



Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 12:30 PM
Salon F,G,H
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Islandia NY

I. Meeting was called to order by President Paul Blake at 12:30 pm

II. Roll Call:

Paul Blake, President
Thomas Venniro, Past President
Jeff Myers, President Elect
Bryon Bissonette, VP of Programs and Services (A)
Kristine Zingaro, VP of Professional Development
Nathan Nagle, Treasurer
Julie LaFave, Secretary
Arne Abramowitz, Region I Representative (A)
Anthony Martino, Region I Representative
Carol Quinlivan, Region II Representative (A)
Jessica Lansing, Region II Representative (A)
Josh Haeick, Region III Representative (A)
Linanne Conroy, Region III Representative
Debra Keville, NYSOPRHP Representative

III. President Paul Blake thanked the conference delegates for their attendance at the meeting.

IV. Review and acceptance of Meeting Minutes

a) February 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes were emailed out in advance. No changes noted.
Nate made a motion to accept the February Minutes. Jeff seconded. All were in favor.

V. New Business

a. Executive Board Nominations were accepted/reviewed by the Board. With no contested positions, Paul asked Julie as Secretary to cast one vote for the proposed slate. Jeff made a motion to accept Julie's vote for the board. Linanne seconded. All were in favor.

- **President Elect** – Eric Bacon, Town of Camillus
- **Treasurer** – Nate Nagle
- **Vice President of Programs and Services** – Gregg Goodman
- **Region II Representative** – Carol Quinlivan, City of Binghamton
- **Region II Representative** – Jessica Lansing, East Greenbush

- **Region III Representative** – Linanne Conroy, Town of Penfield

b. Annual Report was presented by Tom Venniro, including reports from members of the Board. The slideshow can be found on the NYSRPS website and reports are found on the following pages.

VI. Adjourn

There being no more business at the time, a motion to adjourn was made at 1:27 by Nate and seconded by Kristine. All were in favor.



To: NYSRPS Executive Board

Re: President's Report, April, 2016

- On March 1, I gave a presentation at the New Jersey Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference. I had the opportunity to speak with several of the officers of that society, and I came away with a few ideas which we can consider for our future conferences. I will share these with Lisa, and we can then bring them to the Annual Conference Committee for consideration.*
- I have been attending the Annual Conference Committee Meetings, but unfortunately due to travel commitments, I was unable to attend the final two meetings. Gail, Ed, and Lisa have kept me in the loop, and I am very impressed with how things came together over the last three weeks. Outstanding job by all involved.*
- On April 12-14, I attended the Nevada Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference, and gave two presentations. As with New Jersey, I had the opportunity to speak with several of the officers of that society, and was able to discuss some items of mutual interest and concern. Many of the challenges we face seem to be universal, i.e. dwindling membership, agencies no longer paying for memberships, difficulty in recruiting new members, district/affiliate issues, etc. Certainly food for thought, good conversation, but unfortunately no brainstorming on how to fix these items.*
- My 'first draft' of a proposed letter of agreement between NYSRPS and the TR Licensure Committee has been reviewed, and returned to me with some suggestions for edits. I am working on the second draft, and am determined to have it completed and ready for execution at our May 19 meeting.*

MEMBER INITIATIVE – REGIONAL PARTNERS

At the February 25, 2016 NYSRPS Executive Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the renaming of the membership Districts to 'Regional Partners'. This action followed a 6-month investigation by an ad-hoc committee that President Paul Blake activated.

Following presentations to the Executive Board from a representative of the New York Council of Non-Profits (June 17, 2015 meeting) and the state society auditor (August 13, 2015 meeting), as well as question and answer sessions following both of those presentations, it was determined that some sort of action needed to take place. President Blake activated the small committee, and President-Elect Jeff Myers chaired the committee.

The primary concern from the start, and main focus of this committee, was the terminology used in the naming of the relationship categories that NYSRPS has with the local associations, specifically Districts and Affiliates. As indicated by the representative of NYCON, and the state society auditor, the term 'District' has a naturally occurring implication of a tax-collecting entity, such as a Lighting District, Sewer District, Fire District, or in our own profession, Park District. As such, there are certain expectations and requirements that districts are responsible for, including but not limited to budget sharing with the "parent" organization, and tax reporting.

The remaining two districts of the society indicated their desire to remain as autonomous organizations, separate of NYSRPS, without incorporating their budgets and running their expenses and revenues through the state society annual budget. This led to the decision that the term 'District' needed to be abandoned.

The committee met face to face on two occasions, and exchanged several emails in between, to determine a new terminology to present to the Executive Board for future use. It was decided, and therefore recommended that 'Districts' become known as 'Regional Partners' and Affiliates remain named the same. The relationships would remain the same, other than in name. That being said, the committee spent some considerable time determining what benefits would be enjoyed by each of the categories. This separation of level of benefits was unclear, and the committee felt it was important to define the differences to move forward.

Every member of NYSRPS, whether they are associated with a Regional Partner or Affiliate enjoy an extensive list of benefits as part of the membership to NYSRPS. These benefits include, but are not limited to Professional Development, Education and Training, Annual Conference and Expo, CEU's, Networking, Member Services, member-specific section of the website, Publications, Opportunity of Leadership Development in the society, and products and services.

The Value-Added of being a member of a Regional Partner include:

- Reduction of individual membership costs through dual membership. Members do not need to pay fees to their local associations as well as the state society.
- Reduction of cost of operation for the Regional Partners, through administrative duties being completed by the state society. These duties include membership mailings, billing and reporting.
- Reduction of cost through publication distribution, whether in actual print version, or staff time spent via electronic distribution.

As a final step of this process, the committee determined that some administrative changes would need to be executed, to finalize and complement the name change. These include:

- A complete list of benefits for both categories of membership has been developed, to ensure complete understanding of the differences.
- Edits to the State Society By-Laws and Manual of Procedures, to properly reference the Regional Partners.
- Suggested edits to By-Laws of the local organizations as well.
- A Regional Partner Acknowledgement Agreement has been developed for signatures.
- A full list of counties served by each Regional Partner and Affiliate is available for reference.
- The entire packet, with the full policy, has been compiled in a Presentation Format, for Executive Director Morahan to use as a recruitment tool.

Given the new name, the necessary steps to take to either level of membership and the detailed list of benefits enjoyed by both levels of membership, we feel that a much better understanding of the differences will occur from here forward. As members and their affiliate organizations consider their options, their decisions will be easier to determine.



NYSRPS Executive Board VP of Professional Services Report 2016 Annual Meeting

Strategic Plan Update (Professional Development/Resource Development):

The committee has met twice and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. We rolled out the Director Roundtable Series (Objective #9) this month. Directors were sent an initial email asking for topics that they would like to be discussed. We received approximately 10 responses from those at the Director level or above. On April 1st we sent an email out with our first question, “What impact will the minimum wage increase have on your department?” At this point, we have zero responses. The committee would like to gather all answers and make available in the Members Only section of the NYSRPS Website. We will continue to seek feedback to our questions with the hopes of opening dialogue.

We will continue to meet and work on the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Submitted by,
Kristine Zingaro
VP of Professional Services