

Texas Recreation & Park Society
Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting—February 28, 2009
Radisson/Town Lake—Austin, TX
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Armistead called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The roll was called by Dr. Michal Anne Lord.

Board members Present: President Robert Armistead, President-Elect Monica Sue Walsh, Past President Doug Evans, At Large Directors Pam Nelson and Randy Truesdell, and Dr. Michael Schuett (Academic), Larry Offerdahl (Region 1), Julie Adkins (2), Jenn Gomez (3), Brooks Smith (4), Danny Castro (5), Stacie Talbert (6), Janet Martin (7), Carl White (8), Scott Swigert (9), Susan Gerred (AA), Jennifer Harnish (Citizen), Tommy Harper (Commercial), Linda Long, (LA), Joseph Wiggs (MILS), Tomara Rock (Students), Mark Lord (TAAF) and Walt Dabney (TPW). There were twenty-three (23) members present, establishing a quorum for the meeting.

Guests and Staff: Melissa Lockwood (2009 TEX-tern); Joanna Mesecke and Mendy Marshall (2009 Institute Co-Chairs); Kristen Mueller (Student Branch President-Elect); Sheila Walker (Awards/Citations); Brad Griggs (Legislative Committee); Rick Wieland and Marcy Jones (Friso/2010 Institute); Mike Hernandez, David Melaas, and Richard Krause (McAllen/2011 Institute); Deidre Flores, Mike Levy, and Sarah Grady (Student Development Committee) and Abby Morales (Promotions/Marketing).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13, 2008

Larry Offerdahl moved to approve the minutes as written and presented; Pam Nelson was the second. The motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS

- President Armistead thanked the City of Austin for their hospitality and a job well done.
- President-Elect Walsh also extended her thanks to everyone that contributed to the 2009 Institute and Tradeshow.
- Past-President Evans noted he had given his report at the Awards Dinner, but repeated his appreciation to all for a great year and conference.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Progress/Status Report** was given orally by Dr. Lord rather than written; highlights included:
 - **Consortium for Therapeutic Recreation/Activities Certification (CTRAC)** ... TRAPS has taken over the day-to-day operations/management of the certification program. Focus of staff efforts has been on making the transition and working to get their files and procedures in order, including assisting with the clean up of data base, support to their Board etc.
 - **NPSI** ... a NPSI course and exam will be held in Grapevine, April 13-15. Texas has already met the minimum and looks to potentially reach maximum enrollment. A NPSI course and exam will be held in San Antonio, October 26-28th.
 - **Publications** ... plans are being finalized with respect to producing the first TRAPS publication beyond our magazine, directory or e-newsletter. TRAPS will publish *Public Input Process for Parks and Recreation Planning* by Craig W. Kelsey and Samuel "Butch" DeFillippo. Publications is existing stream of revenue, but during the past years with out-sourcing the magazine and directory and going digital with newsletter, TRAPS has had only minimum advertising revenue in newsletter associated with publication revenue. Publications like *Public Input: Process for Parks and Recreation Planning* serves an educational purpose and is in keeping with our mission and 501c3 status. Books will be out by early summer.
 - **Water & Recreation Summit** ... the second Texas Water and Recreation Summit will be held in Grapevine and Fort Worth on April 16 and 17. The Summit includes both field experiences (Lake Grapevine and the Trinity River) and class room educational sessions to be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine. The focus of the 2009 Summit is on Water Recreation.
- **Financial Report** ... Dr. Lord noted that the financial report included in packet was the end-of-the-year report for FY2008. The Report reflects a substantial revenue increase over budget due to the outstanding sponsorship program of the 2008 Institute, institute registration and membership. Expenses were greater than budgeted but the net result was \$55,034 to the good (a 1,195% over budgeted).

The 2009 Budget year is really just underway ... most of TRAPS annual expenses are associated with the institute and the majority of bills are yet to come in; and not all revenue has been realized. A report could have been provided but it would only have reflected one month's operation with minimal expenses incurred.

