



# BOARD TALK

Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association

This page is an exciting new venture through the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association, and will be a regular feature of the monthly newsletter. It is being created WITH and FOR members of appointed and elected boards, to provide an opportunity for them to share and learn from each other. Please make copies of this page and hand it out to board members each month.

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

The National Recreation and Park Association has recently published three booklets to assist citizen boards. Though the information is similar in each booklet, the NRPA has divided the information into Independent (policy-making), Semi-Independent and Advisory boards.

Using the categories of *Strong, Adequate, or Weak* see if your board can answer just some of these questions found in the Self-Assessment tool!

- Have concise, written mission/philosophy statement;
- Board and staff display understanding of mission and philosophy;
- Have annual review process for mission/philosophy;
- Have understanding of the responsibilities of the board;
- Have written board member job descriptions;
- Have by-laws: current, functional, complied with;
- Have procedure for evaluating short-term/long-term objectives;
- Have a structure in place for board meetings;
- Hold meetings on a regular basis;
- Have solid attendance record at meetings;
- Use time effectively at meetings;
- Board members attend events;
- Board seeks input from staff;
- Staff presents understandable financial reports to board;
- Communicate consistent organizational image to community;
- Have mechanism for handling questions and complaints from all in community, including user groups and non-user groups;
- Understand local economic environment.

Go to [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org) to read the full booklets or to check out their other resources. In addition to the guides for board members, there is a guide that outlines how to advocate for the recreation and park needs - locally and federally!

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