



HISTORY OF AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

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Funds for Publication provided by National Recreation Foundation, Robert W. Crawford, Executive Director

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PREFACE

The objective of this publication is to document the founding and growth of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. From its inception, the Academy has been very successful because of the hard work and efforts of some very dedicated people.

At the initial meeting in Phoenix and for a few years thereafter there was a concern among a few that the Academy was founded to rival the National Recreation and Park Association. This is not, nor was it ever the case. In fact, many of the people attending that initial meeting had served in leadership positions with NRPA and they were looking for a way to continue to serve the profession and to support NRPA. The Academy has continued to be a strong supporter of NRPA, cooperating with, and providing assistance to NRPA in many ways.

The Academy was initiated to provide an opportunity for educators and practitioners, many of whom had served in top leadership positions with NRPA and NRA branches, to continue to provide service and leadership to the profession.

The Academy has a bright future ahead, and through the work of the Goals Committee, the direction has been set for the second ten years. The Academy will continue to provide leadership and service to the profession in its efforts to advance knowledge and encourage scholarly efforts related to the administration of recreation and parks.

Robert F. Toalson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer (1990)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: THE AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Charles F. Hartsoe

The initial idea for establishing a park and recreation academy grew out of the merger that created the National Recreation and Park Association in 1965. Many of the founding board members of NRPA felt that an academy of distinguished professional and citizen leaders should be established to serve as an advisory body to the NRPA Board of Trustees, Article IV, Section 6 of the NRPA constitution contained the following provision.

“There shall be a Recreation and Park Academy composed of lay and professional persons who have distinguished themselves in the recreation and park movement, to serve as an advisory body to the Board of Trustees. They shall be elected to this position of honor for life by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Trustees. They need not be or have been members or officers of the National Association.”

An NRPA organizational chart published in the late 1960s showed the Recreation and Park Academy having an advisory relationship to the NRPA Board.

By 1973, the provision of the NRPA constitution regarding establishing an academy had not been fulfilled. The chairman of the NRPA board appointed a special 12-member board committee to develop a charter and procedures for establishing a park and recreation academy as outlined by the constitution. Apparently there was no follow-up on the report, and an academy was not established at that time. The provision of NRPA's constitution that mandated an academy was subsequently dropped from the constitution.

During the late 1970s several long-time senior members of the NRPA expressed concern regarding the lack of continuing opportunity for professional service and fellowship among senior park and recreation administrators. The feeling expressed indicated that once an individual had completed service on NRPA committees and its board, there was little opportunity for continued involvement. The concept of establishing an academy then re-emerged.

Frank Vaydik, President of the American Institute of Park Executives, at the time of the merger in 1965 along with a small group of other administrators, organized a meeting among potential Academy members at the 1980 NRPA Congress in Phoenix, Arizona. A resolution to establish the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and to pledge \$100 each to assist with the cost of the organization was signed by twenty-nine park and recreation

professionals attending the meeting. Vaydik and a small delegation reviewed plans to establish the Academy with the

Executive Director of NRPA, and invited the NRPA to participate in the Academy's formation. The same delegation visited the offices of the National Academy for Public Administration in Washington, D.C. to review their constitution and operational procedures.

The NRPA sent a representative to this meeting. While NRPA chose to remain independent of the Academy, its initial assumption was that since many of the founding members of the Academy had been instrumental in the formation of NRPA, that there would be a continuing close and mutually supportive relationship between the two organizations.

ACADEMY BEGINNINGS

October 22, 1980 - Twenty-nine park and recreation professionals gathered at the Adams Hotel during the NRPA Congress for Recreation and Parks at the call and invitation of Frank Vaydik for the purpose of discussing the founding of a new organization - The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

The consensus of the discussion at the meeting was that such an academy was needed. A motion to appoint Frank Vaydik as temporary President of the Academy was moved by Mary Grogan, seconded by David Laidlaw, and passed.

Other motions passed appointing David Laidlaw as temporary Secretary/Treasurer of the Academy, and authorizing the temporary President to appoint committees, and authorizing the temporary Secretary/Treasurer to establish a bank account for the deposit and disbursement of Academy funds.

Nash Castro moved, and was seconded by Ralph Wilson that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION

We the undersigned, meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on this 22nd day of October, 1980, and other interested colleagues not present here today, hereby endorse the establishment of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, as well as its principles, concept and objectives, as outlined in its preamble, and we each hereby contribute or pledge the sum of \$100.00 to assist with the costs of the organization.

