



**Annual Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2014 • Minot, ND**

Board Members Present: RaNae Jochim, president; Wayne Beyer, past president; Darin Krueger, president elect; Craig Bjur, secretary/treasurer; Ron Merritt, public policy chair; and Dana Schaar Jahner, executive director.

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m.

The June 19, 2014, meeting minutes were approved (Beyer, Sam Larson-Frobig MSC).

Bjur reviewed the financials; the checking/savings/conference account balance is \$86,427.03. Although a \$5,800 net loss (excluding the Economic Contribution Study funds) was projected for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, \$10,800 in net income is anticipated. The financials were approved as presented (Dave Leker, Tyler Jacobson MSC).

Board, Committee and Staff Reports

External Affairs: Krueger thanked everyone for submitting a record number of award nominations this year.

Internal Affairs: Bjur reported the committee will continue efforts to encourage small park boards to attend the state conference.

Public Policy: Merritt expressed appreciation for the Governor's participation in the Roundtable to discuss his Task Force on Property Tax Reform and draft legislation regarding park district levy consolidation. Schaar Jahner reviewed the following pending legislative issues:

- Notice of more than zero increase property tax rate
- Elimination of mills
- State paid property tax relief
- Voter approval of bond issues at primary or general elections
- \$2 million request for community grant program funding

Also, NDRPA is neutral on the Clean Water, Wildlife & Parks constitutional ballot measure.

Midwest Network: Kuntz reported the 2015 conference will be in Grand Junction, Colo., on April 26-28.

Forestry Liaison: Leker shared a ND Forest Service grant handout and encouraged members to apply.

Executive Director: Schaar Jahner asked members to share how many people from their agencies are attending NRPA Congress in October. She reported the new *Professional Directory* has been distributed.

Old Business

The University Recreation Program Task Force reported it has prepared a letter to the ND Board of Higher Education asking them to continue the University of North Dakota's Recreation & Tourism Studies program; all agency directors are invited to sign the letter.

Jeff Heisler reported on the Track Meet Program Task Force convened to look into a NDRPA-sponsored state track program to replace Hershey's. There is consensus among several park districts to continue

the program, so the Task Force is looking into potential sponsors and also any insurance requirements. It is anticipated the 2015 state track meet will be held June 20 in Fargo.

The following bylaws changes were approved (Larson-Frobig, Elly DesLauriers MSC):

- Remove the quarterly meeting requirements and provide instead for member meetings as called by the board.
- Remove the president and past president from the External Affairs and Internal Affairs Committees respectively and provide that four to six NDRPA members will serve on each of the two committees (increased from three members).
- Change the organization's fiscal year from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 to a calendar year.
- Replace the Arts and Humanities award with the Innovative Programming Award.

Krueger and Bjur reviewed the 2014-2015 work plan and budget. Krueger noted the work plan has not changed significantly from last year. Bjur reported there is a three-month transition budget for October-December 2014 and then a 2015 budget due to the approved fiscal year change. Both budgets, which are approximately breakeven, were approved (Beyer, DesLauriers MSC).

Jochim reported the board supports a new contract with Clearwater Communications, which would combine the legislative support services into the executive director contract. The new contract for 70-75 hours per month at \$2,925 per month for October 2014 through December 2015 was approved (Bob Gillen, Dennis Nybo MSC).

New Business

The slate of officers proposed by the Internal Affairs Committee (President Elect – Craig Bjur; Secretary/Treasurer – George Hellyer) was approved unanimously (Tim Kuntz, Kevin Klipfel MSC).

Jochim reported that expanded training opportunities will be the focus of new member meetings, which will replace quarterly meetings.

Next Meeting

Parks Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Feb. 12, 2015, in Bismarck.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.