

**Virginia Recreation and Park Society
Central Service Area Meeting – March 15, 2023
Deep Run Recreation Center
9910 Ridgefield Parkway
Richmond, VA 23233
Minutes**

Attendees: Nilay Patel, Karen Gray, Marlie Creasey-Smith, Hannah Bell, Sue Black, AJ McCage, Emmy Houck, Paul Wilmoth, Abby Clement, Jacquelyn Wetter, Heather Grubb, Aziah Bell, Neil Luther, Charles Hester, Chris Clarke, Rebecca Johnson, Lorenzo Bradley, Kameron Simms, Rueben Turner, David Chery

Business Meeting:

Nil opened meeting and led an icebreaker

Everyone went around the room and introduced who they were, which location they were with, and what they did

Minutes:

Minutes from the December meeting were shared and reviewed. Moved and second to approve the minutes from the December 2022 meeting. Voting for minutes approved.

Board Reports:

Chair-Elect:

Went over 2023 budget review

Trying to generate funds but offer useful tools to CSA members. Ideas generated last meeting included DEI, inclusion discussions, and management and communication styles

Asking for training ideas.

Marlie: great opportunities for learning and peer development, great place to hone skills and get feedback from the group.

Paul: admin team at VRPS is working on trainings as well and maybe we can piggyback off of some of those

AJ: Community inclusion and best practices is one idea, and willing to lead

Emmy: Attended directors roundtable and great conversation around conference education sessions able to share that list because there was really great feedback during and after the meeting so there may be some topics we can pull from there

Kameron: Preschool age programs and brainstorming session to occupy kids

Paul: Working with Todd Brown from Fredericksburg and youth sports needs a lot of revamping, there's a lack of officials and volunteers and makes it hard for kids to stay involved, maybe we could create a resource group for that or a forum

Sounds like programming is the biggest need. Will reach out to AJ and Emmy to see what that would look like. Next is the question of timing of meetings because people come from all over. How do we make it worth it for people to come from 2 hours away but pack everything into one day? Could couple a few different topics into one day.

Paul: November will work well because conference is in September.

Charles: Will trainings offer CEUS?

Sounded like only 10% of people going to conferences are looking for CEUs so is it worth all the work and time for such a small population?

Paul: Did not consider in frontline training and it's important to look at the market you're serving.

Emmy: With NRPA you can petition to get CEUs for trainings and it's pretty easy to do.

Sue: as we try to expand the reach of VRPS resource groups are an important piece of that and should be well attended.

Next meeting is June 14 so if you want to provide a condensed training or learning project, please let us know. Would like to beef up meetings and want to help and support you with that. Might attract more people if we can announce things ahead of time.

CSA Chair:

Usually do a social for CSA and this year we're going axe throwing and training will help offset costs. Colonial Heights will host June, Hanover in September, and Chesterfield in December.

VRPS Updates:

Marlie gave updates from Tabitha: Athletic fields training is March 20th so let staff know. Updating the 5 year strategic plan. The annual conference is September 9-12, and they are accepting applications for speakers. Hannah Bell is the new outdoor rec resource group coordinator. Out of school resources group is ran by Maggie Lingberry from Danville and will forward her information. Really want to make CSA networking a space to develop relationships together. Would like to have special guest/speakers that can highlights some areas for the CSA.

Sue has agreed to be today's guest speaker

Guest Speaker (Sue Black):

What I want out of this is to paint the picture for the VRPS vision and get to know everyone better

Sue discussed NRPA 30 under 30 program and how 5 honorees came from VA, young professionals are the future of VRPS.

AJ: asked Sue about her views on aiding young professionals with all retirements about to happen.

Did a baseline of VRPS and figured out that student section is lacking. Emmy has lots of ideas about how to recruit for a feeder program

Main thing VRPS is doing now is strategic plan should be living breathing document and measure what you're doing, and everyone knows how they fit into it. Please start reading e-blast. Other thing is key leaders page (copies given out by Sue) It's a cheat sheet listing who does what at VRPS and committee headers. A list of who you can call for what you need at VRPS. Trying to throw a broader net in memberships and get more people involved and expand trainings offered. With awards you can't win one if you don't nominate. Make sure to apply if you have stuff that is award worthy. It's VRPS's 70th anniversary this year.

Paul: what can we do as VRPS to attract and retain members?

Throw a broader net to people in admin, engineers, HR involved in parks and rec to expand interests and memberships

Paul: Would it benefit us to move toward a track system?

Yes, other missing piece is there wasn't a direct link to all directors in state at VRPS and those are the people that send you to conference and trainings. Then you market tracks to directors. Went to conference in NC and it's just directors and no assistants. Had 150 directors there and sponsors loved to be there because directors make the purchasing decisions. Now working on first VRPS annual directors conference and want to start dialog with directors as much as possible.

Additional items:

AJ: LTI registration is active April 14- 16 in 2024. Looking to change how education sessions are done moving away from lecture style and more towards inclusive roundtable discussions and teambuilding ideas. Only 79 people can attend. A little less than \$800.

Sue: LTI graduates have a 90% success rate of becoming a deputy or director.

Emmy: recommended everyone attend especially new employees.

Charles: What is the chance that all LTI graduates could get together at one time during LTI

AJ: As chair we can make that happen, looking to be more intentional about how socialization time is set up during LTI so that would be a good idea for anyone willing to make the drive. Will talk to LTI board.

Meeting Adjourned