



2021 - 22 MRPA Board & Council Third Quarter Report: January - March 2022

Executive Director and MRPA Office Reports- *Executive Director is the Managing Director of MRPA who reports to the Executive Board. Responsible for designing, developing and implementing strategic plans in collaboration with the Executive Board. Supervises operations of the MRPA Office and staff*

Chuck Montrie, Executive Director
Adrienne Varieur, Office Manager
Armeana Street, Members Services Associate

Executive Board Reports- Elected Officers of MRPA. Responsible for the overall business of the Association, as well as oversight of the MRPA Office (Executive Director and Staff).

President- Terri Hilton

President Elect- Nancy Pfeffer

- Looking forward to working with my new Board and council.
- Please remember to sign up for the Shimp & bull Roast on Friday May 13 and the Social Justice Racial & Equity Bike ride on May 14th!

Past President- John Nissel

- No Report.

Vice President- Jessica E. Cook-Thomas

- Winter General Membership Meeting moved to virtual. Hosted over 70 people. Most reviews were favorable, but presenter needed more time. Perhaps will develop into a multiple session PLC.
- Compiled quarterly report to document Board and Committee accomplishments
- Attended committee meetings during the year to offer support. Attended PLCs and educational sessions during the year.
- Will continue to work on developing directory of places and spaces to highlight the wonderful locations throughout the state to host conferences, retreats and meetings.
- Will continue to work on Executive Director search committee.
- Will meet with incoming Vice President to transfer reporting format.
- Many thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Treasurer - Cortney Weinstock; Treasurer Elect- Julija Sajauskas

. Treasurers Report:

- Total for all Accounts (Investment + Operating Accounts) is very close to previous four years (down by \$2,152 from this time last year) with a total balance of \$1,053,655.
- 2021 fiscal year wrapped up with \$108,150 in Operating (down \$45,074 from 2020 and down \$154,449 from 2019); and \$1,031,787 in Investment Account (up \$105,586 from 2020 and \$153,939 from 2019).
- Thankfully our Investment Account increases have balanced out the Operating Account decline

Secretary- Charlyn Simpson

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PARC Branch (Park and Resource Conservation)- Angie Hummer, Chair

- We were happy that we could meet in person again
- Working on doing monthly / or bi monthly hike with a meeting.
- Working on / trying to figure out how to increase participation in activities and running for offices

RALS Branch (Recreation and Leisure Services)- Matt Purkins, Chair

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TR Branch (Therapeutic Recreation)- Joy Weir, Chair

The TR Branch held their quarterly meeting with this current board on March 14, 2022. Final reports were given and a discussion of the transition of Chair to Chair Elect were explained to the branch. Joy has gathered necessary information to pass along to Kelsey to make that transition of knowledge easier. We have not been able to secure a professional from the TR Branch to run for the position of Chair Elect for this voting cycle. The branch has decided that nominations and voting will take place at conference at the TR Branch meeting.

The MRPA Annual Conference and TR Mini Golf Tournament is right around the corner. We are thankful to Old Pro Golf for hosting us for our Mini Golf Tournament again this year as well as adding a new sponsor, Marked Promotions, for donating 25 T-shirts for our event.

Unfortunately, there were no award nominations for the TR Branch members. Discussion was held on how we can promote more involvement and support of fellow professionals as well as our TR Branch.

A new training committee has been suggested to be created within the TR Branch. Those who volunteered to work on this committee will concentrate on offering training and education specifically designed for those requiring CEU's for TR Professionals. This group already has a head start with the trainings that we have been working on the past year, to include Adapted Sports and Transition Plans.

On that same subject of training, Temple University is offering a Recreational Therapy Evidence Based Practice Conference April 13th through April 20th. This conference will be prerecorded and offered virtually; therefore, participants would be able to view sessions at any time through end of day on April 20th. Registration fee of \$50 with a \$25 CEU fee makes this conference even more enticing to the TR Professional.

