



An Affiliate of the National Association of Counties  
and National Recreation and Park Association

## NACPRO Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 18, 2023, 3pm to 4pm, Eastern Time  
Teleconference

### 1) Introductions

X	Hezekiah Allen	X	Holli Browder	X	Kyla Brown	E	RJ Cardin	X	Paul Connell
X	Norma E. Garcia	X	Tim Laurent	X	Bill Maasen	A	Reggie Moore	X	Tim Morgan
X	Angie Nagle	X	Monique Odom	X	George Page	X	Todd Palmeter	X	Jeff Perry
X	Reed Richard	X	Nicole Rissler	A	Joe Roszak	X	Ralph Schultz	X	Rebekah Snyder
A	Chris Stice	X	Jonathan Vlaming	X	Aimee Vosper	X	Jon Woodsby	X	Brenda Adams-Weyant

**Excused absences: RJ Cardin**

**Guests: Matt Chase & Charlie Ban (NACO)**

### 2) Secretary's Report – Paul Connell

- a) Mr. Connell requested a motion to approve the October 30, 2023 minutes. Motion by Mr. Palmeter, seconded by Mr. Masen. Motion approved unanimously.

### 3) President's Report – Aimee Vosper

- a) Ms. Vosper brought the discussion on the president elect position to a close and asked for a motion. Mr. Maasen made a motion to eliminate the President Elect position Mr. Perry seconded, motion was approved unanimously.
- b) Ms. Vosper advised the board that Ms. Browder will serve as NACPRO legislative committee representative to NRPA
- c) Ms. Vosper advised the board members that the invitation from NACo was a unique opportunity to tell our stories to NACo and requested that we take the opportunity to do so.

### 4) Treasurer's Report – Nicole Rissler

- a) Ms. Rissler discussed the budget report. Total revenue was just over \$36,000 which included increases in membership, sponsorship and job listings. Total revenue was just below last year due to no banquet registrations. Expenses exceeded budget by approximately \$2,000 mainly due to website expenses but expects a credit in 2024 for website expenses. Ms. Rissler requests that we move the awards review panel expense from website to the awards category and increase award nomination fee to cover this expense. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Snyder and approved unanimously.

**5) Executive Director's Report – Brenda Adams-Weyant**

- a) Membership report: Ms. Adams-Weyant stated that two thirds of members have renewed. There are 302 members compared to 271 at this time last year. 32 new members have joined and 6 new agencies. Member Count: Associate: 5, Professional: 294, Retiree: 2, Sponsors: 2.
- b) Ms. Adams-Weyant advised committee heads to let her know if there are any additional needs that need to be added to budget.
  - Mr. Vlaming said he does not have any needs at this time but wants to collect additional data for NACo.

**6) Committee Reports/Business**

- a) Social Justice - Joe Roszak
  - No update.
- b) Legislation – Rebekah Snyder
  - No update
- c) Awards – Jeff Perry
  - Mr. Perry stated the submittal period for the Annual NACPRO Awards would begin on January 5<sup>th</sup> and go through February 18<sup>th</sup>. The selection committee will meet awards committee met on February 21<sup>st</sup> and would make final decisions by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Perry stated that he will then prepare a video for the awards ceremony in San Diego similar to last year.
- d) Professional Education – Aimee Vosper
  - Ms. Vosper advised the board that she had met with San Diego staff and was finalizing the details of the tour and education component. She was trying to ensure that the features of the tour aligned with the topics of the education sessions. Ms. Vosper encouraged everyone to make the trip to San Diego.
  - Ms. Adams-Weyant discussed promoting the meeting and making sure that staff budgeted to attend it.
- e) Bylaws – Ralph Schultz
  - Mr. Shultz discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws that were forwarded to board members which included the elimination of the president elect position, meeting attendance and committee written reports, and the elimination of the social justice committee. Mr. Schultz motioned to amend the bylaws; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vosper. Ms. Snyder requested clarification on when written committee reports were required and was advised that it was only when you cannot attend the meeting. The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.
- f) Nominations – Monique Odom
  - Monique Odom advised the Board that she had no formal report but would reschedule the November meeting in January.

