Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Mike Bauer

Current Employer/Organization: City of Rogers

Current Title/Position: Parks and Recreation Director

Nominated For: West Metro Region seat on the MRPA Board of Directors

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

The networking and educational opportunities that have been afforded to me by way of my membership in MRPA have allowed me to grow as an individual and professionally. Each opportunity from ERLI, ERLI2, annual conferences, networking events, trade shows, networks, and regional groups has been informative and enjoyable to participate in. It would be easy to say that without MRPA, I would not be where I am today professionally.

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

The only constant in the parks and recreation profession is change, and with that, we need to be leaders for the next generation of professionals and the communities that we serve. To continue to thrive, we will have to be innovative in our actions, have the heart of a teacher, and strive to optimize our operations. I would assist the association by offering my

perspective on problem-solving, being supportive of the MRPA staff, and being open to active collaboration with colleagues from around the state to continue the success of MRPA.

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?

From an external vantage point, the organization boasts a robust roster of professionals, making it imperative to devise strategies for maintaining connections within a vast membership and providing unwavering support to a diverse array of individuals. In essence, we constitute a sizable collective stemming from a broad spectrum of organizations, spanning from rural towns to urban centers and even extensive park districts. Each of these entities maintains a distinctive approach to its operations and development. If elected, my commitment lies in establishing networks and initiatives aimed at bolstering professionals at every juncture of their professional journeys. These principles align seamlessly with the association's core values of leadership, engagement, stewardship, integrity, and inclusivity.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

Recreation Assistant City of Albert Lea 1999-2002
Operations Supervisor Egan Civic Arena and Cascade Bay City of Eagan 2002-2007
Arena Manage City of Rogers 2007-2008
Recreation and Facilities Manager City of Rogers 2008-2014
Recreation and Facilities Director City of Rogers 2014-2021
Parks and Recreation Director City of Rogers 2021-Present

5. Education and Training

St. Cloud State University Bachelor of Arts, Major: Political Science Honors Cum Laude ERLI, ERLI2

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

MRPA Annual Conference Committee Member 2017, 2020, 2022 Southern Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (1999-2002) Northern Minnesota Recreation and Park Association

- 7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement
- Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association (President/Vice President)
- Minnesota Representative at the inaugural North American Rink Summit Lake Placid,
 NY
- Minnesota Department of Health Enclosed Sports Arena Rulemaking Advisory Committee Member

- Certified Congregate Care Director
- Aquatic Facility Operator
- Special Class Boilers License
- State Certified Food Safety Manager
- Certified Ice Arena Manager (Ice Skating Institute)
- Certified Rink Administrator (US Ice Rink Association)
- Contributing Author/Editorial Board Member Rink
- ISD 728 Curriculum and Facility Task Force Member
- Youth Hockey Association Mite Director
- Pack 99 Cub Scout Troop Treasurer
- HOA Board Member/President
- Youth Baseball Coach

Board of Directors and Recreational Sports Commission Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Erin Link, CTRS

Current Employer /Organization: City of Chaska Parks and Recreation

Current Title/Position: Recreation Manager

Nominated For: West Metro Region Representative for MRPA Board of Directors

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

MRPA has taught me the importance of making connections, building networks and celebrating this amazing profession with others who are striving to create healthy communities for people to enjoy. Through my involvement with MRPA, I have learned that innovation is not only one new, brilliant, BIG, idea, but also when you make an adjustment to an existing idea to make it serve a new purpose. I love the openness and willingness of members to share ideas so that others can benefit. The MRPA organization and its members create a community of learning that pushes me to grow and motivates me to do better for my community, my department and my team.

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

To be honest, I am not very familiar with the strategic plan of MRPA, but I am very interested in learning more and providing my input and support where I can. With the MRPA work that I have seen, I do believe the organization is putting into action the following goals that have been set: optimize, educate, innovate and lead. I am excited to learn more.

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?

Opportunities: maximize resources, engage young professionals, energize seasoned professionals, continue to work with colleges and universities to promote and grow the profession, be intentional about diversifying MRPA membership and leaders to represent people with unique backgrounds and experiences, focus efforts on data and analysis to prove that recreation is an

essential service

Challenges: prioritizing needs, securing funding for initiatives and projects, engaging the broader community to understand the importance of our work

All of these opportunities and challenges relate directly to the MRPA core values or stewardship leadership, integrity, inclusion, engagement and wellness.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

As the City of Chaska Recreation Manager, I am currently leading a team of full-time Recreation Supervisors in the areas of programs and events. I was promoted to this position in January 2019 from the Athletics Supervisor position, in which I provided sports programming for both youth and adults. Previous, to my work with the City of Chaska, I had the opportunity to work for Shakopee Community Education and St. David's Center in Minnetonka, in which I managed both summer and after school recreational programs for people with disabilities.

