



Date/Time: Feb 17, 22/9:30-11:30am

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Karen Dommert

In Attendance:

Candice McLellan (CP Kids & Fam.)
 Ermira Kusari (AAN)
 Katie Bakken (Friends of Fish Creek)
 Ryan McIntyre (We Did It)
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)
 Cydney Yaremko (BLOOM)
 Karen Dommert (CAH)
 Scott Godfrey (AAFC)

Janice Schneider (Youth Singers)
 Susan Cortes (Children's Link)
 Elizabeth Kaleta (CPA)
 Jill Lang (Office of the Advocate)
 Kevin Kwasny (City of Calgary-Rec)
 Laura Rocker (CP Kids and Families)
 Jenna (UPSA)
 Kelsey Hofstедder (AAFSC)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
 Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Spotlight Series (Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society)

- Located in Fish Creek Provincial Park (3-4 million visitors a year)
- The goal is to engage the community to ensure the health of the park long-term, cultivate informed and responsible use.
- To celebrate our 25th Anniversary in 2017, we conducted a graduate-level research project titled "Project Impact" exploring the human impact of the work we do. It was found that people who engage fully experience a real boost to their emotional and social health in addition to their physical health from getting active outdoors.
- Programs (engaging the public in a continuum): recreation (ex. walking/minibus/cycling/wheeling tours, youth programs), education (ex. birding courses) and stewardship (ex. invasive species management, riparian restoration, etc.)
- Funded through grants, donors, memberships, casino
- 7 staff in total
- Improving access to nature:
 - story map with accessibility info – input welcome

(<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/storymap/>)

- Beaver Tails interpretive trail (loop): translated into 16 languages; working with CNIB on the signs to make sure they are accessible.

Looking for funding for the signs.

- Get to Know Fish Creek events

(<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/know/>)

- Accessible Volunteer Opportunities (Park Watch is a great opportunity for volunteers who have support with them)

- Accessible Recreation Opportunities ("wheeling tours, beaver interp trail)

- Collaborating with partners to improve access

- For agencies interested in using the park to run their programs they can contact Alberta Environment and Parks and apply through them.

<https://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/visit-our-parks/permit-portal/>

However if they are interested in

- For agencies interested in learning more or running programs in collaboration with Friends of Fish Creek Society, they can reach out to them to identify what the best approach is. Participating in existing Friends' events (e.g. outreach table to promote your organization), permits are not required. Contact Katie Bakken katie@friendsoffishcreek.org

Table's Mission & Vision / 3 goals: tinyurl.com/yckvytvx

- When the Recreation table was first developed, the goal was to advocate for the right to recreation for persons with disabilities.

- During the pandemic, the focus of the table shifted towards information sharing and developing partnerships among agencies to better support the community.

- Starting in 2021, the table started shifting towards advocacy to bring more light into the importance of recreation.

Survey: Closing date Feb. 28, 2022

- The voice of this table matters and carries a lot of weight.

- This table has the power and opportunity to leverage the connections and broad reach to address or help with issues that persons with disabilities face.

- It is important to hear directly from the table members so we can best work together.

Round table updates

CAH:

- Sport Calgary members are invited to submit their camps! Sport Calgary shares and circulates events through a monthly newsletter and social media: <https://tinyurl.com/682m3wpp>

- Sport Calgary - All sport One City: week-long initiative featuring free sport events in different facilities and organizations:
<https://sportcalgary.ca/all-sport-one-city>
- Repsol Sport Center launching their second wave of Active Energizers (open to children and youth of all abilities):
<https://repsolsportcentre.com/active-energizers> (March 12 - April 16)

We Did It

- Continuing to offer art classes bi-weekly virtually.
- Working on circulating supplies for classes with basic supplies to children and families to give them an equal opportunity to participate and advance their skills.
- Working to increase the reach, especially with newcomers. –
- Looking into a collaboration with some art groups and AAFSC for a culinary project.

