

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION OFFICIALS
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 14, 2007
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Pasteris, President, called the NACPRO Board meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

II. ROLL CALL:

Those present were Ron Benson, John Buck, Greg Mack, Steve Madewell, Paul Mueller, Robert Nickovich, Steve Dice, John deBessonet, Bill Palmer, Mike Pasteris, Russ Guiney, Mark Thornton, John VonDeLinde, Bill Scalzo, Bill Mitchell, Margie Walz, Dan Gooch, Executive Director, and Bill Beckner, Consultant.

III. REQUESTS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Andy Kimmel, Director of Parks and Recreation for King County, Renee Bahl, Director San Diego County Parks and Recreation, Randy Burkhardt, Douglas County Parks and Recreation, and Jim Park, Assistant Director Los Angeles County Parks.

V. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AND ANNUAL MEEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2006, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:

Ron Benson moved and John Buck seconded a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes. Greg Mack requested that the number of accredited agencies under the CAPRA report be corrected. Bill Mitchell corrected the roll call to include his name. Motion approved.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

President Pasteris indicated that Dan Gooch, Executive Director, had distributed an administrative activities report for the first half on 2007 via email. (See Attached.) No questions were asked.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Dan Gooch, Executive Director, distributed via email a financial report for the first half of the year (See Attached). Dan reported that NACPRO maintains assets of nearly \$35,000, however; due to lower membership this year; revenues have fallen short of budget. Spending has been reduced so that the there should be no net loss of assets by the end of the year. Dan also sent out, via email, a copy of the current general and corporate membership lists. (Additional copies available by contacting Dan Gooch.)

VIII. FUTURE OF NACPRO:

Prior to the meeting, President Pasteris emailed an issue paper about the future of NACPRO to Board members as a starting point to facilitate discussions. Issues included:

- Declining individual Board member and committee involvement and the impact on the Executive Director position.

- Stabilized professional membership numbers (approx. 150 people) – organization basic membership base is not growing. Concern regarding retention rate.
- Decline in continuity of interaction and decision-making by the Board due to only conducting two Board meetings per year.

Discussion topics included: purpose and services, membership and financial targets, Board of Director meetings, and Executive Director and Memorandum of Understanding.

Membership and Services: A 2005 membership survey was made available to the Board. (Available upon request from John VonDeLinde.) The survey indicated that the level of membership dues did not appear to be a major barrier. John deBessonnet commented that many county park and recreation professionals are first members of NRPA. Board members surmised that potential members may have a difficult time assessing the value of belonging to NACPRO. Members praised the NACPRO educational programs, but were concerned about level of participation.

As a new Board member, Renee Bahl commented that she was not quite certain what NACPRO did and what as a group would be accomplished.

Members articulated the purposes of NACPRO being that of a representative county parks and recreation on national issues and advancing official policies. NACPRO also provides educational sessions, networking and showcases outstanding achievements to promote best practices. NACPRO is also an affiliate of NACo. John VonDeLinde referenced the membership survey results which indicated that only one-third of those surveyed were aware of what NACPRO does.

Board members talked about strategies to market NACPRO. The newsletter was recognized as one of the most important tools. The newsletter is mailed a couple times per year, but can be pulled off the Internet website by anyone for free.

A comment was made that many of the larger counties are members of NRPA and NACPRO, but many counties are so small they don't have a parks and recreation professional. Ron Benson commented that a national data base indicated that only about 20% of all counties have park and recreation agencies.

Margie Walz suggested that NACPRO reach out to the counties that don't have professional park and recreation services. There may be some public official at the agency who would want the support of a park and recreation professional organization; even if they don't have someone specifically assigned the responsibility. The Board discussed promoting to public officials through NACo, possibly in their newsletter and at the NACo conference. A suggestion was made that the Board have an affiliate table at NACo to promote the education programs, tours, and provide an exhibit showcasing the award program winners.

Russ Guiney stated his belief that one of the greatest values of NACPRO is the tours planned in conjunction with meetings. He stated it is the only assembly of regional and county parks – agencies that do like we do. He indicated that he wasn't sure how much NACPRO could

directly impact legislative agenda and that NACo, NRPA and State Associations may be better suited in this role. (NACPRO would continue to work through these organizations.)

John deBessonnet also stated that one of the best things about meetings is the tours and that NACPRO may not play them up enough. If the third meeting were held in Washington in the winter, there may not be much to see. He suggested having a winter meeting in the south where we can tour parks.

Andy Kimmel suggested that we continue to offer and strengthen NACPRO educational programs at NACo and NRPA. The Board discussed the possibility of positioning itself to be of greater service to public officials and to promote the importance of county level recreation and parks. Paul Mueller suggested that NACPRO provide a county parks education track at both NRPA and NACo and also offer the park tour as a formal workshop.

Ron Benson suggested that if can't get on the program, to get an exhibit at NACo. He suggested that NACPRO promote advance registration for the NACo Park Tour.