Calli Guercio has organized a variety of TR and Inclusion PLC's over the next few months. March will focus on staffing and staff training and an upcoming PLC to discuss summer camps.

An offer was extended once again to obtain a member of the TR Branch to be our representative on the Social Justice, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

It has been a great honor to serve this year as the TR Branch Chair and I look forward to helping this branch grow and strengthen over the next few years.

Committee Reports- Committee Chairs are members of the Executive Council. Each Committee report lists the Chair(s), a brief description, and the quarterly highlights.

Awards- Matt Purkins and Corey Smith, Co-Chairs

Recognizes members for a variety of MRPA and Branch awards; quarterly and at the MRPA Annual Conference. Evaluate and recommend changes to the awards as warranted.

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Finance- Michele Potter, Chair

Monitors MRPA's long-range financial plan, advises the Board on financial matters, prepares periodic reports on the association's investment funds, and works with the executive director and accountants on audits, reviews and overall management.

Corporate Development- Eugenia Mercer and Jenny Morgan, Co-Chairs

Raises funds for MRPA, including funding scholarships and paid personnel, which may be appointed by the Board of Directors. Works with volunteers to coordinate golf tournaments, silent auctions and other activities for the benefit of the association.

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Legislative- Kathy Burley and Jen Jennings, Co-Chairs

Develops a network and procedures to track and monitor state-wide legislation prior to and during the Maryland General Assembly session. Develops a list of issues and concerns, communicates issues to the appropriate parties, and leads discussions to develop a course of action, including testimony strategy. Following legislation is being followed or anticipated:

Year-end report – 2021/2022

- Following last year's surprise Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) funding of \$75 million dollars, we are excited to see that the Governor's 2023 budget includes another \$85 million LPPI (not yet approved). While not distributed in the same manner as Program Open Space (POS) funding, it is still being overseen by the Department of Natural Resources and will come with many of the restrictions/expectations of POS funding.
- While this year's legislative session is not over yet, MRPA continues to successfully work with our partners – MML, MACO and Partners for Open Space to follow and support or defeat our legislative priorities. These entities, while not in agreement on all issues, are able to pool our resources to successfully effect our legislative priorities.
- Bills that we have been following this year include –
 - Senate Bill 07/House Bill 15 – Invasive and Native Plants – Classification, Listing, Use and Sales and Use Tax
 - Senate Bill 494/House Bill 0127 – Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment
 - Senate Bill 321/House Bill 0131 – Environment – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody
 - Senate Bill 0680/ House Bill 1332 - State and Local Parks – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards
 - Senate Bill 0541/ House Bill 0727– Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service and State Park – Alterations (Great Maryland Outdoors Act)
 - Senate Bill 0522/ House Bill 0788– State and Local Parks – Child Safe Zone Program – Establishment (Equitable Access to Safe Parks Act)
 - Senate Bill 0515/House Bill 1438 – State Emergency Medical Services Board – Park Services Associates – Certification as Emergency Medical Responders
 - Senate Bill 0319/House Bill 0303 – Public Safety – Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards – Adoption
 - Senate Bill 0178 – Program Open Space – Local Projects – Federal Funds
 - Senate Bill 0056 – Program Open Space – Local Plans and Programs – General Assembly Approval
 - House Bill 1235 – Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission
 - House Bill 0851 – Marine Contractor License – Performance of Services – Licensing Requirements and Fees
 - House Bill 0435 – Youth Sports Programs – Registrations, Personnel, and Policy

Social Justice, Racial Equity, and Inclusion (SJREI) Committee- Sheema Hai and Shawnté Berry, Co-Chairs

The social justice, inclusion, and racial equity initiative reinforces our commitment to be a welcoming community where all our members are treated with respect and dignity and provided with opportunities to succeed. This initiative will establish a Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee that will include MRPA members.

The co-chairs along with the Equity Officer, Kori Jones, met to determine committee goals and objectives. The full committee meets monthly. Subcommittee meetings occur as needed per planning needs.

