

Minnesota Recreation and Park Association

Lawful Gaming Board

Our Approach

Recognizing that the MRPA Administration is reasonably lean (five full-time staff) and that our membership has limited time to volunteer at gaming sites, we prefer to approach lawful gaming as a turnkey operation — hiring, on a contractual basis, the skill and expertise necessary to find and operate lawful gaming operations.

To this end, we have made several contacts within this industry finding what we believe is a reputable firm: Dittmer and Associates. This firm has the ability to provide all the services necessary to comply with the state regulations for lawful gaming. An outline of their specific services (i.e. payroll preparation, inventory control) is contained in Article 1 of a proposed Accounting Services Agreement (attached).

Additionally, we have secured the services of a pull-tab supplier that we feel will perform in the best interests of the Association.

The exception to this strategy is that by law, the Gambling Manager must be a member of the Association and it cannot be its Chief Executive Officer. As such, we have determined Jon Burlingame our Assistant Program Director to be our best option for Gambling Manager. This has the added advantage of having someone with a proven track record of honesty and reliability in this position for the Association.

Some Implications:

Despite our best efforts to minimize disruption to existing staff work loads, it is difficult to pinpoint the amount of time, energy and resources required for this endeavor.

From a staffing perspective there may be a requirement for additional clerical and possibly programming personnel. This of course is an allowable expense for lawful gaming.

It would also require re-configuration of the office, a new workstation. Each would require funding. We will begin to assemble information and estimates. We are confident no changes would need to occur for six months.



Depending on the revenue generated and applications received, the newly formed Gaming Board/ Review Committee will need to meet and convene on a regular basis. Initially we believe this to be once a month. However, as we progress, it could be more.

We are approaching this in a very simple straight forward manner hoping to avoid the bureaucratic entanglements of complex criteria and forms. At the same time, we need to recognize individuals from our Association will need to step forward to fulfill a variety of these roles.



Disbursement of funds could become an issue. Is it done regionally? Are there categories? Is there a cap? Can a project be funded on a repeat basis?

The ad hoc committee has discussed these and other issues. Choosing, correctly I believe, to allow our initial experience to “define” the grant program. At the same time, we need to effectively communicate to the membership this desired flexibility in a manner that will maintain their confidence in a fair and worthwhile program.