5. Education and Training

Therapeutic Recreation Major- University of Wisconsin- La Crosse Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist since 2001 (lapse from December 2016 to December 2018)

YMCA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training CPR/First Aid Certified Hennepin County Plain Language Training

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

No positions held.

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement Community Involvement

"Chaska Cares" Committee Member- a city-wide committee formed during covid to serve community members in need (examples of initiatives: diaper drive, food distributions, outreach to seniors, Santa and Easter Bunny holiday drive-by parades, etc.)
Inclusive Community Coalition- Past Member
Carver County Resiliency T earn- Past Member

Volunteer Involvement

Classroom Parent Representative- Clover Ridge Elementary School Referee Connector- Youth Soccer Program

Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Roxann Maxey

Current Employer/Organization: MPRB

Current Title/Position: Operations Manager- Theodore Wirth Golf

Nominated For: West

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

My career would not be where it is today without the networking and educational opportunities that I have gained from 25 years of being involved in MRPA. From my time as a college student looking for internships and first jobs to gaining leadership skill sets through the academy and endless trainings and classes through conference and other learning experiences. I am forever grateful. I like to steal ideas and twist and love learning and continue to grow in my thinking and process.

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

Continuing to grow membership and show the value to young leaders. Revolutionize current trends and be on the forefront of bringing them to other associations around the country. Eliminate barriers for participation and empower professionals to become involved and gain enthusiasm for the Power of Play!

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?

Technology advancements and adaptations to the new styles of business operations. Funding and enrichment in environments that feel economic decline. Environment sustainability. Equity and Inclusion Initiatives.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

In the past 25 years of my career, I have had the opportunity to work in programming of all ages and realms from athletics, arts, youth development, aging adults, large scale event planning. I have managed multi use facilities, community center operations, aquatics, fitness, fields, Ice arenas, Golf Courses, Event Centers, Gardens, Rec Centers, and the dreaded Sports Domes. I have worked for small towns, schools, city and park board. I feel my experience will help provide sensitivity to all types of members within the state of MN. I have spent much of my career on the west side and can fairly represent the needs of the membership in those communities.

5. Education and Training

I am a very proud graduate of Mankato State back in 1999. I feel confident it's the best school to gain the necessary skill sets in the field of Parks and Recreation. I have shared my wealth of knowledge with a number of interns and young professionals in the field through college visits and classroom instruction.

I have participated in 20+ years of conferences, committees, and clinics. I have attended Leadership Academy, Certified Ice Arena Manager Training, and Special Event Emergency Readiness Certifications.

I love learning, collaborating, and the power of sharing and communicating to improve the quality of life for those I serve.

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

I have been programming chair, West Metro Board member, sat on several committees and have planned over 10 state conferences.

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

I have volunteered to grow and improve the sport of Wrestling for a few organizations, Unsheltered youth and family programs, fundraising of youth athletics.

Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Chris Morrow

Current Employer/Organization: City of Maple Grove

Current Title/Position: Recreation Supervisor Athletics

Nominated For: West Metro Seat

1. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

MRPA has given me resources and helped me make connections with like minded people in my field. I enjoy going to section meetings and conferences where I have the opportunity to talk to other professionals and share ideas, challenges and successes with each other. It is a great way for seasoned professionals to share their knowledge and experiences to grow the next generation of leaders. Being an active member of the association, I have grown both personally and professionally. The relationships I have built through networking among professionals are invaluable.

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

I believe it is time to be thoughtful of the association members needs and wants. It is important to be forward-thinking as we move into the future. I believe MRPA has an opportunity to start making changes and take the leap to keep up with what is going on around us. It is important to engage new professionals and build the next generation of leaders to become more involved to ensure the association continues to grow and evolve.

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?

I think the work the board has done over that past year collecting info from members and hiring a consultant to give an objective view of the MRPA is a great first step. I want to make sure this work continues. It has been a long process to this point and I want to help keep it moving. This information will help identify member's needs. It is important to look at the data and make appropriate changes to how MRPA operates to really benefit its members. I think there are some opportunities to adjust the work that staff are doing and hopefully bring on more staff with fresh backgrounds and ideas to lead us forward. MRPA is here for all of us and I think we need to make sure we keep adapting to the world we work in and evolve with time.

4. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

8 years with the City of Maple Grove Parks and recreation

5. Education and Training

Bachelors Degree - Recreation and Sports Management, SCSU

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

2019 - Sports Management Network Chair

2021 - Conference committee member - Technology

2022 - Conference committee member - Social

2022- Present - RSC Vice Chair

7. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

MRPF Member NRPA Member

Nominee Information Form



Nominee's Name: Jason T. West

Current Employer/Organization: City of St. Louis Park

Current Title/Position: Parks and Recreation Director

Nominated For: West Metro Representative

8. How has MRPA helped you to grow professionally?

Being a member of the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) has significantly contributed to my professional growth in various ways. One of the most valuable aspects of my MRPA membership has been the networking opportunities it provides. Through MRPA events, conferences, and workshops, I have been able to connect with fellow professionals in the parks and recreation field. These interactions have allowed me to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from the experiences of others. Building these connections has not only expanded my knowledge base but has also opened doors to new career opportunities and collaborations.

Additionally, MRPA has played a crucial role in my professional development through its focus on education and training. As we know, the association organizes seminars, webinars, and training sessions led by experts in the field. These events have equipped me with the latest industry trends, innovative techniques, and practical skills that are essential in my role. The diverse range of topics covered, from community engagement strategies to park management practices, has broadened my understanding and enhanced my proficiency in various areas of the parks and recreation industry.

Furthermore, MRPA's commitment to education extends beyond formal events. The association provides access to resources, research materials, and publications that have deepened my knowledge of the industry. These resources have been invaluable in staying updated with the latest developments and research findings, enabling me to make informed decisions in my professional endeavors.

In summary, MRPA has been instrumental in my professional growth by offering unparalleled networking opportunities, high-quality education, and relevant training. Through my MRPA membership, I have not only expanded my professional network but also enhanced my skills and knowledge, making me a more effective and knowledgeable professional in the field of parks and recreation.

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

Reduce deficit programs, expand successful revenue programs, and explore revenue models for financial viability of the Association. As a current board member, I have really examined the MRPA budget to fully understand the current financial issues at hand and to investigate the need for a new financial model. This is an extremely important piece to the success of our Association. This has been a long-standing desire of many members in the association to better understand the finances of MRPA. I feel that the MRPA board has momentum in the right direction, and I would like to continue to help this progress.

Being on the MRPA Board of Directors, I used the information gathered by the Membership Resource Group Listening sessions, to help solidify a consultant to create a plan for future changes to the operations of MRPA. Through the survey conducted by the consultant, the members have spoken loudly about what they would like to see for the Association. I believe it is up to the board to understand the members' desire and hopefully implement most of the changes requested – based on the mantra that MRPA is a member driven organization.

I would also continue to champion the mentorship program. I believe it is important to the ongoing success of our profession, that there are experienced professionals that are connecting with younger professionals that want to learn and grow.

Web based resource center focusing on trends, benefits, parks, plans and specs. I feel that this is something that has been discussed for years that is slowly commencing. I would like to help champion this initiative and inform the membership on its progress.

Identify common goals of the profession and other public service providers in transportation, public works, community development, housing, and health; and use shared goals for a basis to enhance partnerships. Use that same model to look outward – and find additional partners to help advance parks and recreation. Such as working with local tourism and event organizations, including Minnesota Festival and Events Association, convention and visitor bureaus, and

destination management organizations. I feel that there is so much crossover in these different areas where we can learn from each other and have more strength in tackling these issues as a unified front.

Many know that I am passionate about race, equity, and inclusion and how much our profession has potential impact in this area. We can do better, and we should do more! Not only should parks and recreation be a welcoming place for participants to be their authentic selves, but our staff should reflect the communities we serve. We need to think bigger and more globally than we have before. We will need to connect with partner organizations and activate members to help in these efforts. My work with the MRPA Race and Equity Advisory Committee (REAC) has shown that I know how to use my passion and allyship and will do my best to continue to create opportunities for race, equity and inclusion initiatives at the board level.

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?

Thanks to the Membership Resource Group Listening sessions and the consultant, the Association has a roadmap! There is a large group of members that believe we can do better in the services we offer. We need to make sure that we are providing value for the membership dollars that are spent with MRPA, otherwise those members will find other ways to spend them.

We need to move beyond what we have always done, and into a model of "What can we do?" These are not easy asks or questions, but the findings from the consultant are clear in that MRPA has work to do. With me being a current board member, I can help see this change through to completion in the next two years.