Full Committee Objectives:

1. **Objective 1:** To ensure the SJREI's mission reflect an ongoing commitment to an organizational culture of inclusion and belonging
2. **Objective 2:** To support and provide a safe space for affinity groups – offer group conversations, book clubs, etc.
3. **Objective 3:** To utilize the self-assessment DEI tool for personal accountability/responsibility
4. **Objective 4:** To establish SJREI subcommittees to divide the workload. The subcommittees will focus on the following topic areas: 1. Training and Education 2. Special Events/Fundraising 3. DEI Awareness and Inclusivity

Subcommittee Objectives:

1. **Training and Education**
 - a. **Objective:** To have opportunities for members to participate in trainings, conferences, discussions, such as brown bags on best practices to promote a wider understanding of DEI.

2. **Special Events**

- a. **Objective:** To create opportunities to invest into or support a culture of inclusion and belonging through special events while generating monetary contributions to go towards MRPA training and/or scholarship funds.

3. **DEI Awareness and Inclusivity**

- a. **Objective:** To ensure other MRPA committees are including DEI in their planning process by having SJREI representative across sections.

1. **Objective 1:** To ensure the SJREI's mission reflect an ongoing commitment to an organizational culture of inclusion and belonging

Monthly Meetings:

- . Co-Chair and Equity Officer meeting held April 30, 2022 to discuss goals and objectives
- a. SJREI meetings were held monthly
 - June 3, 2021
 - June 17, 2021
 - July 29, 2021
 - August 26, 2021
 - September 23, 2021
 - October 21, 2021
 - January 27, 2022
 - February 24, 2022
 - March 31, 2022

2. **Objective 2:** To support and provide a safe space for affinity groups – offer group conversations, book clubs, etc.

Group Conversations:

- . During each monthly meeting, the committee engaged in group discussions on the following topics:
 - Showing up as your authentic self
 - Taking personal responsibility
 - Ground water training
 - Cultural Awareness
 - Microaggressions
 - Understanding race
 - Authentic community engagement
 - Injustices and mental health
 - Understanding social justice movements

SJREI Book Club:

- a. The committee successfully established a SJREI book club which had approximately 8 committed participants. The sessions were productive and very insightful. Participants had an opportunity to pause and reflect. The group reviewed, *The Sum of Us*, written by Heather McGhee.

3. **Objective 3:** To utilize the self-assessment DEI tool for personal accountability/responsibility

- . Committee members were provided with the DEI tool during the previous year. Each member was responsible for personal accountability in advancing their DEI awareness and knowledge.

4. **Objective 4:** To establish SJREI subcommittees to divide the workload. The subcommittees will focus on the following topic areas: 1. Training and Education 2. Special Events/Fundraising 3. DEI Awareness and Inclusivity

SJREI Bike Ride:

- . The committee decided to continue plans for hosting an annual SJREI Bike Ride. The Bike Ride was coordinated through the Special Events/Fundraising subcommittee.
- a. The bike ride's originally scheduled date was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and low enrollment and has been rescheduled to be held Saturday, May 14, 2022.

Safe Zones Conversations:

- b. Maryland was selected as one of five states to be chosen to participate in Safe Zone Conversation program. Training days were as follows January 31 February 7 February 14 February 21 February 28. There were 6 committee members who were trained to be facilitators to implement Safe Zone Conversations.

- c. The committee will be discussing next steps in hopes of rolling out Safe Zone Conversations after the MRPA Conference.

NRPA – State Affiliate DEI Group

- d. Meeting held Tuesday, March 8, 2022.
- e. Kori Jones, Sheema Hai, and Shawnté Berry presented on behalf of MRPA.
- f. Discussion Topic: **DEI Trainings and Development Opportunities offered by your State Affiliate.** Professionals from [Minnesota](#) and [Maryland](#) shared information about their respective MRPA state associations. **Conversation questions:**
 - i. What has your State Affiliate offered for members? Sessions at Conference? Daylong Trainings?
 - ii. Has your State Affiliate done specific development for association leaders and/or the Board of Directors?
 - iii. Were these offerings in-person or virtual? Were they at an additional cost or free (included with membership)?
 - iv. What seems to have been the most successful?

