



Statewide P&R Professionals COVID-19 Coordination Call **Meeting Agenda**

Date: Thursday, May 21st
Time: 12PM
Location: Conference Call
Meeting ID: 168 918 878
<https://zoom.us/j/168918878>

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1) Live – On Call Interactive Poll – Pete Mayer

- a. Download the PollEverywhere App: <https://www.polleverywhere.com/mobile>
CODE:Parks

The PollEverywhere App was utilized to begin the call with a poll. Some of the main points of this survey are listed below and the full survey results will also be shared.

- Physical distancing guidelines and cleaning/sanitation are the main points in which agencies would like to receive more guidance on as they begin to reopen.
- The health of staff and visitors is largely viewed as the greatest risk in reopening efforts.
- 31% of agencies plan to open summer camps later this summer.
- The largest complaint from the public surrounds unopen park amenities including playgrounds.
- Of the agencies who voted, restrooms will likely open between Phase II and Phase III overall.
- Of the agencies who voted, campgrounds will likely open in Phase III.

2) Childcare Advisory Group Update – Paul Simmons

The Washington State Department of Health is creating specific recommendations as it pertains to childcare/day camps. These recommendations are specific to day camps and do not pertain to overnight camps or trips. They will release this document very soon which will provide much needed guidance and specific information for our departments. This guidance will greatly assist in our decision-making processes surrounding the possibility and validity of these programs/services.

3) Position Paper on Events and/or Recovery Funding- Roxanne Miles/Doug Levy

Many of our recreation departments have been involved in various calls and meetings throughout several forums on the topic of special events. This item should be considered as the subject position paper. In Phase III the State allows for the opportunity to provide services in facilities at a 50% capacity but also outlines the gathering amount as less than 50 people. To define special events by a specific number is unpractical for our types of events. It will be beneficial to our departments to work on a position piece to suggest some guidance around recreation based special events to the governor. We intend to suggest that events be allowed which follow social distancing and cleaning/sanitization standards but without designating the attendance limit by a specific number. Our group can also ask for more clarity on these events and suggest safety practices in Phase III which make facilities safe but that might allow for more than 50 individuals to be present. It was discussed that Doug will reach out to John Snyder in order to determine a way to kickstart this process. The primary focus will be on the outdoor venues as they have the most potential to open for operation in a timely manner. It was discussed that there is vast territory between the gathering of 50 people in Phase III and the unlimited gathering amounts once Phase IV is reached. It was also discussed that there may be a limit for gatherings once Phase IV is reached that has yet to be announced. Some agencies have natural barrier areas that are easily managed with few ingress and egress areas while agencies are so vast, they cannot be controlled in the same manner. It was discussed that the size and possibility of safety standards of each recreation area vary immensely, and a defined person limit does not take into consideration possibility of recreating safely given large relational areas across many acres. Decisions also need to be made to fairly and equitably offer services to those who want to utilize them. It will be important to decide how service is offered across all areas of need when only 50% capacity is allowed. The John Hopkins report will be further reviewed on this subject.

Oregon Health Authority's Outdoor Recreation Guidance lists gatherings limits of less than 10 for Pre-Phase I. During Phase I groups up to 25 individuals can gather including at events. Many Oregon counties are in Phase I currently but will continue with the cancelled status of all events and programs for the summer. They will offer summer day camp opportunities.

A separate item which is considered for a position paper is an update on shaping recovery from a parks and recreation perspective. Our agencies and facilities are on the frontlines of recovery and are seeing massive levels of use. When Washington decides to move to Phase III, agencies won't necessarily be ready to provide Phase III services. This limitation is due largely to the direct impacts of COVID-19 but also to the far-reaching financial impacts that the virus, and subsequent revenue loss have caused. Positioning our recreation departments on the forefront of service recovery conversations will be in the best interest of our agencies. It will be pertinent to frame the challenges we are experiencing through economic/financial lenses, as well as accurately relay the impact which these challenges have to public parks and recreation. Other considerations which were discussed were the preexisting maintenance backlogs from the financial impacts of 2008 and the importance of protecting existing resources in the face of major budget shortfalls. According to google there has been 108% increase in travel to parks systems recently.

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation reported that they will request 118 million dollars to aggressively pursue federal dollars at the legislative level. They commented on the level of service changes which were experienced in the years of 2008-2010 and highlighted the importance of preparation as there are difficult decisions for parks and recreation departments to still be made. They also commented on the responsibility we have to educate our leaders on the direct challenges and impacts to our departments/agencies.

Discussion regarding the Legislative Committee's preparation of documentation. This documentation will focus on adequately positioning our group for conversations with key officials. The content of these conversations can include Local, City, State, and Federal municipalities and their individual impacts as well as impact variance between regions, department sizes, and funding sources. General funds dollars are currently being considered to cover some department losses.

4) Group share/Questions for the Group/Roundtable

- Discussion Question: Are cities and neighboring counties planning to take reservations for organized use of ballfields prior to Phase III? If so, how far in advance?
 - Overall, there were shared responses that agencies would primarily allow organized ballfield use in Phase III. Many agencies are taking reservations now for play dates in July.
- Update on Tennis: Organizations who offer free, passive, drop-in, play can open and operate this type of court service without the requirement of monitoring for social distancing
- Specific dates of upcoming phase implementations were discussed. The determination of moving through phases will largely be made at the local government level. Snohomish, King, Peirce, and Yakima counties continue to see case numbers so they will likely be slower than other counties in moving to Phase II.
- New guidelines for Fitness & Training were shared at the link below.
https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19Phase2FitnessGuidelines.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

5) Potential Future Items:

A. WRPA-ORPA Aquatics Joint Call- Pete/Travis/Ross

This call is scheduled for mid to late next week and will cover all things aquatics including splash parks, spray pads, pools (indoor and outdoor), lifeguards, open water areas, and possibly river recreation.

B. Risk Management discussion- Pete

A WCIA webinar or zoom call is currently being organized to share current thoughts on risk management as it relates to recreation services amidst COVID-19

C. Monday, May 25th Meeting – Cancelled due to Holiday

Meeting Adjourned 1:02pm

Respectfully Submitted
Emily Young
Administrative Coordinator
City of Everett Park and Community Services