

Board of Directors
and Recreational Sports Commission
Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Ben Boldt

Current Employer/Organization: City of Rochester Parks & Recreation

Current Title/Position: Recreation Supervisor & Recreation Center Manager

Nominated For: MRPA Board Secretary

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

MRPA has been important in my professional growth. The educational opportunities have been important to learn the best practices and better ways to do my job. The networks and networking opportunities have been the most valuable resource I would say. It's extremely helpful to know what other cities are doing and learn from them to make our programs and facilities better. I have also greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet people and develop friendships in the industry. MRPA has created these opportunities for personal, professional and agency growth.

2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?

I believe advocacy and education are 2 key priorities for MRPA at this time. Our industry is changing and it's critical to create outreach and training opportunities for students and young professionals. I believe programs like ERLI and the MRPA conference are great programs to offer to meet this need. Continuing to evaluate programs and new opportunities will be important for MRPA and the Parks & Recreation industry sustainability.

3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?

We have an opportunity to implement the recommendations from the outside consulting services that evaluated the current MRPA operations for efficiency and effectiveness. This process was conducted in an effort to answer the question, "Are we offering the most impactful services and opportunities for the membership and our industry in MN?" This is a great opportunity to invest in ourselves and position ourselves well for the future and our members. The members are at the core of the MRPA and the MRPA's ability to create the opportunities in the areas of advocacy, education, etc. This consultant review will be helpful to strengthen that core.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

City of Rochester Parks & Recreation – Recreation Supervisor (2014 – Present). I coordinate adult sports leagues for the City of Rochester, manage the summer outdoor aquatics and work closely with community partner organizations that run events in city parks. I have recently been assigned to manage the Rochester Recreation Center which is a city facility with 2 sheet of ice and 2 indoor pools. This facility hosts many events and programs with community partners.

Rochester Amateur Sports Commission – Event Operations Manager (2003-2014). I coordinated sports events in an effort to provide a local economic benefit to the city of Rochester.

5. Education and Training

Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with Coaching Minor – Pillsbury Baptist Bible College (2001)

CSEE (Certified Sports Event Executive) graduate through National Association of Sports Commission

Leadership Journey – City of Rochester Program (2018-2019)

6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):

MRPA Board Treasurer – 2021-2022

MRPA Conference Committee (Logistics) - 2018

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

Southern MN Recreation & Parks Association – Member (2014 – present); President 2017

Rochester Softball Association – Board of Directors (2006 – Present); Treasurer (2010 – present)

National Recreation & Parks Association – member (2014 – present)

Rochester Community & Technical College Sports Management Advisory Board – Chair (2017-Present)

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Nominee's Name: Kelsey Coy

Current Employer/Organization: City of Prior Lake

Current Title/Position: Recreation Supervisor

Nominated For: Secretary – MRPA Board of Directors

8. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

- **Education** – MRPA offers numerous education opportunities through workshops, programs, and conference sessions. I have been fortunate to attend many of these opportunities over my years in parks and recreation growing and learning in my role. I have also sought out opportunities that aren't directly correlated with my current position to help grow/learn past the limits of my job description.
- **Networking** – Meeting and getting to know other members of MRPA has been priceless. These great people have provided ideas, feedback and helping hands during various stages of programming. From attending network meetings and MPRA events, I have established relationships with colleagues who I can email or call to hear how their organization is handling an emerging issue in real time.

9. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?

All of the strategic priorities are important to MRPA's continued progression and sustainability.

OPTIMIZE: Ask members where MRPA has service gaps and what kind of opportunities are current members looking for.

EDUCATE: Let's lead by creating a database of resources. Opening doors for professionals of all levels to access documents that are pertinent to their organizations.

INNOVATE: Take feedback from members and act on their recommendations for change and expansion.

LEAD: Identify emerging issues and create policies and standards to share with the membership. New in 2023, organizations were navigating an air quality hurdle. MRPA can guide organizations through these new issues.

10. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?

I believe one opportunity and challenge that the board can investigate is promoting the profession to high school students, their parents, and teachers. Teaching them that Parks and Recreation is a viable career option. Without more students enrolling in RPLS programs, we will face new challenges of even less applicants for our open positions. This opportunity relates to the core values of Leadership and Engagement. MRPA can provide a template to organizations to take to their local schools.

11. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

- **Recreation Supervisor**, City of Prior Lake, 2021- current
- **Recreation Programmer**, City of Prior Lake, 2012-2021
- **Program Assistant/Youth Sports Coordinator**, City of Chanhassen, May– December 2012
- **Special Event Intern**, City of Roseville, January – April 2012
- **Summer Rec Leader**, City of Prior Lake, 2009-2010

12. Education and Training

- **Bachelor of Science**
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services
- **Emerging Recreation Leadership Institute**
- **Festival and Event Management Certification**
- **Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)**
- **Concussion Training Certification**
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid Certification**
- **MRPA Conferences and Workshops on various topics**

13. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):

- **2021 Conference Committee Food and Networking Co-Chair**
- **2013 MRPA Summer Leadership Workshop Committee**

14. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

- **Women in Leisure Services Secretary September 2023 - Current**
- **NRPA Member 2018- current**
- **Walk to End Alzheimer's Planning Committee – Logistics Team 2015-2018**
- **MRPF Member**

**Board of Directors
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Nominee Information Form**



Nominee's Name: Tracy Petersen

Current Employer /Organization: City of Edina Parks & Recreation

Current Title/Position: Assistant Director-Recreation & Facilities

Nominated For: Secretary

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

The MRPA has been an invaluable and integral part of my career in parks & recreation. The opportunity to meet so many amazing and talented professionals who have challenged me, supported me and motivated me to be a better leader, learn and grow has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career. The networking and educational opportunities have helped me to continue to expand my career as a professional, but more importantly has allowed me to give my very best to the cities that I have worked for. MRPA has also allowed me the chance to give back to the profession through volunteering as a mentor, leading educational initiatives, serving in leadership roles and helping MRPA continue to grow and be a leader for recreation in our state.

2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?

Last year I served as an active committee member evaluating feedback from the MRPA listening groups that were held and assisted in a recommendation to the current Board of Directors that a consultant be hired to develop an overall organization plan to better serve members and better meet the overall future needs of our profession. That recommendation was implemented, and a consultant was hired.

Helping ensure that the recommended consultant plan is implemented would be my highest priority as a member of the Board of Directors. As an active board member in the role of Secretary, I would make a commitment to make certain that the consultant implementation

process is open, inclusive and transparent. I strongly believe that I could be an asset in ensuring that members' needs are heard and that as a board member, MRPA develops an organizational and staffing structure that can continue to provide appropriate and meaningful education, resources, advocacy and financial sustainability for our association.

3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?

Both a key opportunity and challenge for the future Board of Directors and membership would be to implement the proposed consultant plan to establish a forward-thinking roadmap for the future of the association that creates the following:

- A staffing model to best serve member's needs
- A solid, sustainable financial model and
- Establishment of key leadership performance and success indicators

Some other key areas for opportunity that relate to the association's core values include:

Leadership: Developing an organizational structure that can serve as a catalyst for growth and innovation in our professional as well as a resource for parks and recreation best practices.

Engagement: As someone who participated in the MRPA Mentorship Program, I believe there is continued opportunities to introduce new professionals and upcoming parks and recreation students to our field as well as to continue to promote and help create a more diversified association of members.

Stewardship: With a new organizational structure and staffing model, there could be more opportunities to have MRPA be the key advocacy group for parks and recreation across the state of Minnesota. It could provide opportunities for agencies to have better access to resources, communications tools, etc. that could showcase the value of the parks and recreation to key agency leaders and elected officials.

Integrity: As the association forms a new roadmap there is a great opportunity to be transparent and accountable to the membership in ensuring that members are valued, heard and that the membership has trust in knowing the Board of Directors will follow through on a new plan.

Some key challenges that need to be addressed by the Board of Directors include:

Wellness: One of the challenges of the Board of Directors and membership will be to continue to evolve and grow with educational opportunities that are relevant, accessible and meet the needs of all levels of professionals and all entities of our membership. Key importance is keeping our networking active and strong by making sure that we provide access to opportunities for all members to be involved and welcomed.