Bill Palmer discussed the history of NACPRO. The organization was formed in 1964 at a NACo meeting. Bill stated that he believed the greatest values of membership come from camaraderie with other members. Members discuss issues affecting counties and special districts. Networking is important and members need to educate ourselves and others. The tours provide a visual, hands-on experience, the best way. NACo is a powerful legislative group and valuable to promote the needs of NACPRO members.

Bill Mitchell commented on the differences between NACo and NRPA. He stated his belief that NACo is more environmentally concerned and open space oriented.

Bill Palmer commented that these concerns about membership and purpose are recurring discussions – every so many years. He observed that people who care about county business – want to do this and see the benefit.

Board Meetings: Board members debated the value of a third meeting as proposed by outgoing President Pasteris. Steve Dice provided a historical perspective of why the organization moved away from the third meeting, basically time and money. Some members felt that a meeting could be held in conjunction with the NRPA legislative forum. Those members that are able could come and a teleconference meeting could be offered, so that some more members could attend. Paul Mueller stated that he believed a third meeting was critical for continuity.

Greg Mack expressed his belief that the third meeting should have a legislative focus where members could help advance legislative platforms and could be part of the NACo legislative meeting. Steve Madewell said that the need for a third meeting should be based on an organization need. Steve Dice suggested that their could be a gathering at the Special Park District's meeting; however the date would be close to the July meeting date, but it would attract members.

Executive Director MOU - Mike Pasteris commented on the need for board members to become more active and reduce the impact on the part-time executive director. Mike indicated

that the association is requiring more than of Dan Gooch than had been agreed to in his contract. Ron Benson moved, and John Buck seconded that the Memorandum of Understanding between NACPO and Dan Gooch for the purpose of serving as Executive Director of NACPRO be extended from July 31st through the September 28, 2007 Board Meeting or until a new Memorandum of Understanding is considered and approved by the Board.

John VonDeLinde will continue discussions with officers regarding a renewal MOU with Dan Gooch as Executive Director and will have a recommendation for the September meeting.

IX. NACo REPORT:

Mike Pasteris updated the Board on NACo activities and noted that Andy Kimmel has consented to serve as the NACPRO liaison to NACo. (Mike do you have anything additional for the minutes?)

X. NRPA REPORTS :

- National Forum - (Does anyone remember a report here?)
- 2007 Program Committee - Tom O'Rourke was not in attendance; however Board members acknowledged that Tom has coordinated with members to provide NACPRO sponsored sessions at the NRPA annual conference.
- CAPRA – Greg reported that _____ --

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS :

- A. By Laws: Lisa Killough had completed all approved changes in the By-Law document and had distributed to Board members via email prior to the meeting.
- B. Legislation: Mark Thorton distributed copies of the NACPRO Legislative Platform dated July 2007. A total of 11 issues were identified. Mark stated that he had coordinated the identification of NACPRO legislative issues by reviewing both NRPA and NACo legislative platforms. The NACPRO Legislative Platform will be communicated to NACo and NRPA. (See attached.)
- C. Nominating: Steve Dice presented the slate of new directors and officers to the Board.

The new members will be officially approved at the NACPRO general meeting, following the Board meeting. Nominees for the Board of Directors included: Renee Bahl (San Diego County, CA), Andy Kimmel (Lake County, IL), Jane Pike (Clark County, NV), Chris Stice (Hamilton County, IN) and R.J. Cardin (Glendale, AZ.)

The slate of officers for 2007-08 included: John VonDeLinde, President; Mark Thorton, President Elect; Margie Walz, First Vice President; Steve Madewell, Second Vice President/Secretary; John Buck, Treasurer; and Mike Pasteris, Immediate Past President.

- D. Awards: Margie Walz reported that there were 37 award applications and that the Awards Committee reviewed the applications and selected winners. The Awards Program is ready for Monday evening and registration is greater than expected. Financially the Awards Program is successful with an estimated balance of \$680.26, not including the meal expenses and revenues. A final report can be presented at the

September meeting. The Committee will also offer some suggestions for changes to the Board at the September meeting.

- E. Internet: John deBessonnet noted that he has volunteered to develop and maintain the web site for the past five years. He indicated that he has just a couple years left on the Board and asked if any members were willing to take over responsibility for the site. John offered to travel and teach an interested volunteer to assist with transition. John reported that the web site is well received and that the job listing service continues to be popular.
- F. Membership: Ron Benson distributed current professional and corporate membership contact information listings. Ron indicated that to date there are about 18 paid corporate members and approximately 130 professional members. The Board discussed focusing growth potential in the area of corporate membership. It was suggested that Margie Walz prepare thank you signs from NACPRO recognizing vendors who sponsored the Awards Program for display at the NRPA exhibit hall at their vendor tables.
- G. Finance: The Executive Director distributed a year to date financial report via email prior to the meeting. (See Attached.)
- H. Professional Education: A report made - under NRPA Reports.
- I. Endowment: (John was there a report?????)

XII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Corporate Credit Card – John DeBessonnet moved and John Buck seconded a motion to authorize Dan Gooch, Executive Director, to secure a corporate credit card for the association.

XIII. NEXT MEETING:

John VonDeLinde moved and Steve Madewell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, September 28th.