2022 – 2023 SJREI Committee Planning:

- g. Nancy Pfeffer, Brandon Morgan, and Shawnté Berry will be meeting to discuss planning goals for the SJREI committee for the 2022 – 2023 year.

Marketing and Communications- Desiré DeGrange and Shelby Bowers, Co-Chairs

Promotes general membership meetings and workshops, MRPA news and information, training and education programs, networking and social events, and the annual conference.

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Social Media – Shelby Bowers, Chair

Coordinate the efforts of all social media outlets disseminating information pertaining to trainings, event highlights, member experiences and upcoming events.

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Member Engagement and Outreach- Kelly Day-Terry and Jordan Perry, Co-Chairs

Focuses on membership retention and new member recruitment. Fosters development of a professional network and opportunities for "Young Professionals" ages 21-35. Identifies, communicates and evaluates membership benefits and fees.

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Professional Certification Board- Robbin Oden, Chair

Approves CEUs for workshops and MRPA Annual Conference educational sessions.

CEU Applications Under Review:

N/A

Reviewed and approved CEU applications:

Most conference sessions for this year were approved.

Shared drive was used to communicate information between PCB and Conference Chairs.

Board Goals:

- Review SOP and make edits as needed

In progress

- Work closely with Conference Education Committee to improve CEU process for conference session, committee and presenters.

Complete

Recap of 2021-2022 CEU Applications (not including conference):

TOTAL Applied 13

Total Approved 13

Total Cancelled 0

Total Denied 0

We are looking for a new PBC Member. The ideal professional meets the following:

- Has a valid professional certification. CPRP, CTRS, CPSI
- To ensure a diverse board, we would like this year's replacement to have a background in parks and/or maintenance (preferred but not required).
- Can commit a total of 3 years to the board (1st year incoming chair, 2nd year chair, 3rd year outgoing chair).

Chuck will be ending his term on the PCB but has agreed to stay on until we find a replacement.

2021-2022 Board Members: Chuck Kines and Rachel Kollasch (incoming chair)

Submitted by:

Robbin Oden, Chair

4/4/22

Professional Standards- Bill Offutt, Chair

Promotes and encourages professional certification among the membership through educating agencies and individuals on the value and availability of continuing education opportunities.

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Scholarship Committee- Amanda DeFilippo and Jen Mogus, Co-Chairs

Reviews applications and recommends scholarship opportunities and criteria. Scholarships may be available for trainings, MRPA and NRPA annual conferences, the Leadership Institute, and other trainings, certifications and internships that benefit the individual and MRPA.

- Apply for Scholarships are now a part of the weekly MRPA update.
- Requested scholarships to be shared at upcoming TR PLCs.
- Followed up on options to Chuck and Terri for CPRP Prep Course leveraging Laura Wetherald Scholarship. (pushed to 2022-2023 committee's action items)
- Received 1 scholarship application, still in review.
- Scheduling transfer of knowledge meeting for new members.
- The next deadline for scholarship applications is April 15, 2022

Training and Education- Shawn Beaumont and Ovan Shortt, Co-Chairs

Coordinates training opportunities for members. Promotes professional certification through nationally recognized certifications (CPRP, etc.). Creates educational tracks/modules for our members, including Programming, Parks Maintenance, Supervision and Leadership, and Budget & Finance.

• **Recent Efforts:**

It's been a busy year with a lot of great trainings sprinkled throughout. Recently we have hit the "lull" prior to conference and there have not been as many training opportunities offered as other times during the year. Our main focus at this point is preparing information for the transfer of chair responsibilities. Ovan and I will make ourselves available to answer questions and to guide the new chairs through the process we followed. From there, it is entirely theirs to tune or tweak as they see fit!

