



American Planning Association
New Jersey Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, May 16, 2008

La Fiamma Italian Restaurant, 440 Harrison Avenue in Harrison, NJ

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

In attendance:, Vito Gallo, Rebecca Hersch, Louis Joyce, Debbie Lawlor, Mike Levine, Courtenay Mercer, John Reiser, Amy Sarrinikolaou, Eric Snyder, Linda Wills

Absent: Angela Clerico, Bob Cotter, Chuck Latini, Carrie McCarthy, Maura McManimon Fennessy, Tara Paxton, Jeff Perlman, Michael Powell, Carlos Rodrigues, Katie White

AGENDA

Approval of May 16, 2008 Agenda

Eric Snyder made a motion to approve the agenda; all in favor.

Approval of April 18, 2008 Minutes

Mike Levine requested one revision to page 1 of the minutes.

Eric Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes as revised; all in favor.

Issue Reports: There are no issue reports this month.

Committee/Office Reports:

President's Report Courtenay Mercer

Courtenay briefly covered some items that were discussed at the National APA Conference in Las Vegas.

1. Most importantly, APA proposed to change the AICP CM fee schedule. Specifically for non-profits including APA-NJ, the proposed cost would be \$2,000 / year for the CM Program. This cost includes unlimited credits. There still remains contention regarding the cost for online courses to register CM credits. No final decision was made at the conference. The APA Commission is expected to take the feedback received at the conference back to the commission and make a final decision in the next upcoming weeks.
2. APA is to provide assistance to state chapters for their legislative capacity needs.
3. APA provides a website hosting service for a specific cost. Mike Levine offered to research this service and discuss options for continuing the website with John Reiser and our webmaster.
4. APA offers a teleconferencing service for the state chapters. Mike Levine stated that he would set this service up for the next Executive Committee meeting in June. He would have to set up the dial-up number and code. It would change for every meeting. Technically, no one would have to show up for the meetings, however Courtenay Mercer did stress that she



would like Executive Committee members to attend at least three (3) of the 12 monthly meetings.

5. APA hosts an “Ambassadors Program” with the goal to teach planning to minorities, starting in high school. Courtenay Mercer would like to reach out to Toni Griffin, Director of Planning at Newark, to possibly act as a representative in this program. If the Committee has any other people in mind for this program, please contact Courtenay.

6. October is National Community Planning Month. APA-NJ should prepare a Press Release to advertise October as a planning-themed month. The Press Release could even include the APA-NJ Pro Bono program. The Second Vice President (Jeff Perlman) is responsible for publicity for APA-NJ, however Jeff Perlman would need help with this effort as he will be busy compiling the Annual Report during that same time. Debbie Lawlor also added that since some of the committee members attend High School Career Days to teach kids about the planning profession, maybe one of us could contact the NJ Education Association, and make them aware of APA-NJ. If the NJEA needed a planner to speak at an event, they could easily contact the APA-NJ and utilize a “pool of planners.”

7. Courtenay Mercer would like to broaden the APA-NJ student representation from just the EJ Bloustein School to other schools in NJ with planning programs including Rowan, NJIT, and Stockton. The student representatives could possibly start an outreach program to other planning students in NJ. John Reiser added that APA gives out planning awards to students, and that we should direct our student representatives to apply. Rebecca Hersch added that maybe we could establish an award for student projects at the APA-NJ conference. Everyone thought that was a great idea. Courtenay Mercer will add a student award to the “Call for Awards.”

8. Courtenay Mercer wanted to know if we had a reduced fee for “Young Planners.” Mike Levine stated that APA-NJ offers a reduced fee for students but not young planners. A reduced fee for young planners could be established for the upcoming conference.

9. The APA Climate Change paper passed.

10. The “Social” in Las Vegas at the conference had a turn out of about 60 planners from the New Jersey-New York-Pennsylvania area. Courtenay Mercer offered that maybe we could host a similar “regional” social on an annual basis. 86 APA-NJ planners attended the national conference.

