



Annual Business Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2010 • Ramada Plaza, Fargo

Board Members Present: Ron Merritt, president; Tyler Jacobson, past president; Dave Leker, president elect; Wayne Beyer, secretary/treasurer; Brandy Chaffee, communications chair; Arik Spencer, professional development chair; Steve Neu, legislative chair; Darin Krueger, awards chair; Craig Bjur, conference chair; and Dana Schaar, executive director. Fifty-nine members were present.

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m.

The minutes from the June 23, 2010, meeting were approved as presented (Spencer, Krueger MSC).

Beyer reviewed the financial statements and stated revenue was higher than anticipated. NDRPA has \$52,973.72 cash on hand. The financials were approved as presented (Beyer, Jacobson MSC).

Board, Committee and Staff Reports

President's Report

Merritt provided a written report. Merritt thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as president for the past year. He also expressed appreciation to Schaar for her work and to the Fargo Park District for hosting a great conference.

Executive Director's Report

Schaar provided a written report on activities since the June quarterly meeting. Schaar reminded everyone the next *FOCUS* deadline is Oct. 1.

Membership Report

Erbstoesser provided a written report. Schaar reported an increase in membership this year, including nine new park district members.

Communications Report

Chaffee provided a written report. She is still in need of video and photos from NDRPA members for the NDRPA highlight video, which will be developed as a marketing tool. She also requested input on the draft logo.

Legislative Report

Merritt provided an update on legislative issues. The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) approved introduction of a bill to raise the concession bid limit to \$25,000 in gross estimated sales, as well as a bill to clean up ND Century Code language related to public improvement bidding. The interim Energy Development and Transition Committee is considering a bill on energy conservation and efficiency standards for public buildings. The ND Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) is considering an effort to introduce a bill to protect recreational immunity based on recent court decisions. Merritt asked the membership if NDRPA should consider supporting legislation to allocate a percentage of oil impact dollars to park districts, as funds already go to schools, counties and cities. John Staley said "go for it."

Professional Development Report

Spencer provided a written report. He said the committee will consider alternatives to the Nuts & Bolts workshop, since it had to be cancelled this year due to low registration. He asked for input on topics for educational sessions next year.

Awards Report

Krueger thanked members of the committee for their service and encouraged everyone to submit award nominations year-round.

Conference Report

Bjur reported approximately \$1,700 was raised for scholarships through the silent auction, golf tournament, t-shirt sales and Hammerschlagen. Preliminary numbers for the conference were reported as follows: 36 exhibitors, 165 attendees, and 215 total participants including exhibitors. Bjur thanked Leker for his work with exhibitors and the committee and Fargo Park District for their efforts.

Audit Report

Larson reported an audit of last year's financials was completed, and all records were in order.

Conference Selection

Schaar reported the fall 2011 conference will be a joint effort with South Dakota hosted by Bismarck, and Grand Forks will host the Midwest conference in spring 2012.

Hall of Fame Report

Beyer congratulated Steve Mullally on his election to the NDRPA Hall of Fame and also encouraged year-round nominations.

Scholarship Report

Nybo reported there were two winners this year. The nomination form was posted online this year, and applications were opened up to include sophomores and students from any ND college or university with a leisure-related program.

Midwest Report

Schaar reported the Midwest conference will be in Overland Park, Kan., April 17-19, 2011.

ACIR/Forestry Council Report

Randy Bina provided a written report.

Old Business

Parks and Recreation Research

Merritt reported the Revenue Task Force had met with NDSU professors to discuss a potential economic impact study, and work will continue on this effort.

2012 Midwest Conference & Fall Meeting Discussion

Schaar reported the April 2012 Midwest conference hosted by Grand Forks will serve as NDRPA's state conference and encouraged everyone to show their support by attending. She also stated Beyer has been asked to consider hosting the fall 2012 meeting in lieu of the conference, which would include the annual awards banquet.

Bylaws Changes

As published in *FOCUS*, Jacobson recommended one change to the bylaws to reduce paperwork related to check signing. The following change will be made to Article VIII, Section III, of the bylaws: All checks disbursed must be approved by the President and Secretary/Treasurer and must bear the signature of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association or another designee approved by the Board of Directors (Jacobson, Leker MSC).

Clearwater Contract

Merritt reported the new 2010-2012 contract between NDRPA and Clearwater Communications, which includes the same fee for executive director services as the previous two-year contract, with the only change the addition of rent of \$576 annually. The contract was approved as presented (Leker, Fogle MSC).

2010-2011 Work Plan & Budget

Leker reviewed the 2010-11 work plan, highlighting activities such as the joint conference with South Dakota, the continued effort to conduct an economic impact study, and the exploration of opportunities to offer board training. Beyer reviewed the 2010-2011 budget. The 2010-11 work plan and budget were approved as presented (Beyer, Larson MSC). Schaar noted NDRPA's membership dues will be increased by the consumer price index (CPI) for 2011, per approved policy, resulting in some unusual dues amounts.

New Business

NRPA Congress 2010

Schaar reported approximately 60 NDRPA members plan to attend the Congress in Minneapolis, and she encouraged everyone to attend the Midwest & More Social on Wednesday.

Board Positions Discussion

Jacobson suggested NDRPA consider electing board members at-large instead of to specific positions, except for the officers. He also suggested NDRPA consider reducing the number of board members or allowing a range of board members (i.e., 9-15 members). These ideas will be discussed over the next year to determine if any bylaws changes should be made in fall 2011.

Board Election

Jacobson thanked the Nominations Committee for its work. The following slate of candidates was approved as presented: Brandy Chaffee, president elect; Tyler Jacobson, past president; Ron Merritt, legislative chair; Tammy Fogle, communications chair; Darin Krueger, awards chair; Eric Kittelson, membership chair; and Craig Bjur, student representative (Gress, Spencer MSC).

2010-11 Quarterly Meetings

Leker reported the winter meeting will be Dec. 8-9 in Jamestown and the spring meeting will be April 6-7 in Dickinson. Spencer reported the summer meeting will be June 20-21 at Lake Metigoshe State Park. Leker encouraged all members to try and attend quarterly meetings.

2010-11 Committees

Leker presented the list of committee members but also said there is room for additional members if anyone is interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. (Jacobson, Larson MSC).