- **Membership Report** ... Dr. Lord called the board's attention to the Membership Report, which reflected the membership benchmark of exceeding 2200. TRAPS had reached that number some ten years ago; but having gone through the purging of the database in 2006, reaching and surpassing 2200 was significant. The total membership of 2,236 is a solid number, for which TRAPS is receiving and reporting appropriate revenue.

ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approval of 2009-2010 Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs** ... President Armistead and President-Elect Walsh presented to the Board of Directors their list of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs with one correction to add Roger Crawford as Co-Chair to the Awards Committee. Randy Truesdell moved to accept the proposed Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs as amended and Brooks Smith was the second. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Revision to Student Membership** ... Christian Moore, on behalf of the Student Development Committee submitted revisions to the Student Branch By-Laws with respect to membership/representation on their board e.g. how to fill vacancies, particularly the President-Elect position. The Branch By-laws only provided for filling a vacancy by electing a new president at the Institute, which minimizes any preparation for assuming responsibilities as a TRAPS Board member. The proposed amendment would empower the Student Development Commit to act to fill a vacancy by either: 1) offering the position to the other qualified candidate who ran in the original election (similar to what is done for other TRAPS Board vacancies); or 2) conducting a special election if needed. NOTE: Revisions basically brings the document into agreement with practice over the past six (6) years. Tommy Harper moved to accept the amendments to the Student Branch Constitution (Article II Section 1 and Article 3 Section 1 and 3) and By Laws (Articles II and III) as proposed. Doug Evans made the second. Motion was approved.

C. **Approval of Manual of Procedures Revisions** ... Pam Nelson/Randy Truesdell presented the proposed changes to the TRAPS Manual of Procedures (MOP), which are taken from agenda action items or other actions taken by the TRAPS Board of Director since November 2007, when the last revisions to the MOP were completed and approved. Mr. Truesdell explained the process that was followed e.g. reviewing Board Minutes and Action Item sheets. Six major areas were in need of updates:

- Revisions to Student Membership (approved 3-29-08)
- Revisions to Membership Rate (approved 8-08-08)
- Bylaws Amendment/Electronic Voting (Approved 8-08-08)
- Acceptance of the Succession Plan (Approved on 8-08-08)
- Annual Awards (Approved 11-13-08)

Susan Gerred made the motion to accept the revisions to the TRAPS Manual of procedures as presented and written in the board packet. Janet Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. **Institute 2009 Planning Committee** ... Joanna Mesecke/Mendy Marshall, on behalf of the Austin Delegation thanked the TRAPS Board for the privilege of serving as the 2009 Institute Host. The Austin department got to have the opportunity to asses the skills and potential of a number of their employees. Michal Lord provided some preliminary numbers to the Board:

- Delegate registration appears to be similar to San Angelo (2008)
- Introductory Memberships were down
- Number of educational sessions and speakers were up
- Vendors/exhibits -118 companies with 174 booths (50% increase from 2008) and 260 exhibitors ... it appears that we are retaining about 75% of the vendors.
- 100+ volunteers which included 60 students
- Grand total of folks involved – 1200+
- Sponsorship pledges were about 87% of 2008 ... with an exceptionally high *In-Kind* yet to be determined

B. **Institute 2010 Planning Committee** ... Marcy Jones congratulated the 2009 host on a wonderful conference and announced the dates for the 2010: **March 3-6 at the Frisco Conference Center** (the entire facility is on hold at this time). The Embassy Suites would be the host hotel. The theme/logo for the conference was unveiled at the Awards Dinner—*A League of Our Own*. They have already begun working on sponsorships. The City of Frisco will be utilizing others within Region 2/3 for support.

