

Park Operations Resource Group Meeting

11-11:45am

VRPS Conference October 23, 2017

In attendance: Dan Smith, Chair; Marlie Creasey-Smith, Chair-elect; Alister Perkinson, Recorder; Arlana Fautleroy, Board Liaison; 14 PORG members

- Welcome/Introduction of Board
- Chair and Chair-elect discussed the purpose of forming the Park Operations Resource Group and the overall vision for the group:
 - Promote networking and education focused on park operations
 - Include all Park Operations staff, from administrative to front line staff
 - Identifying people with specific skills in various areas related to parks that can be used as a resource to others
 - Maintaining a broad focus to include all area of park operations (i.e. not just Athletic fields)
 - Emphasize inclusion of “boots on the ground” types of staff who may not currently network with staff from other areas
 - Boost morale through networking with ground level employees
- Chair and Chair-elect discussed current plans for the Park Operations Resource Group
 - Created park specific sessions on Tuesday of the 2017 conference
 - Henrico/Short pump conference: will expand that with sessions as well as hands on activities
 - Start building a database of people to share ideas, etc.
 - VRPS blog to reach out and share resources – Alister will filter
- Group discussion on possible initiatives:
 - Lloyd Perry Field Maintenance workshops – potential to invite other localities to these trainings
 - Regional Workshops
 - Want to network – talk about relevant topics,
 - Get away from formal settings
 - Touch on every topic
 - Make the connection between those who provide recreation programming and park staff who support
 - Bring more sessions back to the conference
 - Every department does things differently – using other departments to show staff how to operate equipment etc.
 - Important figure out how to disseminate info to staff

- More hands on training for front line staff
- Include certification sessions (i.e. pesticide certs)
- Having that information (certs, trainings, etc.) together in an easy to find location
- Sharing information about companies/products etc.
- Develop a list of professionals with knowledge in specific aspects of Park Operations to serve a resource to others
 - Must be update regularly
- Group discussion on how to communicate information among the group as well as to front line staff
 - Emails, bulletin boards
 - List serve, list of who does what
 - Forum Friday – Receive the questions on a Friday, but them out the net week to the group
 - Webinars
 - Monthly with different topics, expert on subject
 - Register, CEUs
 - Send e-mail to solicit ideas OR rotate through board members and task them to come up with a topic
- Items for future discussion
 - Meeting Schedule – number of “open” vs board only meetings
 - 5 per year: 1 at conference, 4 quarterly
 - Planning Meeting for 2018 – will set up date after the conference