11. Chuck Latini and Courtenay Mercer attended the Board of Professional Planners meeting to discuss the APA-NJ letter to the Attorney General. The Board of PP was amenable to update their website with links for their users.

The Board was also amenable to require mandatory education credits (similar to AICPs CM program) to retain the PP license.



It was also agreed to that an APA-NJ member should sit on the Board of PP to keep the line of communication between both entities open.

First Vice President Deborah Lawlor

Debbie spoke with Tom Dallessio who confirmed that he would help with the update of the NJ Guide to Planning. Courtenay Mercer will forward on her list of volunteers who would like to help with the update.

The update of the Redevelopment Handbook will wait until any new legislation is in place.

Secretary's Report Amy Sarrinikolaou

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report John Reiser

John Reiser indicated that financial reporting to APA will be filed by the end of summer. APA-NJ taxes for 2006-2008 will be filed by October of this year.

Housing Committee Report Vito Gallo

Vito stated that the housing committee and sub-committees have been meeting by teleconferencing. On May 6, and after receiving over 5,000 public comments, COAH adopted new rules, and simultaneously proposed amendments to the rules. There remains criticism of the rules at the municipal level. The legislation that Vito and his committee is watching is the A-500 bill which proposes a State Housing Commission, and an Annual State Housing Plan. The A-500 bill also proposes to do away with Regional Contribution Agreements (RCAs). It was the Appellate Decision that really forced the issue to review the use of RCAs.

Chapter Administrator Report Michael Levine

Michael asked John Reiser to give the committee an update as to the status of the Chapter website. John continued and stated that the chapter's website membership expired and as a result the website is unavailable. John is working to renew our membership, and to get our website back online. In order to renew our website membership, we need to submit a utility bill to confirm our identity. Just in case we lose our membership, John Reiser purchased two (2) other domain names from godaddy.com for about \$8 per year. Mike Levine will send a utility bill to John.

Also, John and Mike will look into switching our website service to APA's web-hosting service and if that would be cost-effective. If we do end up using APA's web-hosting service, hopefully the website design would improve and become more streamlined.

Bulletin Editor's Report Rebecca Hersh

The latest issue of the newsletter is complete, and it will be posted today. After tallying the committee member votes, the newsletter was renamed from "Plan This" to "Jersey Planner."

Area Representatives Linda Wills

Nothing to report. The Executive Committee just wanted to thank Linda for organizing the Harrison Mobile Workshop, and doing such a great job coordinating the event between



reserving the restaurant for our meeting, parking, the bus tour, and the panel discussion that will take place after the tour in the Harrison municipal building.

Eric Snyder

Eric proposed to APANJ to be the group to come up with a solution and/or alternative to the latest COAH rules, and to get the affordable housing constructed. He no longer wants to just oppose the rules, but he wants to come up with a solution. He believes that APANJ has the ability to create an alternative solution that is unbiased.

Vito indicated that after the League of Municipalities reviews the new COAH rules next Thursday, the housing committee will reconvene to discuss.

It was discussed among the Executive Committee that maybe a Third Round Rules Task Force could be established as a sub-set of Vito's housing committee to prepare a report/response to COAH's rules that offers an alternative solution (like Eric proposed). Vito indicated some reluctance to such a task due to the multiple issues that are all part of the COAH rules including the issue of Foreclosures, COAH regulations, funding issues, and the Governor's mandate. That APANJ reaching a consensus considering all these issues would be difficult. Vito suggests that maybe partnering with NJ Future and other associations would be a better strategy to prepare a fact-based report rather than an alternative solution.

Louis Joyce

Cumberland County Planning Department has purchased the APA webcast series, and is hosting them at the Cumberland County College for County residents/ planning board members. Louis will find out how APANJ can partner with the county to open this up to the Southern Shore Region members for next term.

Also, Louis will look into hosting a showing of "The Unforeseen" at the college. John Reiser or Louis will look into hosting the film at Rowan University.

Adjourn; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Sarrinikolaou