

ASPA Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2020

(This meeting was held via Google Hangout.)

Present: Chris Jones, Makenzie Docteur, Michael Hughes, Chris Marcello, Gordon Stewart, Michael Ramos, Brian Poliner, Tony Astran, Ken Stone, Rosaleen Nogle

Meeting began: 5:30 p.m. We have a quorum.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded.

President and Communications Officer:

President –

- We received a note about membership from ASPA National at the end of last month.
- Due to financial difficulties with the COVID-19 pandemic, there are incentives to submit our incoming dues and recruit members with \$10 per member.

Communications Officer -

- Tony posted our video of our annual Zoom meeting on the ASPA website and our various ASPA social media accounts.
- Our Zoom digital experience was also posted under “news and events” on our ASPA website.
- Our meeting minutes and past event flyers are also posted on our ASPA website. Still working on helpful job links.

Treasurer –

- We have no expenses incurred.
- We have a check that has not been cashed yet.
- Our balance is \$846.46
- Our cash balance is \$1,096.36.
- We are awaiting our \$350 2019 chapter rebate from membership dues that was supposed to be transferred to us.
- Ken will follow up with Karen Garrett regarding the whereabouts of our rebate.

Membership Officer –

- Hilbert’s fall semester starts on September 5th.
- Brian plans on reaching out to new cohort.
- Brian reached out to Buffalo State; no response yet.

- Hilbert's MPA numbers are still very strong, both hybrid and online, despite the pandemic.
- Our membership list shows a membership expiration date of June 30th, so unsure if expired members are able to vote or hold an office.

Secretary –

- The July 21, 2020 meeting minutes were e-mailed and uploaded to Dropbox.

Unfinished Business:

Open Board member position –

- Dr. Ceesay is a potential for a Board member, but Tony has not heard back yet.
- If Tony doesn't hear something by end of the week, presume on vacation or busy.
- Another thought is to send out an open e-mail that there's a position available, to gauge any interest.
- The challenge of getting a Board member is that they have to be an ASPA member first; we will try to get this resolved next meeting.
- Michael Ramos said that he can reach out to City Hall to see if there is any interest and possibly recruit members.

Great Lakes PA Journal Update –

- There will probably be no movement on the journal until September/October.
- Brian hasn't been able to move anything until the beginning of the semester.

New Business:

Synthesis of 2020/2021 goals –

- Tony looked over goals that everyone contributed
- He divvied them up into categories: Diversity, community activism, membership growth and continued momentum.
- Diversity - new Board member with a diverse background, person of color, etc.
- Community activism – being able to make a difference in community service events and advocate for issues.
- We should have better connections to local government, whether it's on a membership level or a programming level, to have awareness from the Rath building, so they are aware of what we do and offer.
- Membership growth will be a challenge with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but we can be creative in ways to do it, and we have a good connection with Brian Poliner with the school year coming up.

- With the need for continued momentum for membership/communication, we can develop a few committees starting amongst ourselves.
- Three was a suggested number to start up three committees: Membership, Communications, and Programming/Events.
- The Membership Committee goals could range from ways to welcome members, target outreach and higher education connections. Brian Poliner could head this.
- Tony could head a Communications Committee with social media updates and web posts.
- Programming/Events Committee ideas could range from formal events to happy hours to service opportunities.
- The committees could meet informally and hold events each month.
- These events would be great for membership recruitment.
- Chris Marcello volunteered to lead the Programming/Events Committee.
- Michael Ramos volunteered to join the Communications Committee.
- We could have an e-blast for our membership and let potential members know about committees if there is any Board interest or joining ASPA.
- Tony will develop initial objectives for the committees and send via e-mail.

Motion made to establish subcommittees. Seconded.

Upcoming Programming –

- Tony proposed two potential topics that are good draws.
- Topic #1 – Invite a regional/local representatives to discuss the importance of the census, how it works, why it matters and what we can do to educate people.
- Topic #2 – To do some type of programming on the intersection of public administration and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tony will research a local U.S. Census contact that would be willing to offer a presentation.

Celebrating Good News Discussion

- It was the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment! ☺

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded.

Meeting ended at: 6:12 p.m.

Next meeting: September 15, 2020 at 5:30 via Zoom.