – they are easy to host and a free event for local kids. Hershey did make a change this year – 9/10 and 11/12 year old relay teams will

not advance to the national meet in PA, so they can compete in 4 events at the local/state level as long as one of them is the relay.

**D. Tennis – Michele Crouse (Apex):** the next committee meeting is in Boulder. Last week we met in Longmont and wrapped up coach's meeting and state match sites and talked about prizes.

**E. Track – Reed Davis (South Suburban):** at the last committee meeting we solidified meet sites and responsibilities. May 26 at 6:30 is the coaches meeting (site to be determined) – each agency who participates in track is required to have representation at the coaches meeting.

**F. Youth Volleyball – no report**

**G. Youth In-Line Hockey – Becky Richmond (Golden):** the committee will meet after today's meeting to put together the spring season, which will begin games on March 27.

**H. Youth Sports – Bobby Warner (Windsor):** the CARA youth sports survey is due March 19, if you haven't filled it out, please do so. At the February committee meeting, the committee discussed having a CEU session for a CARA meeting (train the trainer/coach). If you know anyone who would be qualified to give this training, please contact Bobby. Nomination forms for volunteer coach of the year is on the CPRA website – the winner of this year's award will be honored at the Rockies Skills Championship on August 14 at the Coca Cola All Star Stadium in Lakewood. Our hope is to also highlight the Volunteer Coach of the year in the By-Line.

**I. PP&K – Mike Sexton (Pueblo):** the NFL/PPK will launch a new website May 3 and all interested in hosting a local competition can register at that time.

**J. NSC – Brian Magnett (Northglenn):** the state competition is this Saturday at Metro State.

**K. RSC – Katie Kilbey (Lakewood):** the commitment forms are available on the CPRA website. We picked up Super T's as a sponsor, so the shirts will all be at no cost. Tickets, posters and ribbons will be handed out at the April meeting in Lakewood.

**L. Fundraising – Marc Rademacher (Ft. Collins):** Stephanie did some digging and found out that having a poker tournament is illegal, so if you have any other ideas how we can raise money for CARA, please let Marc know. We will be charging each family \$10 for staying and enjoying Water World after the June CARA meeting – all proceeds go to CARA.

**M. Financial Report – Jayna Lang (Lakewood):** there hasn't been a lot of money coming in yet this year. Committee Chairs need to make sure agencies are paying all necessary fees.

**N. CPRA Update – Dana Redford (Loveland):** the next section meeting is the end of April. Scholarship applications are due April 15, you can access the information on the website. The CPRA Leadership Forum application is on the website also – you don't need to be a supervisor/manger to go – everyone will benefit.

**VII. Unfinished Business:**

**A. CARA Youth Sports Survey** – reminder to fill it out!

**VIII. New Business:**

**A. Vail Gymnastics – applying for membership** – Michael Payne is the head coach for the Vail Gymnastics boy's team and would like to participate in CARA meets. Silverthorne is no longer offering boys gymnastics. The vote was unanimous to accept Vail gymnastics as an associate member.

**B. Lacrosse Survey** – Jill asked how many organizations offered lacrosse and if there was an interest in making a CARA lacrosse league. The organizations, CYLA and CGLA, that offer leagues are getting too competitive from a recreational standpoint. Jill passed out an interest form. The thought is to form a committee and start the league in 2011, which would be more instructional and teach the sport. The concern for some agencies is that the equipment is expensive. USA Lacrosse has money for equipment. Some agencies said that they have equipment that they lend out to participants and some said that participants are on their own to buy equipment. Bob with Parker mentioned that finding qualified coaches could be a problem.

**IX. Discussion Items:**

**A. How can we be more professional?** Reed Davis, South Suburban asked if we, as professionals with college degrees, are making the right first impression with people we come in contact with. Do the higher ups in our organizations look at how we're dressed and treat us as such? When we are wearing shorts, tee shirts and ball caps, is that the right image? Some of the discussion:

- Office casual is ok – no jeans in the office.
- Remember that our schedules are not 8-5
- Dress to the clientele
- Working at the ball fields/gyms requires different dress than a coaches/parents meeting

**B. Guidelines for making exceptions in youth sports (ages, rules, boundaries) – Discussion**

- Lakewood – If it's to challenge the child, let them move up
- Broomfield – If parents want an exception, they have to coach
- Aurora – No exceptions, opened up age spread
- Ft. Collins – no exceptions, they have to play in correct grade
- Parker – play by grades unless preschool which is the age that they turn in the season/session – no exceptions
- Highlands Ranch – can move up/down if need be

How about when letting kids play down – only if they have never played or are special needs.

How about teams moving up/down because of scores or competition? Some let teams move up, most don't.

**C. Grades vs. Ages and cut-off dates when setting up youth sports leagues.** There was discussion

- Some use ages that begin at start of program
- Some use the school year
- Most agencies use grades
- It was agreed that you should use a discretionary clause so that exceptions can be made without question.

**D. Ball field Maintenance – Parks vs. Athletics Staff?** Windsor's athletics department does their own daily maintenance. Thornton use sports staff for weekends only, Parks the rest of the time. Most other Cities/Towns utilize Parks staff for ball field maintenance.

**Do any agencies rip their skinned infields deeper than the level of the infield mix (do you just turn over the infield mix, or do you ever go deeper and bring up organic material).** Bobby from Windsor mentioned that in all the seminars about ball field maintenance he's been to lately they suggest that you don't need to rip fields and bring up organic material (rocks) these days because of the stabilizers they put in the infield mix.

**X. Announcements and Door Prizes:** Many door prizes were given out.

- The City of Pueblo has a job opening for a Recreation Supervisor.
- The City of Ft. Collins is hosting a dinner and silent auction on May 12 at the Hilton to raise money for youth sports. Sonny Lubick and Tom Osborn will be presenters.

**XI. Next Meeting:** April 21 at 10:00 in Lakewood

**XII. Adjournment:** Dave Parks, Englewood motioned and Becky Richmond, Golden seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

René Kingsley