



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, January 16, 2009  
Room 556, Bloustein School  
2:00 PM

**In attendance:** Courtenay Mercer, Maura McManimon Fennessy, Amy Sarrinikolaou, Michael Levine, Eric Powers, Chuck Latini, John Reiser, Michele Alonso, Bob Cotter

**Speakerphone:** Louis Joyce, Zunilda Rodriguez, Andrew Levecchia, Eric Snyder, Vito Gallo, Carlos Rodrigues, Debbie Lawlor, Ray Tomczak

**Absent:** Angela Clerico, Rebecca Hersh, Katie White, Katharine Otto, John Szabo

**Approval of agenda**

Agenda of January 16, 2009 –  
Latini made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Powers seconded; all in favor.

**Approval of minutes**

Minutes of December 12, 2008  
Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes; Snyder seconded; all in favor.

**Issue reports:**

- Announcements

Mercer reported the following:  
The APA-NJ 2008 Annual conference has been approved by APA for CM credits, but not posted yet.

Conference calls – Mercer researched into the free conference call service, however it is a toll call for the people calling in. We can try and find one that APANJ pays, or stick with the same one we have. Joyce recommends that we “chain” in but the phone quality may be compromised. Levine set up a APANJ account, so members can use it whenever. Levecchia will look into the webinar service. Mercer will look into using ATT conference call service.

**Committee/Office reports:**

President	Courtenay Mercer
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Mercer participated in a meeting to discuss the Global Warming Response Act.

Webinars – Mercer encouraged the area reps to start coordinating the webinars within their regions. Latini should hold a PDC meeting to discuss. McManimon suggested that an hour discussion should be held after to qualify for additional CM credits.

APA 09 Annual Conference – Mercer is only going for the leadership portion. Mercer asked the Executive Committee for approval that Latini go to the Conference for the professional development portion. Snyder made a motion to approve Latini to attend the Conference and Cotter seconded; all were in favor.

Past President	Carlos Rodrigues
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Nothing to report.

First Vice President	Deborah Lawlor
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Revision to the Complete Guide to Planning in NJ book – The sections were deadlined to be completely drafted by 1-15-09, and she hopes to receive all the draft chapters by next week. Then the editors will meet next week, and the document will be pulled together. Lawlor expects that the entire revision will take approximately 6-9 months.

Second Vice President	Eric Powers
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Powers discussed the phenomon of “big box” retailers shutting down (ie Circuit City liquidating their stores.) He thinks that this would be a great topic to expand on – that these buildings will be sitting vacant, and what will happen with these buildings in terms of redevelopment. The Executive Committee suggested that he prepare an article for the APANJ newsletter.

Secretary	Amy Sarrinikolaou
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For the PP exam review session, she needs the authors of the Complete Guide to NJ Planning Revision to prepare 5 example test questions to update the practice exams.

Treasurer	John Reiser
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Reiser discussed the 2009 budget. Joyce remarked that he is uncomfortable with the budget being in a deficit. Mercer reminds Joyce that the Chapter has a significant reserve. Joyce thinks that the budget should reflect the reserve which would keep the Chapter in balance. Joyce recommends that we prepare a budget analysis.

Levine reported that although there has been a general trend of an increase in membership, this is the first time that we have had a drop in the membership - 150 people dropped by APA which reflects non-renewals. There has only been 41 Additions which is lowest in a while. NY Metro chapter had a drop in membership as well. Overall we are down 100 members although our budget is projecting an increase. Levine asked that the budget be revised to stay stable rather than projecting an increase in membership. APA does have a reduced fee if people are unemployed. Could APANJ offer the same or similar reduction? Levine will follow up with more information as to what is happening nationally, to help determine budgets for next year.

McManimon added that the webinars are \$180 a piece to purchase plus any other additional expenses. Four are coming up March through June. Snyder and Joyce can do them for free. Also the webinars could be held at the EJB school for free. Reiser added a line item for the webinars in the 09 Budget.

Mercer added that someone contacted her to establish a Cultural Diversity subcommittee. Since this is still premature the budget will not be amended right now.

Reiser agreed to send the revised budget out for the Executive Committee’s review. Powers indicated that he wants the budget to account for all the money the Chapter has.