C. **Site Selection for 2012 Institute** ... President Armistead reported that the selection of 2012 Institute site will be the major focus of the May meeting, where the board can give the attention that is deserved. Finalist will make presentations to the board and the Institute Selection Committee will make their recommendations. The Board meeting will be held in San Antonio in conjunction with the *TAAF/TRAPS Sports Management School* at the Holiday Inn Downtown Market Square; the Board decided to hold its meeting on **Friday, May 8 from 1:00-5:00 pm.**

D. **Legislative Update** ... Brad Griggs reported on the “walk the Halls” event (*Park Day at the Capitol*). He noted that the Legislative Reception went well and Senator Ellis did a good job highlighting what might be before the Texas Legislature this year. Brad then spotlighted a few potential bills including:

- Designated funding potential sponsors Ellis and Hildebrandt
- New bill via Royce West re: spraygrounds and re-circulated water
- 20% of the Sporting Goods Tax funds to be designated for beach erosion (sponsored by Sen. Estes)

There would be more bills to come since the filing deadline was not until March 24th; but to date 3,300 had been filed. Brad noted that about 66% of the bills come from the House side and a third from the Senate side. The major focus of the Legislative Committee will be to get members to communicate with their legislators, e.g. getting emails to legislators via e-blast alerts etc. Mobilizing the TRAPS grassroots has been highly effective in the past.

E. **NRPA & SW Region Update** ... Danny Castro reported that the Southwest Regional Council met while at the Institute; and will continue to meet at the TRAPS Institute. Point of discussion is how office/representatives are selected for TRAPS to NRPA e.g. Texas representation. Texas has 12 seats; the Council’s Executive Board is not from the Council membership that is not figured against the 12 slots. The Council is seeking a Secretary. A task force has been appointed to study membership and Danny will represent the Southwest.

Dr. Lord noted:

- NRPA Mid-year Legislative Forum would be held March 17-20 and about 10-12 Texans were going.
- The National Institute on Recreation Inclusion (NIRI) would be held in San Antonio September 9-11
- 2009 NRPA Congress early bird registration begins March 10th
- NRPA has gone to a universal session proposal form that standardizes the information needed/requested for all schools and conferences. It also means that an individual might submit a proposal for one educational opportunity but in fact their proposal might be reviewed and considered for other educational opportunities/venues of NRPA.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS’ REPORTS (*Written Reports Requested*)

A. **Texas Amateur Athletic Federation** ... Mark Lord thanked Austin and TRAPS for their support and great response and location for their Directors Social. TAAF has already begun looking at sites in Frisco and wants to be supportive of TRAPS, not a conflict. The 2009 Winter Games had 4,300 participants, which was the largest ever. Summer Games are anticipated to serve 9k and San Antonio is a great venue. The TAAF/TRAPS Sports Management School/SMS University will be held May 6-8 in San Antonio. TAAF was currently looking for Summer Games liaisons.

B. **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department** ... Walt Dabney noted that it had been a great conference. He stated that this legislative session has parks in a better place, although economics are uncertain. Texas is 50th in per capita spending on state parks (Louisiana is 23 and Arkansas is 5; Oklahoma and New Mexico are both in the top 10) ... this is a grave situation given tourism is the Texas’ #2 industry.

The departments *Outdoor Family Program* is going great guns and may be the spark to getting the next generation out to know and enjoy our natural resources. The Big Bend Ranch will open the first week in May.

Hurricane Ike took out two parks entirely, which will be rebuilt but it will take time (3-5 years) since it means starting completely over. TPW has requested 2.5% of budget to help with the IKE Damage and 2 million of line item budget that had not been expended in 2008 (“earmarks”). Walt reminded folks they can fish for free in state parks.

DIRECTORS’ REPORTS (*Written Reports Requested*)

A. **Region 1** ... Larry Offerdahl submitted a written report.

B. **Region 2/3** ... Julie Adkins and Jenn Gomez noted that the Region 2/3 Golf tournament, annual workshop and maintenance rodeo were very successful this past year. The regions are now endeavoring to book the Region 2/3 Workshop two years out given the size of their annual conference. The 2009 will be in Fort Worth at the Texas Motor Speedway and 2010 to be held in Garland.

C. **Region 4** ... Brooks Smith reported that transitioning efforts were underway from Cheryl Bright West to him. He noted that Cheryl and the City of Houston had done an excellent job with the regional workshop (January 16th) that had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Ike.