PREAMBLE

"We, the concerned parks and recreation professionals of America, in order to promote understanding of parks and recreation goals and methods, to increase knowledge through encouraging its gathering, organization and dissemination, and to unify and strengthen our purposes, all toward improving the quality of life in America, do hereby decree the establishment of an Academy of illustrious parks and recreation fellows to undertake this charge."

SIGNATORIES

Thomas P. Allen, Jr.	Pauline des Granges	David O. Laidlaw	Robert F. Toalson
Joseph J. Bannon	William C. Forrey	Robert Lodell	Richard Trudeau
William Bird	Robert Frazer	James Mertes	Louis F. Twardzik
Nash Castro	Clifton F. French	James A. Peterson	Frank Vaydik
Charles Christiansen	Mary Grogan	Leslie M. Reid	Nathaniel Washington
Jerry Darter	Charles Hartsoe	Robert Ruhe	Arthur T. Wilcox
John H. Davis	Arthur Janura	Kenneth J. Smithee	Ralph C. Wilson

Eight \$100 checks were accepted at this meeting. Following the initial meeting, temporary President Vaydik appointed five committees. These committees and the Chairman of each were:

Constitution and Bylaws:	Charles Hartsoe
Nominating and Elections:	Kenneth J. Smithee
Membership:	Robert Frazer
Finance:	Ralph C. Wilson
Program:	Robert F. Toalson

1981

October 28, 1981 - The new proposed Bylaws of the Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration were presented at the meeting of the Academy held on October 28, 1981 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The objectives of the Academy as stated in the Bylaws are:

1. To advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks.
2. To encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators to enhance the practice of park and recreation administration, and to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good.
3. To conduct research, publish scholarly papers and/or sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

The Bylaws were approved by unanimous vote. Fifty members joined the Academy during the year and they were

declared founding members (see appendix for names). The following were elected as officers of the Academy:

Frank Vaydik	President
David Laidlaw	President-Elect
Charles Hartsoe	Treasurer
Robert F. Toalson	Secretary
Robert Crawford	Board Member
Pauline des Granges	Board Member
Tony Mobley	Board Member
William Penn Mott	Board Member
Ralph Wilson	Board Member
Conrad Wirth	Board Member

JOURNAL OF PARK AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

The idea for an Academy publication was initiated in February 1981 at a meeting at Great Lakes Park Training Institute Angola, Indiana. Academy members Ted Deppe, David Laidlaw, Tony Mobley, Bob Ruhe, Ken Smithee, Bob Toalson and Lou Twardzik met with President Frank Vaydik to discuss programs for the Academy. The idea for a journal was proposed by Indiana University staff members Tony Mobley, Ted Deppe, Cheryl Beeler & Dan Sharpless.

Given approval to proceed, the staff at Indiana University prepared a proposal for publishing a *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* that was mailed to all Academy members prior to the meeting in Minneapolis.

The rationale for the *Journal* was:

1. There is a unity of aims, interests and feelings among individuals to promote a better understanding of parks and recreation administration through conducting, organizing, and disseminating scholarly works.
2. There is a need for a new professional park and recreation journal. Reference was made to a paper prepared by Chrystos Siderelis "Concept Paper for a Practical Journal," stating that present journals and periodicals were not adequately addressing research needs in recreation and park administration.
3. There is an expressed need for cooperative efforts among park, recreation, leisure scientists and practitioners. In addition, the proposal called for a monograph called the "Academy Papers" to be published bi-annually. The monograph would comprise articles, reports and distinguished papers pertaining to the administration and management of leisure, parks and recreation agencies. In Minneapolis, the Academy unanimously approved a motion that the proposal to sponsor a *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* be accepted in concept, and that the Board of Directors be authorized to seek bid proposals from interested agencies.

An application for editorship of the *Journal* was submitted by the Universities of Illinois and Indiana at the Academy's Board of Directors meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on January 15, 1982. Acceptance of the proposal was approved and the Board authorized an expenditure of \$4,000 and set a goal to raise \$20,000 to initially finance the *Journal*. The Board also approved a motion that the publication be called "*Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*." President Vaydik asked Ted Deppe and Joe Bannon to revise the proposal in such a manner that would make it more useful in the fundraising efforts.

Organizational responsibilities for the *Journal*, prepared by Joe Bannon and Ted Deppe, were approved by the Board of Directors on July 14, 1982. Joe Bannon and Ted Deppe were appointed Co-Editors and 15 Associate Editors and a Book Review Editor were appointed. At that meeting, proposals for printing of the *Journal* were also reviewed and the contract was awarded to the lowest proposal from the Indiana University Press. Subscription rates were also approved.