Latini made the motion to approve the budget as amended, Powers seconded, all were in favor.

Levecchia and Mercer want to form a budget committee. Mercer suggests that Reiser be the Chair, and then Levecchia, Joyce and Powers are on it as members.

Sustainable Design Committee	Angela Clerico
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Mercer made the Announcement that Angela has to resign. Mercer will follow up with a recommendation for a new Chair.

Legislative Committee

John Szabo

Mercer reported for Szabo. The committee did not meet this month. Mercer did attend the DOT recommendation report meeting for global warming. The State Plan and MLUL was not mentioned. Clerico attended as well. NJFUTURE met before to gather their recommendations for this report.

Housing Committee

Vito Gallo

Gallo wants to reorganize the committee. There are 13 members right now. As for current housing activity, Gallo reported that Governor Corzine proposed some measures to deal with foreclosures, and a moratorium of the 2.5% non-residential development fee. Also his committee is keeping watch on the creation of the State Housing Commission.

Latini added that he wants to present a real solution to the COAH issue. He wants there to be a forum held to discuss some viable alternative solutions. Gallo added that there was a conference at the Woodrow Wilson school at Princeton to celebrate the anniversary of the FHA. Gallo agrees with Latini that APANJ should be engaged in this process, and will follow up after he reorganizes the committee. McManimon suggests that the forum should include a discussion of ideas of what should be in place if we did start from scratch.

Redevelopment Committee

Robert Cotter

NJFUTURE put together a redevelopment committee to try and put together some good publicity about redevelopment. There will be a chapter in the handbook regarding redevelopment and public perception. Cotter is cooperating with NJFUTURE.

Legislation Redevelopment – There has been a push from the legal end to change legislation at the relocation part of the LHRL, as it affects residential tenants.

Handbook should be revised, and to print by the Summer 09.

Transportation Committee (pending)

Raymond Tomczak

The committee has been having conference calls monthly. He is trying to gather the committee at least twice a year (physically). Tomczak wants to line up a speaker to make a presentation to the group, with CM credits, to be held at the end of February. Mercer wants to know the goal of the forum.

Transportation funding symposium – He is discussing potential locations.

He set up a minimum requirement for participation for the committee.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions – The Chapter will sign on to NJFUTURE's letter.

Tomczak thanked Gallo and Szabo to be included on the legislative committee.

Young Planners Group Committee (pending)

Zunilda Rodriguez

First meeting will be in February. She has about 9 members. She also submitted an article to the newsletter to help advertise this fledgling committee.

Professional Development Officer

Chuck Latini

Latini will be reaching out to the area reps regarding different programs, and to schedule CM events. The APANJ 2008 Annual Conference got approved by APA, in which he had to submit 3 times.

Chapter Administrator	Michael Levine
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Advertising – The Chapter has not had a lot of classifieds or RFPs listing requests for the website. We have 7 new advertisers more than we had last year. There has been an increase in Website hits in December.

Book sales – The Chapter is doing very few sales of the handbook, however a lot of the Guide. We still have a lot in the warehouse. The Guide should be sold at a reduced fee as they are out of date.

Area Representative: Central	Maura McManimon Fennessy
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McManimon indicated that she liked the annual report. Mercer said that the Second VP should be responsible for the annual report next year.

McManimon is coordinating the webinars with the area reps. Some potential topics are:

1. Designing for water conversation to be held March 18 by Snyder and Joyce
2. Zoning for TOD to be held by Levecchia and Alonso on April 15
3. Inclusionary housing – McManimon indicated that this webinar may not be good to purchase because NJ is so unique.
4. 2009 planning law review.

As for other potential locations to hold the webinars, Levecchia recommends partnership with DVRPC to run one of these webinars. He agreed to look into it.

Area Representative: Northwest	Eric Snyder
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Nothing to report.

Area Representative: Southern Shore	Louis Joyce
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Nothing to report.

Area Representative: Northeast	Michele Alonso
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Nothing to report.

Area Representative: Southern	Andrew Levecchia
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Nothing to report.

**Adjourn, all in favor.**

***Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Sarrinikolaou, Secretary***