

It's February 12 and winter has arrived in Billings!

Announcements:

- National Convention will take place Sept 8-11 instead of July in hopes for better attendance.
- District Convention is still set for May 21-23 in Butte.
- Craig Burke has accepted the Board position after unanimous vote of the Board that he fill in the vacancy left by John Wilson. Welcome and thank you for your service to Exchange, Craig!

Today was a business meeting and, therefore, no guests were present. The minutes from the Feb 9 Board meeting are attached, which were the subject of today's meeting. The MetraPark RFP was discussed this morning. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dina or another officer or Board member. Most importantly, see the below excerpt from Dina's email sent yesterday:

As you will see from the board minutes, the dynamics of the Metra contract has changed. This is no longer a negotiation dynamic as they have officially put the beer concessions out for RFP which is a different ball of wax.

With that being said, I am respectfully requesting this subject not be discussed, especially with anyone outside of our club. I have to stress to an even greater extent that this not be discussed with anyone from the Metra, Commissioners, or Metra Park Board, especially requesting to meet with the Commissioners via coffee, lunch, etc.

We need to follow a correct professional process all the way through to ensure we do have any negative light shining on us when the Commissioners go to the final proposal opening. I do work with RFP's as a part of my job and I can tell you that it is considered unethical to have side meetings with entities interested in an RFP. It gives the Public and other interested parties the perceived appearance that the entity getting "side meetings" is getting special information or a hand up in getting the winning proposal. We DO NOT want to give anyone the perception that we didn't follow the rules or got special help in obtaining the winning proposal should we get.

As I asked above please refrain from discussing with others. For one, a lot of "misinformation" is going around. Ever play the telephone game as a kid? The first kid in line would say something to the next kid in line and it would go down the line for a dozen kids or so and then the last kid in line would have to say out loud what the message was and it never was the same message the first kid said. That's what's been happening.

All it takes is something negative, which probably isn't even correct, getting back to anyone with the county involved in this RFP to bite us in the butt and kill our chances. Even if it seems innocent and you think you're just talking to a buddy who would never repeat what you tell them at Winco/Costco/Target/Wherever and Commissioner X just happens to be in the aisle over and hear everything you've said but you didn't know they were there. I don't want us associated with anything negative.

Let's all get on board for zipped lips! We're in the final stretch now!

That's all for today - Have a great weekend!

Your Editor,
Tanya Tweten