11. Professional Work Experience in Park and Recreation Profession

City of St. Louis Park, St. Louis Park, Minnesota Parks and Recreation Director August 2022 – present

 Responsible for overseeing all operations of recreation programs, parks maintenance, natural resources, fleet maintenance, facility maintenance, Rec. Center, and the Westwood Hills Nature Center.

City of St. Louis Park, St. Louis Park, Minnesota Interim Parks and Recreation Director May 2022 - August 2022 Responsible for overseeing all operations of recreation programs, parks maintenance, natural resources, fleet maintenance, facility maintenance, Rec. Center, and the Westwood Hills Nature Center.

City of St. Louis Park, St. Louis Park, Minnesota Recreation Superintendent December 2013 – May 2022

- Manage, Direct, and Evaluate Daily Operations of the Rec. Center and its Programs and Special Events
- Oversee All Operations of Westwood Hills Nature Center
- Manage the Development, Communication, Implementation, and Evaluation of the Recreation Department's Marketing Plan
- Administer and Supervise Full-Time Recreation Staff
- Directly Responsible for the Rec Center and Westwood Hills Budgets, Financials, and Departmental Goals/Objectives and Policies/Procedures
- · Contribute to the Development, Communication, Implementation, and Evaluation of the Department's Annual Work Plan and Longer-Term City Wide Strategic Planning
- Help manage large capital projects such as an outdoor recreational complex, master planning for Westwood Hills Nature Center, and designing a community center
- · Maintain Community Partnerships

City of New Brighton, New Brighton, Minnesota Assistant Parks and Recreation Director 2005 – 2013

- Manage, Direct, and Evaluate Daily Operations of the Family Service Center and its Programs and Special Events
- · Oversee All Operations of Brightwood Hills Golf Course
- Manage the Development, Communication, Implementation, and Evaluation of the Parks and Recreation Department's Marketing Plan
- · Administer and Supervise Full-Time Recreation Staff
- Directly Responsible for the Family Service Center and Brightwood Hills Golf Course Budgets, Financials, and Departmental Goals/Objectives and Policies/Procedures
- Contribute to the Development, Communication, Implementation, and Evaluation of the Department's Annual Work Plan and Longer Term City Wide Strategic Planning
- Assist in the Creation, Implementation, and Development of the Parks and Recreation Department's Strategic Plan
- Maintain Community Partnerships

City of Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove, Minnesota Recreation Supervisor 2002 – 2005

- · Administer and Supervise Recreation Office Staff and Operations
- Directly Responsible for Division Budgets, Financials, and Departmental Goals/Objectives and Policies/Procedures

- Coordinate the Planning, Organization and Administration of Summer Playground Programs, Outdoor Swimming Pool Program, and Winter Skating Program
- Coordinate Bidding Process for a Skate Park and Assist with Park Master Planning,
 Choosing Playground Equipment, Design, and Location
- · Coordinate and Administrate Adult Recreational Leagues
- Recruit Seasonal Employees in the Recreation Department (Select, Train, Coordinate, Evaluate, Hire, and Terminate)
- · Coordinate a Comprehensive Public Relations/Marketing Program to Encourage Participation in Recreational Activities
- Administer and Supervise Community Special Events (Great Grove Get Together, Safety Camp, Summer Day Camps, Carnivals, and Egg Hunts)
- Develop a Working Relationship/Collaborations With Surrounding School District,
 Recreational Agencies, and Athletic Associations
- · Develop a Recycling Program by Incorporating a Departmental Mascot

City of Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove, Minnesota Program Coordinator 1996 – 2002

- Hire, Train, Supervise and Evaluate Employees (50-70 seasonal staff)
- · Coordinate and Supervise Nine Playground Facilities, Seven Warming House Facilities and an Outdoor Aquatic Facility
- · Directly Responsible for Community Teen Programs and Youth-At-Risk Programs
- · Prepare Financial Records and Division Budgets
- Responsible for Promoting Public Relations
- · Directly Responsible for All Concessions
- · Coordinate Leagues and Tournaments for Various Sports