**7) Liaison/Affiliate reports**

- a) NACo - Jonathan Vlaming
  - No additional information.
- b) NRPA – Holli Browder
  - Ms. Browder will be serving as the new NACPRO representative to NRPA's legislative committee. She has already been in contact with NRPA.
- c) CAPRA – Jon Woodsby
  - Mr. Woodsby's report that they were finalizing the 2024 review and visitation schedules.

**8) Open Forum/Roundtable Discussion**

- a) Ms. Garcia offered L.A. County parks to the Board members for tours. Ms. Brown asked about their new social worker positions and whether they have been able to hire people for these positions. The new positions will alleviate pressure on frontline staff. Ms. Brown was interested in seeing how it worked. Ms. Garcia stated that having their own dedicated staff gives a quicker response.

## 9) Discussion with NACo staff Matt Chase and Charlie Ban

- a) There was lively discussion between NACo board members and NACo representatives. Mr. Matt Chase is the CEO/Executive Director of NACo. He discussed coming out of COVID and need to reconnect with affiliates. He discussed how counties are serving their community and the importance of Parks and Recreation Agencies. He also discussed the need to educate officials about our importance and what we do.
- b) Ms. Nagle stated that this was a good opportunity to address issues such as homelessness and helping our elected officials understand our importance on this topic and inviting us to the table. Ms. Garcia stated that they are hiring social workers to help ranger staff with human service needs in parks. Ms. Brown said they have multidisciplinary teams to manage the homeless in parks. Ms. Snyder noted that many park districts in Illinois have hired social workers/case workers to mitigate social issue and connect vulnerable populations with services. She also stated that violence towards their staff has increased and that the Director can temporarily exclude patrons for not following rules.
- c) Mr. Connell discussed Palm Beach County's strategic priorities and how Parks and Recreation is one of the few departments that is represented on all of the 6 teams. Mr. Richard spoke about how the pandemic brought the importance of parks to light and how parks and recreation are at the table with other agencies more often.
- d) Mr. Chase asked for information on how we are all funded and if we are seeing more pressure on budgets post COVID and since demand for our services has increased. Ms. Snyder indicated that they have made more revenue this year, but noted that that federal relief funds are not available to special park districts. She also noted that their issues are more related to funding challenges such as matching funds and long-term management of open spaces. Philanthropy is not a viable solution for them. Ms. Rissler stated they have general funds, TDC and voter approved land acquisitions with 25% going to land management which sunsets in 2029. They also have special recreation funds.
- e) Mr. Chase stated that NACo has an open-door policy and they were looking for news articles as well as Parks and Recreation representation at annual conferences. They also stated to let them know if there are any Federal policy issues that we are working on.
- f) Mr. Vlaming felt that there is potential for a grass roots networking effort on behalf of parks issues and the potential for a NACo ad hoc committee on parks issues. He will reach out to Mr. Chase on help with issues related to Federal legislation. He also stated that the NACo data book has little park data and that NACPRO could help with that. Mr. Vlaming stated that the current home of parks policy plank is the Environment, Energy and Land Use Subcommittee. In the past parks policy resolutions for consideration by NACo have been spread out across multiple committees, and that it would be ideal to have one "home" for parks issues and education. Mr. Chase recommends NACo's Healthy Counties Initiative is a good place to talk about parks role in healthy behaviors.
- g) Mr. Chase finished by stating that they want to be good partners and are interested in sharing data and helping with our practices and pain points.

## 10) Next Meeting

February 26, 2024 – teleconference

April 29, 2024, 3:00 pm ET

June 2, 2024 - Annual Meeting

August 26, 2024, 3:00 pm ET

October 28, 2024, 3:00 pm ET

December 16, 2024, 3:00 pm ET