

**Virginia Recreation and Park Society
Central Service Area Meeting - Feb. 15, 2018
Colonial Heights
Minutes**

Minutes approved at the
April 5, 2018 meeting.

Attendees: Kim Turner, Matt Spruill, Marlie Creasey-Smith, Sharon Entsminger, Paul Wilmoth, Mark Pinney, Aaron Reidmiller, Jeff Bona, Heather Clement, Marie Sicola, Nil Patel, Chris Walters, CJ Daniel, AJ Barksdale, Tom Gates

Business Meeting

Nil called the Business Meeting to order.

Roundtable introductions.

Chair and Chair-Elect appointments: Fred Birchett resigned as CSA Chair. He is leaving his position in Essex in June. Aaron nominated Nil to serve as Chair for 2018, seconded by Kim. Executive Committee voted to appoint Nil as Chair for 2018.

Marlie Creasey-Smith expressed interest in the Chair-Elect position. Executive Committee voted to appoint Marlie as Chair-Elect.

Minutes from the Dec. 2017 meeting were approved with amendments.

Review of CSA budget: No changes at this time. Annual Conference might call upon service areas for more financial support than in previous years.

New Business: Heather was appointed to keep CSA website and Facebook up to date. Marie was appointed to keep the CSA blog active. Jeff Bona was appointed to serve as Treasurer. By-laws review needed. Henrico volunteered to review by-laws and bring edits to next meeting.

CSA Group Meeting

Roundtable introductions.

Chair's Report:

Senior Games – might be double the number of athletes participating due to being a qualifying year for the national event, approx. 30 sports

Annual Conference in November in Henrico

LTI – April 15-17 at Wintergreen, 7 openings left. Good speaker line-up. Maximum 65 students

Nov. 3 – Golf Tournament at conference, taking 20 teams

Professional Development Opportunities: Hands-On Athletic Field workshops coming up. Four across the state, March 14 in Henrico

Cunningham Recreation will be hosting free playground safety and design workshop, plus an opportunity to apply for grant funds to build playground, dates to be announced soon
Webinar on Awards Program March 21, 10 am. Some changes in categories. There was discussion on ideas for Awards Committee. Members can send ideas to that committee.

What 2018 should look like:

One of Nil's goals is to make meetings meaningful and interactive. Connect and network with others. Meeting locations are needed for April and August. Smaller localities might be a good location. King William and Dinwiddie were mentioned as possible locations.

Board Liaison to CSA– Kim Turner

Invite others to attend meetings.

Idea to take a photo of CSA members at Annual Conference, prior to banquet
Service Area can use President's Suite for social. On the agenda for April meeting.

Resource Groups:

Management Conference in 2019, special section geared towards special events

Question: Is a special events resource group being developed? Mark is interested in taking the lead.

Park operations group started with a small group of professionals working on it.

Therapeutic Recreation group is starting to have some interest. Tracy Newsome in James City County is heading that effort.

Marlie will share the template of how she started the Park Operations Group.

Special Committees

Annual Conference: Need support to work with Foundation on Silent Auction in Exhibit Hall, with logistics. Foundation would welcome any assistance with the auction prizes.

Question: Do you have to register for conference if you are volunteering? Aaron says no. But as a room host, the expectation is that you would register for the conference.

Fundraising: CSA is planning for a Spring Workshop and Pickleball Tournament. Pickleball Tournament is Oct. 6 at Rockwood Park in Chesterfield. Aaron will take the lead with Pickleball.

Workshop discussion at April meeting.

Scholarships: Follow-up on sponsored memberships. Staff person in New Kent will be involved this year.

Roundtable Discussions

Happenings in localities:

Henrico: Started recruiting for summer jobs. Working on Virginia Senior Games. Greenwood Park – four field turf facility opens Monday, Feb. 19. Art/history collaboration on an art wall at a park and working with schools. Opened four outdoor pickleball courts and tournament next weekend. Synthetic turf dog park.

Richmond: Chris Frelke, new Director, appointed in October. KaBoom Playground built last fall. Three playground renovations and park renovations, taking out some tennis courts and focusing on specific areas, skateboard park planning.

Colonial Heights: P&R responsible for outside and inside the building maintenance at the Courthouse and at all city facilities. Utilize the meeting room at the courthouse for programs. Closed tennis courts because of disrepair, working with school board to centralize tennis at the High School and adding courts. 2nd annual Cardboard Boat Regatta coming up. New offerings and registration has increased. Shut down the teen center, repurposing room for meetings. Shepherd Stadium got a facelift: seating, brick, awnings. First TR programs for the city launched end of 2017, have been successful.

New Kent: Trying to build a new park, breaking ground in the spring. Playground working on getting adaptive equipment. Just inherited an old tennis court, looking for ideas for use.

Chesterfield: Three movie nights scheduled this year, coordinating with Pocahontas State Park for two of the movie nights. Working on a title sponsor for Fourth of July. Hiring for Bensley Recreation Center Supervisor. Summer camps offerings to be expanded from 5 to 12, plus the therapeutic recreation camps. New Stonebridge Recreation Center opening in March. New employees: Stan Thorne, new Parks Chief, formerly with Hanover and Janit Llewellyn, Park Planning Supervisor, formerly with DCR. More pickleball courts planned for other areas of the county. River City Sportsplex brought over 500,000 people to the facility in 2017. Sponsorship opportunities for fields at the complex.

Kim Turner reminded everyone about legislative issue with child care – don't reference recreation programs or camps as "child care".

Hopewell: Renovating a neighborhood park (long overdue) with political involvement. Upcoming Riverwalk project, 1,700-foot boardwalk on the Appomattox River, funding from lots of sources. Special events have transformed in recent years. Ice skating rink - synthetic, and holiday events were popular.

Dinwiddie: Restructured department in 2017. Worked with high schools to get PE teacher archery-certified. Outdoor movie series – 80's and 90's themes. Valentine's Day Dinner and Movie – Princess Bride. Opened new community center – ballroom with stage, seniors lounge, workforce room, conference room, classroom, arts & crafts room, indoor kids zone, lounge, community game room, aerobics room, 4-H and Extension, and library have space in the building which is in McKenney, more open use vs structured programs is the focus. Parks services are responsible for all outside public use facilities and schools.

Thanks to Colonial Heights for hosting.
April meeting information will be forthcoming.

Adjourned meeting.