D. **Region 5/7** ... Danny Castro and Janet Martin ... stated that the 2008 regional workshop in Round Rock was the largest in some time, if not perhaps ever. The exciting news was that so many cities (18) jumped in to assist with the planning and implementation of the regional workshop. Schertz will be the site for the 2009 Region 5 & Workshop on November 13th. They noted they enjoyed going GREEN and were HAPPY!

E. **Region 6** ... Stacie Talbert announced that the Laredo Parks & Recreation Department did a great job in hosting the annual workshop and maintenance rodeo. They had really turnout a large number of sponsorships, which helped to get the region out of its deficit.

F. **Region 8** ... Carl White reported that the city of Abilene would host the 2009 Tri-Region workshop on behalf of Region 8. The Tri-Region benefits from a very cooperative team. He noted that he would be working on encouraging membership and committee involvement over the next several months.

G. **Region 9** ... Scott Swigert dittoed Carl's comments.

H. **At-Large Directors** ... Pam Nelson/Randy Truesdell noted that they had had a good turnout for the "First timers" orientation session and that it was important to have the TRAPS leadership in attendance. They thanked those who attended.

I. **Academic At-Large Director** ... Mike Schuett said he was too new to have a report, but would in the future.

BRANCH REPORTS (*Written Reports Requested*)

A. **Athletics/Aquatics** ... Susan Gered noted that the Institute golf Tournament coordinated by the Athletics/Aquatics Branch had 119 golfers—the largest ever. The 2009 winners were drawn from a hat, which added to the recreational outcomes desired by the tournament coordinators. The tournament was a financial success. The TAAF/TRAPS Sports Management School (SMS University) would be held in early May (6 & 7) in San Antonio. There will be three tracks (1st, 2nd year and Maintenance).

B. **Citizen Board** ... Jennifer Harnish thanked the Institute Planning Committee for having a Citizens Day; and that the sessions were very good. Efforts continue to get citizens involved in TRAPS; there had been a good number of citizens involved with the TRAPS walking the halls (Parks Day at the Capitol) on Tuesday and at the Legislative Reception. She noted she would be encouraging citizens to attend the Water & Recreation Summit in the Ft. Worth/Grapevine area as well.

C. **Commercial** ... Tommy Harper reported that most vendors were pleased with the 2009 Trade Show; and that everyone loved the facility i.e., the parking, access etc. Vendors on the outer edges of the exhibit hall (rows that had originally been on hold) felt they were in close quarters and out of the traffic flow. TRAPS needs to send out evaluations and outline the process for next year.

D. **Leisure/Aging** ... Linda Long noted that the branch was striving to become more active; and had held/participated in a Senior Summit in Corpus Christi. Appropriate sessions were being held at regional workshops and that the Leisure & Aging members in Region 2/3 were meeting quarterly, about 30 folks; and some members would be participating in Arthritis Workshops being held around the state.

E. **Minorities in Leisure Services** ... Joseph Wiggs stated that the branch would be hosting a workshop in Fort Worth (September 11-12) focusing on entry and mid-level employees. They would also be hosting their first Golf Tournament in May also to be held in Fort Worth. The Branch Social, a Luau, was a lot of fun with a good turnout showing up at the Doris Miller Auditorium on Thursday evening.

F. **Parks Operations & Planning** ... Kevin Mitchell was not in attendance; however, Josh Harper reported the branch and the State Maintenance rodeo was growing and that efforts over the next year will be to standardize the process for regional and state maintenance rodeos.

G. **Students** ... Tomara Rock reported the volleyball fundraiser was huge success with ten (10) teams officially entered. Grapevine was the winner. Good spectator support and plans are underway for 2010 for something similar, perhaps kickball.

H. **Therapeutic Recreation** ... NO REPORT ... Dr. Lord noted that the annual TR Summit will once again be back at Camp for All in mid to late August. Dr. Lord also reported that Jackie Vaughan-Williams was seriously ill and that the board should keep her in their thought and prayers. She would certainly appreciate cards and notes, but was doing little communications by phone or email.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Danny Castro and seconded by Tommy Harper. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am