



September 7, 2022
3:30 PM
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

Zoom Meeting Recording :
<https://youtu.be/8wK6SP85uzg>

Call to Order

Item #1

Review and approval of minutes

Mitch Overton

- Maria had one question on the Student Board member on Item #5. Would “appointed” be the right wording? Mitch said change to “application accepted”. Cassie will make the change.
- Motion to approve by Maria with one correction.
- Second by Jamie Saitta.

Item #2

Board Appointments/Open Seats

Maria Butts

A. Treasurer/Secretary

- Maria passed along a letter of interest to the MTRPA Board prior to the meeting for the Treasurer/Secretary position. The letter is from City of Whitefish Parks and Recreation Community services coordinator, Carla Belski. Maria gave some background on Carla’s outstanding work with her and with Cassie and recommended her highly for the position. Voting for Carla to fill the open seat will take place at the Mid-Year Meeting. Mitch confirmed there was no competition for the position.

B. Tribal Representative

- Maria has done lots of research on what Tribes are doing around her. Browning has very recently created a Parks and Recreation department to restructure the current Black Foot division calling it “Black Foot Manpower.” Maria saw it being one of their goals to connect with other Parks and Recreation Departments throughout the state and she feels they would really want to be involved with MTRPA as they go through this transition.

- Cassie suggested an open call to the Tribal Board Member position be published on all publication channels. She drafted a call prior to the meeting and will get feedback from her connections in the Cree nation.
- Jenn Thomsen said she has Tribal connections from a conference in recreation land management and will reach out to them as well.
- Maria Butts has been working in the annual conference planning to bring inclusion, equality, and diversity in the planning conference by including a Tribal presence and has been networking to include Flathead Reservation and Black Feet connections.
- Maria asked if anyone has someone in mind, please have them send a letter of interest to her and Mitch.

Item #3

Review Mid-year meeting agenda

Mitch Overton

- Mid-year meeting will be held with MLTC. Solidifying relationship to MLTC. Members who join will have to be registered for MLCT.
- Change Jamie's name next Board Vacancies to Maria. Need to spell Danielle's name correctly.
- Cassie will make changes to the agenda. Mitch will send mid-year and directors meeting agendas to MLCT.

Item #4

Conference check-ins and update:

Mitch & Maria

A. NRPA

- NRPA is the week after next in Phoenix. Whitefish, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell, Jodie Adams are going. Larry Grohondal invited anyone coming to stop by his booth for his social offerings.

B. MLCT

- First week in October in Kalispell. This will be a mid-year and business meeting and directors meeting. Whitefish, Grateful Falls, Bozeman at the least will be attending. Mitch discussed if we wanted to provide virtual access, members must register for

C. MTRPA

- Maria shared details on the conference planning. Conference dates set April 2nd - 5th.
- Grouse Mountain Lodge, 60 rooms, extended stay option, \$99/night, really good session rooms and, meal plans figured out, sponsor list figured out, have a draft outline schedule and draft tracks, all filled in with ideas of who we could have presented, broken down by division and each person has an area of specialty they are working on.
- Maria and staff are creating a conference checklist to document what we are doing to pass along to the next group.

- Shared the idea of having tracks at the conference. Goal to accomplish a track for every type of division of parks and recreation. Maria wants to hear from staff, what can she bring in to include all tracks.
- So far the tracks are Urban Forestry. Parks Facility. Recreation and Tourism Track. Active Track.
- Conservation Track. Wellness Track. Social Equity Track and Public/Private Partnerships Track.
- Maria wants to engage Cassie on the conference committee. Maria and Cassie will connect soon with the conference committee.
- Fred Bicha reached out today about combining the MUCFA tree conference with MTRPA conference. Fred expressed they usually have a yearly conference, it has collapsed in the last couple years due to covid, and it used to be joint between Wyoming and Montana, last time it was held there were nearly 200 people. Fred proposed MUCFA offer “tree school”. Mitch shared they have hosted MUCFA in the Bozeman forestry division and has been a great conference. Cassie asked how many people would attend from MUCFA if MTRPA joined and Fred said somewhere between 50 - 75 would be coming, but just to make it work could cap out at 40 if needed. Mitch remembered when MTRPA hooked into ALTA and wanted to look back to what could be learned from that. Mitch asked, could MUCFA help with the forestry track.
- Conference committee will be voted on at MLCT. As MTRPA advertises MLCT, Mitch really emphasizes the conference quality of programming and how attending MLCT builds our momentum as a membership leading to our annual conference and to communicate and emphasize the value of this conference to our Association.
- Steve Herrig will send a vendor list to Maria.
- Cassie suggested putting out a call for Exhibitors and Vendors along with announcing mid-year at MLCT.
- Mitch asked about municipal cemetery management and wanted to include those individuals.
- More about Annual Conference at the Mid-Year meeting.

Items #5

Other Items from the Board

- Pat offered to speak to Tribal issues in Parks and Recreation and a legal council for Tribal Sovereignty staff from the conference. Maria Butts and Pat plan to meet offline to get connections.
- Pat suggested a synopsis of Board duties to include in the Tribal Board member open position call. Cassie will look into bylaws and follow up.
- Ryan Applegate offered to reach out to Missoula staff about what to see at the conference regarding tracks, partnerships, labor staff, and maintenance.

Item #6

Adjourn