Leadership: The Board of Directors will be faced with the task of implementing a new organizational plan for the association. This will require added time, effort, transparency, engagement and follow-through. It will also require the Board of Directors and membership to take a different approach and perspective that may be different from what we have been doing. It will be a challenge to create a sustainable organization that is forward-thinking, progressive and open to the changing needs facing our profession.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

- City of Edina: Assistant Director-Recreation & Facilities (2020-Present)
- City of Shoreview: Parks and Recreation Director (2018-2020)
- City of Inver Grove Heights: Recreation Superintendent (2001-2018)
- Osseo Area Schools: Program Specialist (2000-2001)
- City of Chanhassen: Recreation Supervisor (1999-2000)

- City of Arden Hills: Recreation Supervisor (1993-1999)

5. Education and Training

- Bethel University, Bachelor of Arts; Business Management
- MRPA State Conferences
- NRPA Annual Conferences
- Supervisory Leadership Certificate-Dakota County Technical College
- Facility Management Certificate -University of MN
- MRPA/NRPA Workshops on various topics

6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):

- Chair: Program Section (1999)
- Member: Board of Directors (2002-2006)
- Co-Chair: Emerging Recreation Leaders Institute (2007-2008)
- Co-Chair: Administrative Section (2009-2011)
- Co-Chair: Marketing Workshop (2009)
- Co-Chair: Awards Committee (2013 & 2018)
- Co-Chair: Annual Conference Program Committee (2008)
- Committee Member: Professional Development Committee (2005-2007)
- Committee Member: Strategic Plan Task Force (2010)
- Committee Member: Awards Committee (2010-2022)
- Committee Member: Golf Workshop Committee (2013)
- Committee Member: Emerging Recreation Leaders Institute 2 (2014)
- Committee Member: Section, Committee & Networks Review Committee (2018)
- Committee Member: Listening Session Sub-Group Committee (2022)
- Committee Member: MRPA Board of Directors Finance Ad-Hoc Committee (Current)
- Committee Member: Facilities Management Academy (Current)
- Member: Leadership Development Network
- Member: Facilities Network

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

- Minnesota Community Education Member
- NRPA Member
- Boulder Ponds Townhome Association Secretary
- City of Lake Elmo Neighborhood Safety Committee Co-Chair
- City of Lake Elmo Parks & Rec Advisory Commission
 - Stillwater Schools Community Education Advisory Council

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Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: JJ Ryan

Current Employer/Organization: City of Burnsville

Current Title/Position: Recreation and Facilities Superintendent

Nominated For: Secretary

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

Over the years MRPA has been extremely helpful in my professional growth. They have provided me numerous networking opportunities to connect with other professionals in the field leading to collaboration on programming, peer support and great friendships. The MRPA has also been my ongoing source for professional development through workshops, seminars and the annual conference. These activities have allowed me and my organization to stay up to date on current trends and best practices.

2. What do you believe are the strategic plan priorities and how would you help to implement those priorities?

I believe that the priorities of the strategic plan should place an emphasis on what members value the most. Members have always placed value in the educational and networking opportunities provided to them through the MRPA. As a member of the board I would look for innovative ways to continue to offer year-round professional development opportunities to members in all areas of recreation and parks. Additionally, ongoing discussions and recent survey findings suggest that the board focus on promoting our profession.

3. What are the opportunities and challenges to be addressed by the Board of Directors and the MRPA membership during your term of office, if elected, as well as in the long-term? How do these areas relate to the Association's core values?

While the opportunities and challenges may change in coming years the recent membership survey findings identified the top 5 challenges facing Parks and Recreation as attracting talented seasonal staff, attracting fulltime staff, budget cuts and restrictions, work\life balance and accessibility and inclusion for people in the community. The relationship between these challenges is that the defining statements of each of the core values begin to give us direction on how to start addressing these challenges.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

I have been working in the field of parks and recreation since 1995 when I started as a facility supervisor with the Chanhassen Rec Center. Along the way there were numerous part-time positions working with youth programs and adult athletics before landing full-time with the City of Burnsville in 1998. With Burnsville I have been in many roles including working as a programmer with underserved populations in low-income housing complexes. As a supervisor administering youth and family programs, coordinating special events, and serving as liaison to many special interest groups. Finally, as the superintendent overseeing the ice center operations, the golf course operations and serving as staff liaison to the City's Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

5. Education and Training

Winona State University Bachelor of Science, Recreation and Leisure Services

6. MRPA Positions Held (Sections, Committees, Offices, etc.):

Annual Conference Committee, Logistics Chair

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

USA Hockey Coaching Certificate Level 3
Junior Varsity Hockey Coach, Apple Valley