The fundraising efforts were spearheaded by Robert Crawford and Conrad Wirth. Grants for initiating the *Journal* were received from: Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. \$10,000; the National Recreation Foundation \$7,500 and the Lila Acheson Wallace Foundation \$5,000. This total of \$22,500 allowed the Academy to start publication.

At the annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on October 26, 1982, a budget of \$40,694 was approved for the *Journal*. Six thousand promotional flyers were mailed in October and November, and the first copy of the *Journal* was mailed in January of 1983 to 111 subscribers. By the time the third issue was mailed in July, there were 401 subscribers and by September 30, 1983 there were 505 subscribers.

At the Annual Meeting in Kansas City in 1983, the Board authorized the transfer of an additional \$1,575 to the *Journal* accounts. The Academy continued to subsidize the *Journal* until 1986 when the *Journal* finished in the black for the first time. On September 1984, there were 701 subscribers and the *Journal* continued to operate with around 700 subscribers.

In April 1987, Management Learning Laboratories, Ltd., Joseph J. Bannon, President, submitted a proposal for management of the *Journal*. The proposal called for MLL to provide copy editing, printing, administration, marketing, and promotion of the *Journal* for a total annual fee of \$26,700. This proposal was approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting of April 22, 1987. Joe Bannon was approved as Managing Editor and publisher and Ted Deppe and Dr. Larry Allen, Head of the Department of Leisure Studies at the University of Illinois, were appointed as Co-Editors.

The Sagamore Publishing Division of Management Learning Laboratories, Ltd. continued to publish the *Journal* through

the Winter issue of 1990. Subscriptions were increased from 699 in 1987 to 955 in September of 1989.

At the Annual Meeting in San Antonio on October 19, 1989, the Publications Committee, chaired by Tony Mobley, recommended that beginning in 1991 one editor be selected to manage the Journal and that the editorship position be opened to any interested person. This motion was approved and John Crompton, the 1990 Publications Committee Chair, prepared an announcement soliciting applications for the position of Editor for a three-year period, October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1994. The appointment would be made at the October 1990 meeting of the Academy's Board of Director's meeting.

Also at the San Antonio meeting, the Board approved a motion authorizing the advertisement for proposals for the publishing and professional management of the *Journal* beginning in January 1991. Publications Chair John Crompton prepared an RFP to solicit bids from publishers to publish the *Journal* starting in January 1991. These proposals were received on August 31, 1990 and presented to the Board of Directors for action at their meeting in Phoenix on October 11, 1990. The Board of Directors selected the proposal submitted by Sagamore Publishing Company, Champaign, Illinois and authorized the signing of a contract for three years with an option for an additional three years.

LEGENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The Legends in Parks and Recreation program was initiated in 1981 by Robert Toalson who thought it would be good to record interviews with top administrators in the field on video. Toalson proposed taping the initial interviews at the Academy annual meeting to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as part of the 1981 NRPA National Congress. John Schultz arranged for the video tapings at the University of Minnesota by the University of Minnesota Media Resources. The interviews conducted on October 26, 1981 were: Dr. Edith Bail, interviewed by Ralph Wilson and Roger Brown; Conrad Wirth, interviewed by Lou Twardzik and John Schultz; Frank Vaydik, interviewed by Jim Mertes and Jerry Darter; Robert Crawford, interviewed by Charles Hartsoe and Robert Toalson; Clifton French, interviewed by David Laidlaw and Donald Cochran

Robert Toalson served as Project Coordinator and James Mertes as Technical Advisor. Jim Mertes informed Toalson of his interest in the Legend project early in 1981 and told him the project would be a great continuation of the Living Library project initiated at Texas Tech University in 1970. From 1970 to 1973 a series of Park and Recreation leaders in Texas as well as the National Park Service were interviewed and videotaped.

In 1981, the Academy obtained copies for the following tapes from Texas Tech University: Horace M. Albright, second Director of the National Park Service; Newton B. Drury, Fourth Director of the National Park Service; Raymond Freeman, Deputy Director of the National Park Service and Past President and American Society of Landscape Architects; Stewart Udall, Former Secretary of the Interior.

Through the years, additional video interviews were taped by the Academy: Reynold Carlson, interviewed by Janet MacLean; Olga Madar interviewed by David Laidlaw and Betty Lloyd; Charles Doell, interviewed by Cliff French and Ben Wright; Janet MacLean, interviewed by Tony Mobley and Jim Peterson; Garrett Eppley, interviewed by Janet MacLean; Joseph Prendergast, interviewed by Charles Hartsoe; William Frederickson, interviewed by Mary Grogan and Marilyn Jensen; William Penn Mott, interviewed by Jay Verlee and Richard Trudeau; Russell Dickensen, interviewed by Charles Odegaard; Willard Sutherland, interviewed by Janet MacLean.

