



**MARYLAND RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Board and Council Meeting**  
**September 10, 2021 ZOOM**

Board & Council Members Present: Charlyn Simpson, Corey Smith, Cortney Weinstock, Edwin Rivera, Eugenia Mercer, Jen Mogus, Jenny Morgan, Jessica E. Cook-Thomas, John Nissel, Jordan Perry, Joy Weir, Julija Sajauskas, Kathy Burley, Kori Jones, Marybeth Dugan, Matt Purkins, Mike Coppersmith, Nancy Pfeffer, Ovan Shortt, Robbin Oden, Shawnte Berry, Sheema Hai, Terri Hilton

MRPA Office Staff Present: Chuck Montrie, Adrienne Varieur

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** Added to agenda – Vaccination Discussion, Improv Fundraising Event, Strategic Plan, Recruitment of Executive Director and Office Manager. John Nissel made a motion to approve, Nancy Pfeffer Second
- III. **MRPA Executive Director & Office Report**
  - a. Leadership Institute kicked off yesterday
  - b. Postpone the Shrimp & Bull Roast
  - c. Move Fall General Membership meeting to virtual
  - d. Should the Awards Program go virtual?
  - e. GG Leagues, an online gaming company. If we make them our preferred provider, we would get money if people signed up to use their services through MRPA
  - f. Statewide Pickleball Tournament discussion
- IV. **Board Reports**
  - a. President: Committees - Setting up one on ones. 7 months left. Make sure your activities are on the MRPA calendar
  - b. President Elect: Fall meeting is now virtual, Shrimp & Bull Roast postponed
  - c. Past President: Equipment Showcase is in person since it is an outside event
  - d. Racial Justice, Social Equity, and Inclusion Officer: Community is our focus this year. What does it look like to create a sense of community? Apply this to outreach, conference, and trainings
  - e. Secretary: Minutes approved after correction to Shawnte Berry's name. John Nissel motion to approve, Julija Sajauskas Second
  - f. Treasurer/Treasurer-Elect: Investments up \$175,000, checking down \$79,000
  - g. Vice President – Winter General Membership meeting on pause, waiting on COVID numbers
- V. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Awards: Taking a step back to decide how to give out the awards. Member of the quarter needs to be decided by October 18, 2021. Will write up for the weekly update
  - b. Branches

- RALS – No report
- TR – Goal to provide training for those who have CTRS; training on Adaptive Sports and ADA Transition Plan training
- PARC – No report
- c. Conference – Locked in opening /closing keynotes
- d. Finance – No report
- e. Leadership Institute I – The 8<sup>th</sup> Leadership Institute kicked off yesterday in Baltimore City. Participants heard dynamic speeches by Reginald Moore, Jr., Director of Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, and Mayor Brandon Scott. After a field trip to historic Howard Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park, the class heard leadership lessons from current and former Baltimore City staff, Bob Wall, Devon Brown and Jessica E. Cook Thomas
  - i. Participants represent 17 agencies from across the state
  - ii. The Leadership Team includes: LaDarian Blake, Jessica E. Cook Thomas, Todd Johnson, Sara Morgan, Carrie Sprinkle, and Josh VanDyken
  - iii. The YMCA notified us they can no longer provide meals or activities for our retreat October 14-15. We will have kitchen access and a reduction in price. Now to plan the logistics
- f. Leadership Institute II – Planning is ongoing.
  - i. Four agencies have submitted their partnership applications
  - ii. Orientation for agency partners is October 20, 2021 and will be virtual
  - iii. Applications for participants is slow. Deadline is September 15, 2021. Over six emails have been sent to LI1 alum. COVID is a big issue
  - iv. LI2 Kickoff event is December 1 and 2 in College Park with great speakers planned
- g. Legislative
  - i. MACRA at the MACO Conference about the value of Parks and Rec in our communities
  - ii. MML met September 1, 2021
  - iii. Maryland Leadership Team created a State Park Commission to see if we need more parks. Steve Miller will represent MRPA. Are underserved populations able to get to parks?
- h. Marketing and Social Media
  - i. If you know something is coming up, get us a post early so we can schedule. Send social media request to Edwin and Iyana
  - ii. Community Connection Page, send requests to Anna Gossage. Everyone can post
- i. Member Engagement & Outreach
  - i. Lunch Connection on September 22, 2021
  - ii. Who's Got Talent on September 29, 2021
  - iii. Working on getting businesses to sign up for membership, suggested they look into hospitality industry as well
- j. Professional Certification Board
  - i. Approved CEU's for Kim Williams training series
  - ii. Working on two more trainings for CEU approval
  - iii. Working with the Training and Education Committee on a presentation or video on how best to fill out CEU request from
- k. Professional Learning Communities – No Report

- I. Professional Standards – No Report
- m. Scholarship
  - i. We have been tasked with increasing the marketing of scholarship opportunities
  - ii. Looking into CPRP prep course
- n. Social Justice, Racial Equity, and Inclusion
  - i. Book Club starts October 18, 2021
  - ii. Working on Bike Ride for Social Justice again for November
  - iii. Working on a Diversity Tour in DC
  - iv. Working with Conference Committee to offer DEI sessions
  - v. Invited to be Equity Stakeholders on the Governor’s Panel October 5, 2021
- o. Sponsorship & Resource Development
  - i. Working on the Bike Ride for Social Justice
    - Created sponsorship packet
    - Sending emails to solicit money
- p. Training and Education
  - i. MG Parks training partnerships potential
  - ii. Restarting Ranger School
  - iii. Supporting Recreation University

**VI. Old Business**

**VII. New Business**

- a. **Vaccination Discussion** – at the MRPA Conference show vaccines be required for attendees or a recent test? What exhibitors? Hotel staff?
- b. **Improv Fundraiser** – January 21, 2022 at the F Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville. Laughter, Happy Hour; advertising as “Give the Gift of Laughter”
- c. **Strategic Plan** - Needs updating
- d. **Executive Director & Office Manager Search** - The process is starting. Adrienne retires in July 2022, Chuck in December 2022
- e. **Spring Fishing Tournament** - will happen

**VIII. Meeting Adjournment 2:28 PM**