12. Education and Training

University of South Florida, Muma College of Business, 2021

· Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate

College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota 2001-2002

· Master of Arts – Management

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, Wisconsin 1992-1996

· Bachelor of Science – Recreation Management

Rocky Mountain Revenue Management School, Estes Park, Colorado 2007

Certified Pool/Spa Operator (CPO) 2003-2006

Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) 1998-present

National Incident Management System (NIMS) 2006

Red Cross Shelter Operations and Simulations Certificate 2008

National Incident Management System (NIMS) 2006

Certified Pool/Spa Operator (CPO) 2003-2006

Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) 1998-present

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

MRPA Race and Equity Advisory Committee Chair, 2019 – 2022

MRPA Conference Presenter on many topics, 2021, 2020, 2019,

MRPA Conference Off-site Presenter 2021, 2019

MRPA Race and Equity Workshop Spring, Presenter and Moderator, 2021

MRPA Race and Equity Workshop Fall, Moderator, 2021

MRPA Facilities Institute, Presenter 2021

MRPA Annual State Conference Committee, Co-Chair 2012

MRPA Board of Director, East Metro Representative, 2011-2012

MRPA Strategic Planning Committee 2010-2011

MRPA Emerging Recreation Leaders Institute (ERLI), Co-Chair/Co-Founder 2006-2008

Co-created and implemented Institute.

MRPA Annual State Conference Committee, Chair of Marketing/Delegate Activities 2008

- · Organize marketing efforts to the MRPA membership.
- · Research delegate gifts, plan delegate socials/events, and coordinate banquets.

MRPA Communications Committee 2007-2008

 Research other national recreation association websites in regards to redesigning MRPA's website

MRPA Summer Leadership Workshop, Co-presented on "Professionalism in the Workforce" 2007

· Presented to 30+ young recreation professionals.

MRPA Annual State Conference, Co-presented on "Back to School: Exploring a Master's Degree or NRPA Certification" 2007

· Presented to 30+ recreation professionals.

Editorial Board for the MRPA Magazine 2006-2011

· Help create articles and find innovative ideas for the magazine.

MRPA Administrative Section Member 2005-2011

MRPA Program Section Member 2001-2009

MRPA Aquatic Pre-Conference Institute, Chair 2000

MRPA Aquatic Section, Chairperson 1999-2000

MRPA Aquatic Section "AFP" Aquatic Facility Perspective, Co-Chair 1998-2000

MRPA State Aquatic Conference Program, Co-Chair 1997-1998

MRPA Aquatic Section Member 1997-2001

14. Other Volunteer Professional Association/Community Involvement

MRPF Board of Directors 2009-2011

MRPF Secretary 2009-2011

Take detailed minutes and worked with other officers.

MRPF Casual Connections 2010-2011

 Co-created and implemented networking opportunities for young and experienced professionals.

MRPF Nominating Committee 2009-2011

Organize nominations for MRPF Board.

Minnesota Recreation and Parks Foundation (MRPF) 2006-present

Rho Phi Lambda, Recreation Professional Fraternity 1997-present

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) 1997-present

American Park and Recreation Society (APRS) 1997-present

Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association (WPRA) 1995-1997

Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) 1996

Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine 2010-present

· Help support Shriners Hospital for Children with disabilities.

Boy Scouts of America 2009-2017

· Assistant Den Leader

Cottage Grove United Soccer - Athletic Association 2010-2017

- · CGU Board Member
- Uniform Coordinator for Cottage Grove United
- Head Soccer Coach (2 teams)

Cottage Grove Athletic Association 2009-2010

· Assistant Basketball Coach

Minnesota Masons, Accacia Lodge #51 1999-present

- · Master of the Lodge 2006
- · Received "Lodge of the Year" 2006
- · Lifetime Member

Adopted Peter Thompson Park, Coordinate and organize bi-annual park cleanup 2006-2008 Coordinate Kid's ID program in Cottage Grove

- . 2001-2005
- · Served over 1,000 youth

Participated in Kid's ID program at the Minnesota State Fair 2005-2009

All Saints Lutheran Church member 1974-present

- · Recreation Specialist
- · Youth small group leader 1997-2000
- Adult small group leader 2004
- Teen mentor 1998-2001
- · Musician 1996-present
- · Sunday School Leader 1992

Volunteered in Jaycees Halloween Parade 2006-2012

Raised money for "Tools for Schools" 2006-2009

Cottage Grove Strawberry Festival Parade Co-Emcee for South Washington County

Telecommunications Commission 2007

Cottage Grove liaison to five community youth athletic associations 2002-2005

Participated and raised money for the Susan G. Komen breast cancer walk 2003, 2004, and 2005,

Participated and raised money for Juvenile Diabetes walk 2001, 2002, and 2003

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Participated and raised money for heart disease walk 1999, 2000, 2004, Coordinated and organized a team for the heart disease walk 1999