• **Registration Statistics to-date:**

- Committee-generated: 9 total webinars (441 registrants, average of 49 per event)
- Maintenance Equipment and Materials Expo (630 registrations).
- Montgomery Parks Partnership Trainings: 11 webinar opportunities (254 registrants)
- Howard County Recreation and Parks: 1 training opportunity (44 registrants)
- 6 Professional Learning Community (PLC) Meetings (140 registrants)
- Ranger School, Recreation University, and the Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute (43 registrants)
- General Membership Meetings (227 registrants)
- CPSI Course (22 registrants)

- Total registrations: 1801

Conference- Mike Coppersmith and Sheryl Roff, Co-Chairs

Plans the MRPA Annual Conference for professionals, volunteers, board members and vendors from across the state and region. Offers a variety of educational sessions and networking opportunities, and acknowledges outstanding accomplishments of both departments and individuals.

- Welcome back to in person conference!

Director's Summit –

Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute I- Holly Harden, Chair

Develops future leaders who will take on leadership positions within their organization and in the Maryland Recreation and Park Association. Reviews applications and selects cohorts for a 8-month program focusing on several areas of leadership development.

Leadership Institute went virtual for the Winter Meetings. In January, Mary Mulvihill, Visitors Program Coordinator, Maryland General Assembly gave an overview of the legislative process and a virtual tour of the state house. Sue Simmons, Director, Caroline County Recreation and Parks, shared a presentation on professional ethics. In February, Carolyn Muller, Director, City of Gaithersburg Parks, Recreation, & Culture presentation strategies for motivating yourself and those around you and Jonathan Smink, Recreation Supervisor, Montgomery Recreation gave insight into the interviewing process.

The 24 students were divided into six teams for their final presentations. The City of Takoma Park again shared their hospitality as the host. Assistant Director, Debbie Huffman, provided invaluable logistic support. The tech and facility staff ensure they day went smoothly. Thank you to our judges, Dr. Maureen Dougherty, President Elect, Nancy Pfeffer, and SJREI Co-Chair Shawnte Berry for their time and expertise.

Many thanks to the Leadership Team of Josh VanDyken, Todd Johnson, Sara Morgan, Carrie Sprinkle, Jessica E. Cook Thomas and LaDarian Blake for their continued commitment and hard work.

Congratulations to the Ritch Stevenson Leadership Class of 2022

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- Saarah Abdul-Rauf, City of Hyattsville Recreation & Parks
- Tim Almaguer, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
- Yolanda Blackwell, Montgomery County Recreation
- Andrew Badaczewski, Montgomery Parks
- Danielle Bassett, Howard County Recreation and Parks
- Ryan Blevins, Worcester County Recreation and Parks
- Pamela Boyd, Washington County Parks and Recreation
- Rachel Carr, Montgomery Parks
- Tammy Castillo, City of Gaithersburg Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Travis Davey, Town of Ocean City Recreation and Parks
- Jessica Hardy, Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks
- Rob Holsinger, Washington County Parks and Recreation
- Antonio Jones, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
- Chris Lengle, Charles County Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Megan Merchant, M-NCPPC Prince Georges County
- Jordan Perry, City of Rockville Recreation and Parks
- Amy Quick, City of Annapolis Recreation and Parks
- Annie Sanchez, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks
- Aziz Sani, Montgomery County Recreation
- Heather Stouder, Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks
- Nate Sullivan, M-NCPPC Prince Georges County
- Keith Tapley, Frederick County Parks & Recreation
- Jeanette Thayer, DNR-Maryland Park Service
- Trevor Witcher, M-NCPPC Prince Georges County

Professional Learning Communities- Carrie Sprinkle and Derrick Thompson, Co-Chairs

Facilitates Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and works with members to identify new topic areas. PLCs are opportunities for members to join together to discuss hot topics, share best practices, and develop a network of fellow professionals in related positions and areas.

Recreation University- Julija Sajauskas, Chair