

South  Suburban  
**Park & Recreation**  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2022  
Oak Forest Park District, 11:00am

**Introductions:** Members said their name and the agency they are from.

**Call to Order** – 11:03am

**President's Report** – It is great to see so many of you here today. Thanks for coming out! I will be meeting with the Executive Director of IPRA tomorrow. There is an agreement between SSPRPA and IPRA, a reciprocating agreement for an affiliate. We are going through that agreement tomorrow so I will update you on that next month on any of those changes or additions.

**President Elect Report** – Happy March! We are going to be sending out the email for everyone to vote for next year, we have President Elect that is open. I reached out to a couple of people but we do not have too much interest in it. If anyone wants to run for President Elect, please reach out and let me know. A couple of people were asking about the commitment and we can go over that. It is not overwhelming. It is a time commitment in that you have to come to meetings, but it is not that bad so don't be afraid to get involved. We need people to get involved with South Suburban. If you haven't been receiving the emails or someone in your District's hasn't been receiving the emails, please make sure we have your correct emails.

Kevin: Keep in mind, in order to vote per the bylaws you have to be a paid member in good standing.

**Past President Report** – Thank you for the Legislative breakfast. There was a bunch of people on there so it was nice to see some faces on Zoom. Much better in person. They did a great job putting that together this year.

**Secretary's Report** – The February minutes are posted on the website.

Motion to approve the February meeting minutes: Meghan Tinley Park District, Second: Keith Blomberg, New Lenox Park District. Motion carries

**Treasurer's Report** – The February treasurer's report is posted on the website. The beginning balance as of February 1<sup>st</sup> \$17,803.92. Our credits for the month totaled \$638.85 and it was basically workshop dues and a refund for returned products from the social. Our total debits for the month totaled \$301.97 and that was for IPRA CEU's for the workshop as well as t-shirts for the full members. Our ending balance as of February 28, 2022 is \$18,140.80.

Kevin: Any discussion on the Treasurer's report? We will file that report for audit.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Athletics (Keith Blomberg)** – We met February 28 and had 7 in attendance. We talked about the IPRA Conference; what sessions we liked and what we didn't like. We talked about summer programs and new programs that we are doing. We talked about Covid updates with masks being optional for a lot of programs now and we are seeing an increase in registration numbers. Our next meeting is March 21 at 11 am via Zoom.
- **Awards (Rachel Bauer & Kristine Wahlgren)** – It is time to start nominating people. You should have received an email with the list of the awards and the qualifications. I

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was trying to be Green and did not print a lot of copies, but I did leave at least one at every table, so if you need an extra one, let me know. We are looking for Young Professional of the Year and Professional of the Year. Things have changed slightly, so please look at the criteria and make sure the person meets it. We will need two things; a narrative specifically explaining why the candidate meets the qualifications as well as a letter of reference and one of those has to be from a direct supervisor or Executive Director of your agency. You have until Friday, March 18. In case you didn't read about it, it comes with money. A \$500 educational scholarship for both awards, so the Young Professional is provided by the Wilson Family Public Servant Fund and SSPRPA is going to do the Professional of the Year. It is an educational reimbursement, so it is not a \$500 check, but it will help out you and you agency as well. Email me with the information by Friday, March 18.

- **Day Camp/Teens (Meghan Fenlon)** - We met last month and we are going to meet again on March 17. Information went out today on whether it is going to be live or via Zoom, but if you are not getting the information, we are going to be touching on staffing, field trips, in-house visitors, if there is any restrictions in place, and anything anyone wants to bring up. As a side note of that committee we do Day Camp Workshop. Day Camp Workshop is a large training we do for your staff and it is going to be Friday, June 3 at the Tinley Park Park District. We are in the process of meeting if you would like to join that committee. Our next meeting is the 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Tinley Park Park District. Some information will go out shortly after that with some save the date details. If you are interested in sending staff and would like some more information, just let me know.
- **Diversity (Keith Wallace & Nikki Gotsch)** –We just have our presentation about SRA's today and we will continue our normal meetings after the next General meeting.
- **Early Childhood (Karen Cooper, Scott Gray, Kelly Matson)** - We met on February 17. We talked about open houses and registration for the coming year. A lot of Park Districts are seeing an increase in enrollment. We talked about our end of year activities; most people are doing outdoor picnic and graduation combination. We talked about how everyone is going mask optional.
- **Facilities (Chris Finn & Rachel Bauer)** – We met on February 23 and we talked about rentals; indoor and outdoor. Next meeting is March 23 at 1:30 pm via Zoom. The topic will be patron and staff behavior and rule enforcement. The Zoom links for the next two meetings are on the website. The next two meetings will be via Zoom, the last meeting will possibly be in person.
- **Legislative (Hollice Clark & Greg Lewis)**- Our next meeting is on March 14. We had the virtual legislative breakfast, which we were 1 of 5 regional ones. There is normally 12. South Suburban and Tinley Park, thanks for hosting it. We had 12 legislators there and 7 spoke. Tuesday night down in Springfield we had our networking social there were about 30 people that attended. We had Senator Connor which is 43<sup>rd</sup> District and Senator

