

PARK OPERATIONS RESOURCE GROUP
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018 10:00am
VRPS Office

In attendance:

Dan Smith, Chair/Board Liaison
Alister Perkinson, Chair-Elect
Tom Gates, Member At Large
Kristen Hamill, Eastern Service Area Representative
Christen Fox, Northern Service Area Representative

New Business

Nutrient Management Plans

Dan and Jim Stutts met with Sam Burress of the Fairfax Park Authority and Nick Yakish of the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation – the two of them are working with localities to ensure that they have nutrient management plans in place ahead of upcoming EPA guidelines. There is a Nutrient Management Planner certification that localities can send staff to, but it is not necessarily needed to create the nutrient management plan.

There is an opportunity for PORG to support by offering certification at VRPS conferences similar to AFO, CPSI, etc. or the possibility of informational sessions.

Park Services Day

Discussion on the Park Services Day at the Henrico Conference. Overall everyone felt that the event was positive and generated some great feedback. The following points were brought up during the discussion:

Feedback and suggestions:

- Positive feedback from group – well attended
- Boots on the ground staff attended

- Some challenge engaging groups but once they warmed up provided a lot of information
- Tom Tracy session not well attended, maybe move to a different day to hit administration folks
- Loudon hosting Parks services day for Fairfax conference
- Get as much equipment there as possible
- Good interaction with vendors
- Take pictures
- Food was a positive
- More hands-on equipment demonstrations
- Big differences between departments (resources) and what they have to deal with
- Don't necessarily need CEUs
- Make sure not just grounds maintenance, and not just athletic turf
- Several suggestions for information on staff retention and recruitment

PORG Database

Received comments that the PORG database is difficult to open from the website, and that some localities block google docs. We will need to create a PDF version and periodically update. Dan will create the PDF version and Alister will explore options for an online submission form on the website.

Website:

Discussion on website:

E-mail entire group for feedback on upcoming trainings or open invitations to visit other localities to add to website

Post links to various organizations, instructional videos

Next Meeting –April 25, 2019 10:00am– VRPS Office