



WPRA - Park Section MEETING MINUTES



December 3, 2025

10:00AM

Virtual

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am

2. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Geiser, Tony Nowak, Kevin Wiesmann, Josh Milbrandt, Jarod Meyer, Nick Spence, Holly Femal, Travis Derks, Lael Pascual

Excused: Jim Abbott, Cullen Slapak

Also present: Megan McDaniel, WPRA Office

3. Review minutes from August 13 Meeting

Minutes approved

4. Review minutes from the October 8 Meeting

Minutes approved

5. Old Business

A. Fall Workshop

a. Survey Results

- Overall, the survey results were positive. A couple comments on the Wed/Thurs timeframe versus Thurs/Fri.

b. 2026 Date and Location

- Rec Section contacted Amanda and suggested New Berlin be considered for the 2026 location. We try to rotate around the state and Region 4 is due so this would fall in line with that goal. Nick will talk to New Berlin to see if they would be interested in hosting.
- The group decided to stick with the Wed/Thurs timeframe as most seemed fine with it. It is also beneficial to have the speakers on day one and the tour on day two.
- NRPA is the week of Sept 28 so we would look to schedule the Fall Workshop the week before or after to avoid conflict.

6. New Business

A. Park Section Awards – winners and award session

- Amanda listed all the award winners for Park Section. She received some questions from nominees that did not win. With so many good projects, it is tough to pick a winner. Thanks to everyone for the time and effort to score the nominations.

B. Conference Moderator Signup and Process

- Amanda will send out a link to the spreadsheet to sign up to moderate sessions. If we all do one or two sessions we should be able to cover everything easily. There will not be moderator packets to pick up this year. Information will be emailed to moderators ahead of time.

C. Virtual Round-Table Meetings

- Time and day – we will shoot for Wednesdays at 10:00 am as that seems to be a time that works decently. We will work around other WPRA events to avoid conflict.
- Many different potential topics were discussed with the following schedule agreed upon for 2026: February – Disc Golf, May – Ebikes on trails, November – Splash Pad operations

- Each session will need a moderator to lead the discussion and keep the discussion on topic. WPRA Office will provide an introductory statement to set ground rules for the discussion.
- D. Awards Criteria for 2026 Park Section Awards
- Megan is looking for the Park Section to review the awards criteria and information on the website and provide any recommended changes before the new awards information is released at conference. Please have recommendations ready for her at the January meeting. One change requested by Aquatic Section is to roll over Professional of the Year nominations to the next year if not selected as the winner. Park Section agreed that this would be good.
- E. 2026 Park Section Chairperson Tony Nowak – Recommendation to the WPRA Board of Directors
- It was moved and seconded to make the recommendation to the WPRA Board of Directors to appoint Tony Nowak as the 2026 Park Section Chair. Motion passed.

7. Legislative Requests/Legislative Happenings

No report.

8. Reports

- Chair – Amanda Geiser
 - No report. Just working on getting into winter.
- Chair Elect – Vacant
- Past Chair – Kevin Wiesmann
 - Kevin has been sitting on the Professional Development Committee, which reviews session submissions. There are many sessions that are being submitted and he wants to make sure that we are getting this information when planning our events.
- Secretary/Treasurer – Tony Nowak
 - Board of Directors meets next week in Wausau.
- Region 1 – Josh Milbrandt
 - No report.
- Region 2 – Holly Femal
 - Region 2 meets next week in Kimberly.
- Region 3 – Cullen Slapak
 - No report.
- Region 4 – Nick Spence
 - Region 4 meets next week in New Berlin.
- Representative at Large – Lael Pascual
 - No report.
- Representative at Large – Jarod Meyer
 - No report.
- Urban Forestry Council – Travis Derks
 - The Council has been working on setting their goals. Travis sits on the Stormwater and Diversity working groups. They are looking at Stormwater credits related to trees. WAA has a new Diversity award.
 - The WAA is holding a session regarding what the Urban Forestry Council is and what they do to better inform people. Maybe this could be a topic idea for the future for WPRA.
- State Park/DNR – James Abbott
 - No report.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Next Meeting: January TBD