

ASPA Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2021

Amherst Center for Senior Services

Present: Brian Bray, Ken Stone, Tony Astran, Rosaleen Nogle, Makenzie Docteur, Michael Ramos, Michael Hughes, Maria Garozzo-Payne, Brian Poliner, Gordon Stewart, Chris Marcello, Ryan Gadzo, Atta Ceesay, Jason Rivera, Laurie Buonanno, Oswaldo Mestre, Jr., Anna Mongo

Meeting called at 5:30 p.m. We have a quorum.

Douglas Kohler, Erie County Historian, presented on the Erie County Bicentennial plan #EC200. Erie County Heritage Passport program to get people to visit historical sites and key local areas despite the pandemic.

Motion to approve the agenda by Brian Bray. Seconded by Rosie Nogle.

Awards with Remarks by Recipients:

Excellence in Governmental Administration: Oswaldo Mestre, Jr. Chief Service Officer & Director of Citizen Services, City of Buffalo (nominated by Rosaleen Nogle)

Excellence in Public Administration Education: Jason Rivera, Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Admin., SUNY Buffalo State (nominated by Tony Astran)

Excellence in Non-Profit Administration: Myron Glick, M.D., Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Jericho Road Community Health Center (nominated by Rosaleen Nogle) Accepted by Dr. Anna Mongo, Chief Program Officer.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 4/20/21 with amendments by Rosie. Seconded by Brian Bray.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 5/18/21 with amendments by Brian Bray. Seconded by Rosie.

Officer Reports:

President:

- Thank you to the chapter for everyone's help, the board, what a year it's been to have to go through the pandemic and now hopefully coming out the other side.
- Had goals for networking this year but like everyone else, we had no idea how long things would extend with the pandemic
- What I tried to do was to pivot and set up the infrastructure/seeds to help the chapter grow long-term
- Proud to have set up the committees and being involved in the PSRW conference with Buffalo State

- Let's keep going, stay active, and build a good foundation so we can keep growing
- We had so many challenges to overcome, but it really was a great year and I'm proud of the work that we did and the contributions from the board

Communications Officer:

- Keeping social media and web updated.
- Many email newsletters for general news and annual meeting promotion, as well as committee meetings.
- E-newsletters for the annual meeting really drove the traffic.
- Low engagement with social media, higher engagement with newsletters.

Communications Committee:

- Met and had a lot of great ideas in a short period of time
- Wanting to build a pool of generic messaging to fill gaps in social media, such as the benefits of becoming a member.
- Might be able to subsidize a student membership to encourage people to join – an idea.
- Still working on the WNY Feud event, we will postpone to later in the fall.
- Michael R will take our photos from this meeting for social/web.
- Tony will update the website with the minutes from the last two meetings and update our event page.

Treasurer:

- We currently have \$1,073.97 in our bank account.
- We are financially stable as we haven't spent much money during the pandemic.

Membership Officer:

- Would like to take a moment to thank Tony for his leadership through such a turbulent time. Tony has the heart of a great leader. He represents what public service is all about, everyone has a role to play. They say leaders are either born or made or a combination thereof, but as someone who teaches leadership, you have truly served this organization well despite all the craziness of the world. Thank you, Tony!
- 34 members. Down from pre-pandemic membership numbers which was 40. The numbers lost are the student population. Seven students dropped off. We retained all professional members. Indicative of the fact that from a classroom standpoint, everything's been done virtually and at a distance. Less engagement with students.
- No progress on Great Lakes journal as of this time.

Membership Committee:

- We're continuing to meet. 4-5 people on the committee. Hoping to launch some events in the fall to encourage membership in the organization.
- Atta is committed to coordinating membership opportunities and recruitment events for the BSC MPA students.

Secretary:

- Not present

Programming Committee:

Chris is absent. Tomorrow (6/17/21) is the second book club meeting. Use email list for book club to make sure everyone receives the notice and reminder.

Nominations Chair (Brian Bray):

- Officer positions (Reappointments):
 - Communications Officer: Tony Astran
 - Secretary: Marisa Nold
 - Membership Officer: Brian Poliner
 - Treasurer: Ken Stone
- We have four open positions on the Board:
 1. Ryan Gadzo (new - 2-year term)
 2. Maria Garozzo-Payne (new - 2-year term)
 3. Gordon Stewart (reappointment -2-year term)
 4. Michael Hughes (reappointment – 2-year term)
 5. Brian Bray (reappointment – 1-year term)
- President-Elect: Chris Marcello

Motion to approve the new slate of officers as presented by unanimous proclamation by Ken Stone. Seconded by Rosie. All in favor.

Remarks from Makenzie Docteur, our new Buffalo/Niagara Chapter President:

- Reiteration of Brian P's comments about Tony's presidency. Thank you to Tony for serving as president.
- Hope to focus on membership as main priority for 2021-2022.
- We should establish more networking opportunities with local colleges and bolster our connection to governmental and non-profit administrations.
- Looking forward to working with you all!

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded.

Meeting ended: 6:45p.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU4pSAMEYU>