

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to sponsor powwow during Walker Bay Days

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The big news at the Walker Area Partners' (WAP) monthly meeting was that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will sponsor a powwow at Walker Bay Days (WBD) Aug. 11-13.

Leech Lake also has donated an additional \$5,000 to the event.

"This is a super accomplishment," WBD Co-chair Jeff Holly told WAP June 21 at Hope Lutheran Church.

Walker Bay Days will be a three-day celebration of Leech Lake and everything the area has to offer. Proceeds from the event will be used to benefit Walker City Park.

The powwow will be held Friday night in the upper part of the park, starting around 6 p.m.

As the powwow concludes, the opening flag ceremony with national anthem will be held, followed by a brief fireworks display.

Pam Worth will be WAP's contact person with the Leech Lake Band to work out powwow logistics. She reminded WAP members that, for Native Americans, powwows are religious in nature and should be viewed in a respectful manner.

"The Big Dig" is another WBD activity that is shaping up to be very exciting.

Kids ages 10 and younger will be given a set amount of time to dig in a pile of sand to find one of 100 prize capsules.

The 100 prizes have a total value of \$5,000, which means the young ones will be digging for some major loot. "The Big Dig" is the brainchild of Dale and Harriet Jones, who are donating the prizes.

The Walker Rotary has joined the list of food vendors and will sponsor a seafood boil. Other groups may also join the list.

The Web site www.walkerbaydays.com is accessible and should be completed in a few days. The site will be the source of the latest information, including times for each activity.

Wristbands will be needed for admission to WBD events. Holly said the committee recently decided that, in return for donations, merchants will be given a certain number of wristbands (valued at \$10 each) that they can distribute, sell, give to employees, or use however they choose.

Volunteers are still needed for many WBD activities. At the July 26 WAP meeting, the volunteer list will be circulated; although, Holly added, "We're getting lots of support."

WAP overview

John Fjelstul reminded the group that it's been a year since WAP was formed. This might be a good time to reflect on what has been done and what needs to be done, he suggested.

Members listed city beautification, progress on phase 1 of the bike trail connection, the Walker Bay Days event and new signage as projects that WAP has accomplished.

Downtown restrooms are on Fjelstul's short list of amenities that are desperately needed. "I feel this is a big priority," he emphasized.

More parking space in Walker was mentioned as a pressing need by several people. But this is a problem that won't have an easy solution, they agreed.

Other goals included fund-raising to support WAP activities; more support for the Cass County Museum; and improved cooperation between Walker and surrounding townships.

And, as always, the group discussed how to keep WAP's momentum going and how to attract new ideas and new members.

People don't volunteer unless there's a specific project going, Scott Bruns commented.

For more information on this subject, check out these resources:

- [Walker Bay Days](#)