

VRPS NORTHERN SERVICE AREA

December 11, 2023

TEAMS

Meeting Minutes

Mission: Develop Park and recreation leaders in the Northern Service Area through collaboration, networking, and education while supporting the overall objectives of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society.

Vision: We will be a service area inclusive of the diverse jurisdictions and responsibilities in the Northern Service Area to collaborate and expand the knowledge and resources available to all current and future members.

11-11:30 a.m.

- **Welcome**
 - Review October Meeting notes
- **Board Liaison Report - VRPS Leadership Orientation (Brian Gannon)**- met in Lousia and great turn out from around the state and regions. Lots of fun. The strategic plan will roll out sometime next month. Also got a sneak peak of the new logos.
- **Resource & Specialty Group Reports:**
 - Resource Groups
 - [Aquatics](#) – December 13th, 1:30 pm
 - Park Operations - no new dates
 - Senior Programming Meeting - December 14 at 2:30 p.m. Virtual Members Meeting - 2024 Ideas and Senior Special Events.
 - Special Events and Marketing - no new dates
 - Therapeutic Recreation - no new dates
 - Health and Wellness - no new dates
 - Outdoor Recreation - no new dates (not posted on web)
 - Young Professionals - Update 35 and under or under 7 years in the profession January 22 (3rd Monday of the month usually)
 - DEI Resource Group – December 13, 23 - Kat Fish to send link to join. Currently in the process of researching and looking at what other DEI commissions look like in other state associations for parks and recreation. We are also looking for a few people to take on some leadership and lead the group to help us move onto the next steps. Anticipating the next steps will be coming up with a purpose statement for the group and whether the group will be an established resource group.
 - Awards
 - Specialty Groups
 - Camp Coalition Informal group – had a great meeting and went over time. Lots of ideas and everyone getting information/resources.
- **Chairperson's Report: (Roberta Korzen)**
 - Recruiting an events and marketing subcommittee. Please reach out to Sarah Oberther if interested.
 - Survey coming out on locations and topics for 2024. Hoping to share the results at January social.
- **Communications Chair Report (Sarah Oberther)** - January 12 social make sure to sign up. It will be at Vienna Community Center. Will be utilizing the teen center that has lots of cool features such as air hockey, foosball, twister, shuffleboard etc.
- **Review & Treasurer's Report (Derrick Cowles)** . In process of finalizing the end of year. We are going to see from the funds how many scholarships that we can offer for next year. Also, important to make sure

once the scholarships are approved that people apply for them. Overall the budget looks great and just hoping to increase numbers so we can have more funds for different activities for 2024.

- **Subcommittees:**
 - Sponsorship Committee Update - Chezia Galloway was working on reaching out to local Vienna restaurants for our social to sponsor lunch.

11:30 a.m. -12 p.m.

Around the Room

- Lovettsville Community Center – wrapping up winter events. Had our lantern festival and lantern making workshop which is a German tradition. Had a parade where we walked down to the town square and then had a tree lighting. Have a couple of 100 people come for that event. Getting ready for our holiday programs for preschool and childcare. Then we have camps over winter break.
- Chezia Galloway – PRCS is doing an across department event preparing for the International Festival which will be on Feb 4th. It has been a few years since we had this festival. We had started branching off and doing our Latino festivals at various centers, but this event will bring all the functions areas together for a larger event.
- Douglas Community Center – we are working on a partnership with Lucketts Community Center, and we are doing a Christmas Eve Santa visits where we visiting different homes and deliver presents and spend time with families. Holly Jolly skate night on Dec 16th we have had a lot of success with outdoor skating. This event will also have smores, hot cocoa and hot cider to enjoy. We have a variety of preschool holiday events. Lastly, we have had a successful partnership with LCPS where we went to two high schools back in the fall and took out PRCS-on-the-go event there. We are continuing that and taking it to indoor high school basketball games at Heritage High School and Tuscarora High School.
- Amy Young – early childhood education specialist with PRCS. We have had a big year launching a new streaming three curriculum across 43 preschool and childcare classrooms. Also, we have taken the initiative not only for professional development for teachers but also for our families. We have a family summit coming up in January to teach our families about streaming three. We have also been in a practice year for VQB5 for some of our classrooms. They have been participating in class observations and have been scoring high across the state.
- Michelle Aktin – Arlington - we have our big January Event Paint to Create which is STEM community wide family event which has done well for years. Winter break camps will open next week. Those are the bigger county wide pieces.
- Emilie Shumate – FCPA – currently planning for summer camps 2024. We have 40 winter break camps running for the first week and still finagling second week numbers. We have almost 1600 individual weeks of camps to include summer, spring break, teacher work days and winter break. Registration for summer will open on January 23rd.
- Megan Mauk – City of Falls Church currently planning for summer camps and registration will be in early Feb. We also have our Watch Night coming up on New Years Eve big event that our events person is working on.
- Town of Vienna – Derrick – winter break camps coming up and working on summer camp schedule. Lily – wrapping up holiday events we have a cookies with Santa event which is a sellout. We have a shine bright holiday decorating contest with businesses, residents, and a people’s choice award. People

can pick their favorites; we had the highest engagement in voting this year. Working towards are spring and summer events. Continuing the tradition of our partnership with Fairfax City and Falls Church for the Mayors Fitness Challenge Event, which is where there 3 localities get together and our residents register, the highest average number of active minutes during 8-week challenge wins.

- Brian Gannon – Reston Community Center – gearing up for summer camp registration kicks off Feb 1st preceding that Saturday January 27th we our annual camp expo. Lots of public and nonprofit camp providers in the northern part of Fairfax County attend and lots of activities to do. Also we have a couple of positions opening up assistant director and a box office manager for our theater. Also just wanted to throw out VRPS Leadership Training Institute is coming up in April at Wintergreen it is one of the premier leadership programs in the country.

- Roberta Korzen – FCPA – working on our gold medal application. We have a first hike photo contest coming up on January 1st and we encourage anyone to send us photos of them doing things in our parks on Jan 1st. We had our marketing and communications team formed last year. Have a part time photographer that was recently hired and a new graphic designer in the works. A public relations manager that will be starting soon. The marketing and communications director interviews are underway.

- Sarah Oberther – FCPA – we are deep in the holiday season, but we still have bigger events at Burke Lake on weekends through the 24th and then on Fridays and Saturdays we Holiday at the Farm which is our signature night event. have hot coco. Holiday Concert on Sully Historic site. We also have lots of astronomy fests, winter is a great time to star gaze and we have lots of events for that.