

ASPA Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2020

(This meeting was held via Zoom.)

Present: Ken Stone, Michael Hughes, Marisa Nold, Brian Bray, Chris Marcello, Chris Jones, Rosaleen Nogle, Tony Astran, Michael Ramos

Meeting began at: 5:34 p.m. We have a quorum.

Amendment 9/15/20 minutes:

- There was a motion to approve reimbursing Tony for WordPress account, which was seconded.

Motion for approval of 9/15/20 minutes. Seconded.

Officer Reports -

President and Communications Officer:

- Tony took down census logo off of our ASPA website now that the census is over.
- Tony sent the e-mail about the committees and board members spot.
- There was no response about Tony's committee or for a new Board member.
- Every ASPA e-mail that is sent gets a 40 to 50% open rate.
- This e-mail about inquiry about the committee and Board member vacancy had 64 recipients, 34.3% open rate, and no bounce backs.
- Tony may do a re-send of those e-mails.

Treasurer:

- We reimbursed Tony for WordPress account in the amount of \$122.40.
- Our balance is \$1,073.96.
- Our bank balance is \$1,323.96.
- Ken put all of our bank statements in a Treasurer's folder.
- Brian Bray needs to be reimbursed or reissued a new check for the Maria Whyte event at Cole's for \$250.

Secretary:

- The 9/15/20 minutes were uploaded to Dropbox and e-mailed.

Membership Officer:

- Not present.

Unfinished Business –

Three New Committees:

- There is currently nothing going on with Tony's committee.
- We are looking to get a meeting set up soon to see our membership and do outreach to get one or two more people.
- Tony has not received any feedback yet.
- Chris did not receive any e-mails from our outreach either.
- Tony will send an e-mail to Buffalo State and Makenzie to attempt further outreach.
- We're going to table committee discussions to our next meeting, so we can do a quick check-in under New Business.

Board Member Position:

- Currently, there are no updates.
- Tony knows one person that works at City Hall and may reach out to see if he wants to become a member.
- Michael Ramos has reached out to personnel at City Hall and has not heard back.
- City Hall personnel are starting to physically report back to work.

Membership:

- We get a \$5 rebate from ASPA for the recruitment of new members.
- If we recruit more than 35 members, each of those additional members will get a higher rebate of \$10.
- Example: If we end up with 45 members, we'd get an additional \$100 at \$10 per member because we'd be ten members over 35.
- The cost has not changed but there are different categories of membership.
- Membership has gone up a little bit, about \$5 or \$10
- Individual membership is \$130/year.
- Electronic membership is \$105/year.
- New professional membership is \$70/year.
- Student membership is \$60/year.
- Retired membership is \$85/year.

Journal Update:

- No update

New Business:

What can we accomplish before the end of year?

- Tony suggested some kind of activity or webinar event.
- It's difficult right now with the election occurring.
- Morale is down with everyone between COVID and the election.

Chris Marcello's ideas –

- Book talks
- Service activities – partnering with another organization, particularly around the holidays
- Presentations by elected officials
- Celebrating unique public works challenges that we confront in this region with someone from the Army Corps. of Engineers
- Local conversation topics, challenges around the national border
- Trivia, tying it in with different schools of public administration or policy
- Different panel discussions
- Conversations with local academics

Program Committee –

- Chris will send out above ideas via e-mail.
- The committee will strive to think of something simple on a service level and virtual.
- Rosaleen offered to give a possible sewer tour and presentation.

Celebrating Good News

Meeting ended at: 6:15 p.m.

Next meeting: November 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom