



Virginia Recreation and Park Society
Park Operations Resource Group Meeting
Wednesday October 25, 2023 9:00am

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1. Welcome
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Board Members:
 - c. Present: Alister Perkinson (Chair, James City County Parks & Recreation), Michelle Lightfoot (Chair-elect, James City County Parks & Recreation), Michael Clark (VRPS Board Liaison, Roanoke Parks & Recreation) Not-present: Patti McGrath (Secretary, Hanover Parks & Recreation)
2. Old Business
 - a. Revised Bylaws
 - i. Updated to have consistent language with VRPS Service and Resource Groups SOPs
 - ii. Alister had conversations with Arlana Fautleroy that bylaws may not be required for resource groups, and that the SOP could be the guiding document. Michael and Alister will look into that, but the group determine it would be better to go ahead and approve the new bylaws until a determination is made.
 - iii. The Revised Bylaws were approved by vote (2-0)
3. New Business
 - a. Election of New Board Members
 - i. Cindy McFall (Roanoke Parks & Recreation) was nominated by Alister Perkinson to serve as a member at large, and to represent the Southwestern Service Area. Cindy was elected by vote (2-0)
 - ii. The PORG board has two remaining vacancies, member at large positions to represent the Northern and Western Service areas
 - b. Athletic Fields Training

- i. Dan Smith, former PORG Chair, spoke about the opportunity to offer several regional athletic field or grounds maintenance trainings statewide. Previously these training were coordinated by Dr. Goatley from Virginia Tech and sponsored by Toro, but Dr. Goatley will no longer be running the program. There is an opportunity to potentially work with a variety of sponsors and generate revenue for the society, as well as tailor the subject matter to a variety of grounds maintenance issues. Dan also pointed out that partnerships with the Virginia Sports Field Management Association and the Virginia Turfgrass Council could help facilitate the programs.
 - ii. Alister will follow up with contacts at the VSFMA to gauge interest, and with VRPS leadership to determine next steps and budget needs. The coordination of individual training will likely fall to board members that represent the service area in which the training will be held
 - c. 2024 PORG Initiatives/PORG Website
 - i. The group discussed objectives for 2024, and agreed the focus should be on keeping folks engaged with PORG. TO that end, the group discussed several training and networking ideas that could be completed reasonably in 2024. Ideas included adding short 5-10 minute presentations to the quarterly PORG board meetings, standalone virtual roundtable discussions, compiling park related training opportunities on the website, and possibly a monthly newsletter, blog, or forum to solicit discussion and keep members aware of upcoming trainings and events.
 - ii. Alister has been coordinating with a representative from [Birdability](#), a non-profit group that works to educate and advocate for better access for birding on trails and in parks. The group was contacted to present at the 2023 VRPS Annual Conference but were unable. They may be able to do a webinar training this winter, which could potentially be cross-promoted with the Therapeutic Recreation Resource group. Alister will continue to coordinate.
 - d. 2024 Budget
 - i. While the Park Operations Resource Group has not prepared a budget in the past, one will be needed in order to facilitate the athletic field trainings. The draft budget is due on October 31 – Alister will work with the PORG board to determine budget needs.
- 4. Announcements
 - a. 2024 PORG Meeting Schedule:
 - i. January 17, 10:00 am
 - ii. April 17, 10:00 am
 - iii. July 17, 10:00 am
 - iv. October 16, 10:00 am
- 5. Adjournment