In addition, three other tapes were obtained by the Academy. Bill Forrey presented a video "State Parks-Past and Present," which was produced by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in conjunction with hosting the 25th annual meeting at the National Association of State Park Directors. Dr. Larry Neal of the University of Oregon presented a tape on "Dr. Kim, Father of Korean Recreation," which was produced in 1986. A tape about Robert Moses - "The American Experience, the World Moses Built" was purchased by the Academy and added to the video library. The Committee remains active with plans to obtain additional video interviews for the Academy Library.

THE RECREATION AND PARK HALL OF FAME

Following a suggestion from Robert Crawford, Charles Hartsoe, Academy member and Chairman of the NRPA Lee Library Committee, prepared a proposal to create a "Public Recreation and Park Hall of Fame." The proposal was to develop a Hall of Fame that would be jointly sponsored by the Academy and the National Recreation and Park Association. It would be housed in the Joseph Lee Library and Information Center at NRPA Headquarters.

This proposal was presented to the Academy Board of Directors at their meeting of October 16, 1986. The proposal called for a Joint Academy/Lee Library Committee to be created to develop guidelines, recommend candidates, and manage the

project; that pictorial plaques of the honorees be displayed in the Lee Library; and that the Committee seek a small grant to fund the project. The Academy Board unanimously endorsed the project. Subsequently, NRPA received a startup grant from the National Recreation Foundation.

The Hall of Fame Committee is composed of the following members: the Chairman and Executive Director of NRPA; the Chairman of the NRPA Joseph Lee Memorial Library Committee; the Director of Professional Services for NRPA; the Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Academy; and three additional persons who are members of both NRPA and the Academy.

The first honorees selected by the committee were presented at the Congress in Indianapolis in 1988. They were: Howard S. Braucher, Luther H. Gulick, Joseph Lee, Frederick Law Olmsted, George A. Parker, Lebert H. Weir, and Theodore Wirth. Those added in 1989 were: Jane Addams, Ernest T. Attwell, Henry S. Curtis, Dorothy Enderis, and Stephen T. Mather.

ACCREDITATION FOR PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES

A proposal for the development of an accreditation process for Park and Recreation agencies was first presented to the Academy Board on April 22, 1987 by Lou Twardzik, Michigan State University. The Board requested additional study and documentation. Additional information was developed, and on June 24-26, 1989, a group of Academy members - Don Henkel representing NRPA and other resource people, including Mr. Frank Leahy, Jr., Director, Headquarter Operations, Commissioner on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies - met at Michigan State University to develop an accreditation proposal to present to the Academy Board. Partial funding for this meeting was provided by the James Foundation and support was provided by Michigan State University.

At the meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed various issues and recommendations and determined that the next step would be to return to the Academy Board as well as NRPA and the National Recreation Foundation to determine points of mutual interest in accreditation and possible support. The proposal to proceed was presented at the Academy Annual Meeting of October 19, 1989. The Academy Board asked the Committee to develop an operational plan that was realistic for implementation by the members of the Academy, and at the same time to discuss proposed accreditation ideas with NRPA.

At the Board Meeting of January 25, 1990, Lou Twardzik presented a plan that called for the continued development of an accreditation plan through two subcommittees: Standards Subcommittee, and Organization and Administration Subcommittee. At the same time, he called for financial support for the work of these committees of \$5,000 from the Academy. No action was taken at that time.

In 1989 the Academy received a matching grant from the New York Community Trust, Lucy Wortham James Memorial Fund with an understanding that some of the funds could be used for projects such as the Accreditation program. At the Board Meeting of July 16, 1990, approval was given to provide an initial funding of \$2,500 for the accreditation project with the possibility of reconsidering additional funding at the annual meeting.

At the Board of Directors meeting in Phoenix on October 11, 1990, Lou Twardzik and the committee members presented a report that outlined: Objectives, a proposed implementation schedule, chapter outline of an accreditation publication, and a proposal for organization and administration of a national accreditation program.

Approval was given by the Academy Board of Directors for an additional expenditure of \$5,000 to complete phase one of the accreditation project. It was noted that even if only phase one were completed, the Academy could publish the material as a guide for development of park and recreation agencies.

At that Board meeting, Dean Tice, Executive Director of NRPA, presented support for the Accreditation project and stated that he would try to provide some funding from NRPA and/or request support from the National Recreation Foundation to help with phase two of the Accreditation project. Don Jolley, President of NRPA, also supported the effort. The committee hopes to complete work on phase one of the Accreditation project in 1991.