Opportunities

- Connecting the active economy to help all Calgarians live healthier, happier, more active lives:
<https://www.activecitycollective.ca/>
- Rotary Heritage Fund

CP Kids and Families

- Offering virtual programs Monday-Friday.
- Adapted Bike program is open for registration and is open to all disabilities: <https://www.calgarycp.org/about-adapted-bike-program>
- February 21, 2022 in collaboration All Sport One City, will be running sessions in the afternoon with 34 families coming in with appointments.

BLOOM Wellness

- Virtual and in-person programming going on. Doing a lot of reach out but still having the same kids registering however there is a little more uptake which is encouraging.
- Launching registrations (outdoor) for camps will become available in a couple of weeks.

AAFCS:

- Have been developing more in-person programming. Plenty happening in the activity and movements programs: all-abilities lacrosse, working with Vivo to access space in April-June for the pilot to expand lacrosse to all communities.
- Four of the members are getting a coaching certification so they can share the sports they love with others in the community.

- May-July will also be running rugby.
- Looking into summer and ways to navigate camping trips.
- Expanded programming into Okotoks and Airdrie before the pandemic. Working on doubling the effort to build connections in those cities and starting new programs in Cochrane and Chestermere.

Youth Singers of Calgary

- STAR program is doing well and has been so through the pandemic.
- Looking for more young children of all abilities.

City of Calgary – Recreation:

- Prepping for summer day camps and encouraging everyone of all abilities to join us in our camps.
- Also received approval to partner with Katie and the friends of fish creek to do a mobile adventure playground in during one of their community events, reaching a new area and demographics with that program.

Children's Link:

- Central Alberta Resource Fair on March 10th (Remo virtual platform)
- Grandparents coffee socials at Ogden50+. Two other coffee conversations are online through Zoom.
- Recent Resource Fair: 40 vendors and 200 attendees.
- Community calendar available for anyone who would like to post their information and programs.
- Recreation Resource Fair on March 17th (virtually through Remo): those interested in attending, contact Susan Cortes: susan.cortes@childrenslink.ca

Cerebral Palsy Alberta:

- Continuing with virtual programs. Planning some in-person programs mid-March.
- Will continue to open in stages and by the end of the March, will open in-person programs in both cities including, art, yoga, dance. Will start with smaller groups and explore physical distancing options.

Office of the Disability Advocate in Alberta:

- Hearing through the office that oftentimes recreation is set aside.
- Greg McMeekin has taken over the role of the Advocate and is working on settling into the role.
- Continue to work with Albertans on the frontline and reporting with the Government.

UPSA

- Virtual meditation and spin classes.
- Participating with junior cycling program on Sundays
- Cross country skiing has been a bit of hit and miss due to the weather conditions.
- Will start planning the summer programs: competitive sports with cycling, wheelchair racing.

Beyond Barriers: Celebrating Alberta's Accessibility Innovators

Alberta Ability Network (an initiative of Cerebral Palsy Alberta) is excited to share that we will be hosting a fun webinar in February and invite you to join us.

Event: Beyond Barriers: Celebrating Alberta's Accessibility Innovators

Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Time: 2 - 3 pm

Location: Zoom (tinyurl.com/aanevents)

Funding Opportunities:

- Sport Canada: 2 grants:

1. Innovation Initiative: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/sport-support/community-sport-initiative.html>
2. Community Sport Initiative: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/sport-support/community-sport-initiative.html>

- The Carnegie Initiative Funding Grants (Academic researchers are invited to submit an application for a \$25,000 Research Funding Grant in Making Hockey Inclusive and Accepting): <https://www.carnegieinitiative.com/ci-grant>

Spotlight Member Series sign-up sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uv96sgVZ8YvipyWdVIXoMvD8_7mPO-S00elgyFMUO98/edit?usp=sharing

Link to the AAN Recreation table folder on the Shared Google Drive:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12pSAIKVUOI4zsa0gq6z8I9BbjQh_yt0oW?usp=sharing

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: March 17, 2022



AAN Recreation

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Zoom