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Joyce is the 40<sup>th</sup> District. I think what we are doing at the legislative level is actually very effective we just need to get back to in person.

**Greg Lewis** – gave a Legislative update. He distributed copies of and discussed Jason Anselment's (IAPD General Counsel) Power Point Presentation on Legislative Update on Hot Issues at the Capitol.

- **Membership/Publicity (Jason Braglia & Beth Nagel)** – no report
- **Professional Development (Olga Viano & Beth Nagel)** – Last week we had our second workshop with Bobbi Nance. It was a good presentation and we definitely going to continue to offer two workshops- a year for CEU's and extra educational opportunities. I have been working on securing locations for next year. Looking for a few more locations for next year. I try to change it up and get different agencies involved. Looking at different education session next year. I reached out to Roz and Jed. They were at conference, so reaching out to them about interactive staff training session. Also looking at a marketing panel. Cate from Oak Lawn had attended a good session at conference, so trying to piggy back off of that. If you have any ideas, please let me know.
- **School Age (Rebecca Perkaus)** - We met on February 25 at 1 pm. We talked about cost effective ways we show gratitude towards our staff and retain staff. We also talked about structure of our before and after school programs, program evaluations and surveys, and spring break camps. Our next meeting is March 25 via Zoom. We are switching to in person in April and we will be going to Homewood Flossmoor.
- **Social (Erin Cortilet)** – Absent/will be scheduling a meeting in a couple of weeks to firm up the details for the May social
- **Special Events (Eric Sloyan)** - We met this past Tuesday and we went over our egg hunts and where we order our Easter eggs from and other spring events. Our next meeting will be April 12 via Zoom. We will be discussing the events coming up this summer. I am looking for a new co-chair so if anyone is interested let me know.
- **Sponsorship/Marketing (Amy Maher & Jason Braglia)** - We met on February 15 and we discussed different technology to increase engagement to push out marketing out there. Our next meeting is March 15.
- **Student (Delaney Harty)** – Absent/report submitted. They met February 15 following the virtual student meeting. They discussed the evaluation of the student meeting as well as alternative outreach methods of gaining more student members. Student scholarship deadline has been extended to March 31 in order to collect more applicants. All the information is on the website. Email Delaney with any questions. There will be no March meeting.



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**Old Business**

- Strategic Plan

Chris Finn: The group met a couple of weeks ago. I was unable to make the meeting, but I spoke with Tom and he was compiling information that was done from that meeting and we will be setting up a meeting to get the questionnaire out.

**New Business**

- 501(c)3 Status

As we were going through this process with IPRF and the Wilson Family, we realized South Suburban did not have any official 501(c)3 status which is a requirement for what we are doing right now with those two entities. Jason has been doing a lot of work getting that situated with the IRS. I have worked with the Secretary of State to get all of our information to forward to the IRS, so hopefully in the next 90-100 days we should be receiving that official designation.

Jason: Once we are officially a 501(c)3 we will have to submit yearly documentation

**Sponsor –**

**Split the Pot -**

**Announcements –** Marie Piotrowski/Lemont Park District: I have started an unofficial, but hopefully it will become an official committee later this year. It is an Adult & Senior Programming committee. We just had our first meeting yesterday, so I got a feel of what everyone wanted to get out of the committee, resources we use for programming as well as the status of everyone's adult/senior programming. Our next meeting will be April 13 at 10:30 am via Zoom. If you are interested in joining or if someone at your district is interested, let me know and I can add you to the email list.

Kevin Miller: Thank you Cindy and Oak Forest and your staff for hosting us today! Also, the people that are here for the panel for Special Rec, thank you for coming out.

**Adjournment –** Motion to adjourn the meeting: Lauren Koszola, Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Department, Second by: Chris Finn from Park District of Lagrange.

Meeting adjourned: 11:37am