California Park and Recreation Society
Aquatics Section

December 29, 2021

To: Nicole Acquisti, CPRS Secretary/Treasurer
From: Stephanie Molina, CPRS Aquatics Section President
Subject: Aquatics Section Presidential Series (2022-2023) Request

The 2021 Aquatics Section Board of Directors would like to respectfully request that the current Vice President, President Elect and President be allowed to stay in their positions for another year (2022). Please see a timeline of events that will help explain our situation and reasoning behind this request.

Presidential Series as of March 2021

- President Stephanie Molina
- President Elect Andrew Hubbard
- Vice President Lydie Gutfeld

Presidential Series as of October 2021

- President Stephanie Molina
- President Elect Lydie Gutfeld
- Vice President Stan Clark

September 20, 2021
Received notification from President Elect Andrew Hubbard that he would be resigning from the board (due to a career change) effective October 8, 2021.

October 13, 2021
To address the vacancy of Andrew Hubbard as President Elect, the board took action to appoint Lydie Gutfeld as President Elect and Stan Clark as Vice President. This accelerated Lydie's role in the Presidential Series and took Stan from his position as Region 4 Representative to the Presidential Series. At this same time, as we were discussing the nominations and election process for the 2022 board year, it was suggested by one of our board members that Stephanie, Lydie and Stan stay in their current roles for another year.

October 21, 2021
I sent an email to the CPRS State Board Presidential Series and Section Rep Leah Martinez, asking if it would be possible for Stephanie, Lydie and Stan to repeat their current roles. I was contacted not long after by President Tom Hellmann who let us know that our request was not being approved and we needed to carry on with trying to gather nominations for a Vice President and that Lydie and Stan would progress to the next position in the next board year.

October – November 2021
Recruitment for 2022 Board Nominations for all positions. Discussions took place during CAMS and via LinkedIn messages, emails, phone calls, etc. between current board members and outreach to anyone and everyone we could think of who may be interested in serving on the 2022 Aquatics Section Board. President Elect Lydie Gutfeld did quite a bit of personal outreach and was only marginally successful. As President, I also spoke with current board members (Ashlee Winslow, Kara Galindo) encouraging them to nominate themselves for Vice President.

California Park and Recreation Society
Aquatics Section

November 15, 2021
Deadline for board nominations was November 14, 2021. We received the following nominations:

- Vice President (0) No Nominations
- Secretary Aumee Frey
- Region 1 (1) Colin Smith
- Region 3 (1) Ashlee Winslow
- Region 5 (2) Nicole McNeil, Andrew Jackman

December 1, 2021
I had a personal phone conversation with Andrew Jackman and the possibility of him being willing/interested in changing is board nomination from Region 5 Rep to Vice President. He indicated that he was more comfortable in starting his involvement as a Region Rep instead of jumping right into the Presidential Series.

This leaves the Section with no Vice President nominees and no prospects at this time.

On behalf of the Aquatics Section, I am requesting the State Board to consider granting our request for our Presidential Series to repeat their current roles for one more year. My start as Vice President with the board started as an appointment to fill a vacancy and at that time, the board went through a similar acceleration of the Presidential Series so this is the second time in the past several years we've been put in this position. We haven't had an officer in the Presidential Series complete a full term since Cortez Jordan. When I was appointed to the Vice President partially into a board year, Teri deRosier was moved up and both of us experienced shortened terms. Now we are in that same position and these circumstances have made it difficult for us to have a solid succession plan when we are moving people up the ranks quicker than anticipated due to unplanned vacancies. Our request is not related to the pandemic; we feel that if we were to have to start the 2022 Board year with no Vice President and Lydie and Stan in new positions, it really hurts the Section in regards to consistency and operation.

The Aquatics Section continues to be a thriving section due to returning members and also because of the innovation and creativity that is derived from the board. It is crucial that the programs and services provided by the Aquatics Section continues and that the members are given quality value as section members. This can only be achieved by creating a solid understanding of procedures, operational duties and bylaws implementation. The last 3 VPs have not completed a "normal series" and been pushed through to complete; each has done so for the betterment of the Section and Society. This creates a norm of "just get it done" verses "do the job and create impact for future professionals." The series should be something that is completed in three years as is stated in the bylaws because that is the time it takes to truly understand the Section and Society's purpose and mission. If we are asked to "just place" someone in the role by forcing or begging, we are losing the "why" of what we are doing. No matter what role the board member is asked to be in, they will complete it to the best of their ability. However, we definitely don't want the outcome of electing or appointing individuals who simply do not want or are not prepared to be in the presidential series role.

We appreciate your understanding and timely response to this request. Thank you in advance for your consideration.
I am available to answer any questions you may have or provide any other details/clarification if needed.