



American Planning Association  
**New Jersey Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, October 24, 2008  
Room 556, Bloustein School  
2:00 PM

**In attendance:** Bob Cotter, Vito Gallo, Rebecca Hersh, Michael Levine, Maura McManimon Fennessy, Courtenay Mercer, John Reiser, Amy Sarrinikolaou, Katie White

**Speakerphone:** Eric Snyder

**Absent:** Chuck Latini, Debbie Lawlor, Tara Paxton, Katharine Otto, Jeff Perlman, Carlos Rodrigues, John Szabo, Linda Wills

**Non-Executive Committee Members who were present:** Michele Alonso, Louis Joyce, Andrew Levecchia, Eric Powers, Ray Tomczak

**Non-Executive Committee Members who were not present:** Angela Clerico, John Szabo

### **Approval of agenda**

Agenda of October 24, 2008  
Fennessy so moved; Gallo seconded; all in favor.

### **Approval of minutes**

Minutes of September 19, 2008  
Fennessy so moved; Hersh seconded; all in favor.

### **Issue reports:**

- **Annual Planning Conference**

Levine indicated that he received 25 new registrations today for the conference. To-date, there is a total of 263 registered and paid for the conference, plus the additional 25 registrants that he received today. Levine indicated that these numbers are similar to last year's but he most likely will receive more. At last year's conference, 300 attended breakfast, 420 attended lunch, and 100 attended the closing reception. Levine expects 133 people for the Thursday tours, 185 for the Thursday sessions, and 225 for the dinner Thursday night.

Registration for the tours begins at 11AM with two buffet tables/box lunches. Tour A has a 100 person limit, and Tour B an 80 person limit. There are many people coming Thursday and not coming Friday. These people have to be given name badges. Mike is still thinking about how the badges are going to work. The registrants have to be monitored somehow.

The rooms are reserved from 11:45 to 3, and the tours last from 1 – 3. The registration for the Thursday night sessions will be held downstairs in the hotel basement starting at 4:30. Round tables are set up for dinner. Each class is an hour and a half, dinner, then the second class. There are 206 people already already registered for the sessions.

Latini and Mercer are working on applying for the 10.75 credits for the entire Conference. This is a significant improvement from last year's conference which only counted for a little over 3 credits. They hope that the Chapter will receive approval from APA before the conference.

White sent a list of student volunteers to Mike to help at the conference. He still needs volunteers on Friday from 10AM on – members should stop by.

Levine wanted to talk about the questionnaire that is handed out every year at the conference. He wants to include a follow-up question on the survey regarding the switch from having a 1-day conference to 2 days. We need some feedback regarding the new format of the conference.

The Executive Committee agreed to definitely keep the 2-day conference format, but questioned when the sessions and tours should be held. Reiser volunteered to set up a webcast for the ethics and law sessions. Mercer recommended that we should really start talking in February 2009 about next year's conference.

For the folders that the registrants will receive at the conference, the Chapter's new brochure and Annual Report will be in it.

Online registrants – of 263 there are 109 online registrants. Cotter has heard from his employees that the payment system is not that advanced. Reiser says he does the best he can. Reiser also reminds the Committee that the Chapter can always sell the books online just let him know.

Mercer indicated that the awards committee met last week, and the letters went out. The awards will be given half in the beginning and half at dessert. The award winners will have to sit up front – in reserved seating. The awards are important to keep going, but it is sometimes difficult to keep the people's attention.

- Status of the "Smart Housing Zone" initiative

Gallo indicated that the Housing Committee endorsed at a recent meeting the concept of this draft legislation for Smart Housing Zone. The legislation seems like it is moving closer to having a sponsor. It is an attempt from the State to turn around the negative attitude of towns and affordable housing. The legislation provides some incentive to plan for "smart housing" Gall wants to get a sense from the Executive Committee if we could do a broadcast email regarding this bill, and show that the Chapter and Housing Committee endorses it. He added that once our chapter endorses something, we should advocate it and advertise it.

### **Committee/Office Reports:**

President	Courtenay Mercer
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Safe Routes to School National Partnership – Mercer asked if the Chapter will sign onto this partnership that recognizes the health benefits of walking and biking. Gallo made a motion to endorse the partnership; all in favor.

Awards-SADC requested from the Chapter a fee reduction for the conference. The Chapter already gives a complimentary \$60 lunch to the awardees. The Chapter does not offer any other type of fee reduction.

[Katie White arrived]

Complete Guide – The Editing Committee reached out to the authors. There are about 30+ authors who will contribute to the book revision. The authors were asked to get information back by Jan 15, but that deadline may be difficult when the State Plan, TDR, COAH, and other state regulations are in flux.

MLUL - Szabo, Brent Barnes, and Mercer met about changes to the MLUL. The Chapter would like to be included on any proposed amendments. Mercer will follow up with Senator Smith.

Audio web conferences – Mercer indicated that the Chapter approved to buy these conferences – but no one took up the initiative to organize the seminars among the area reps. Each area rep should be responsible for at least 1 session – north and south – Reiser suggested that Rowan University has a location. Fennessy agreed to coordinate.

Leadership meetings –APA is trying to get Congress to invest in our infrastructure, not just roads. APA is holding field hearings all of which are out west. Mercer recommended to hold a hearing in NY and NJ. With help from Brent Barnes, they may coordinate and host an Infrastructure Forum in the early Spring that would tie in CM credits. APA would be invited, and potentially the forum may be co-sponsored with RPA and NYAPA or Leadership NJ. Tomczak will volunteer.

Student Reps – Mercer stated that the coordination of students should expand beyond the Bloustein school to Rutgers undergrad, NJIT, TCNJ, to get a larger student representation for the Chapter. She wants to bolster the interaction between APA and the Chapter, and maybe do a career day with the students or set up a mentoring program. White and Otto should come up with ideas how the students can get involved more with APA and SRC. Professional Development would be greatly appreciated by the students.

Young Planners-Only 1 person responded regarding this initiative. APA is concerned that they will lose members to CNU or LEED and other organizations. Mercer may ask the person who expressed interest to maybe create a related Young Planner initiative.

Sessions – Oklahoma facilitates an one hour roundtable after webinars to get additional CM credits. The area reps should keep this is mind when coordinating their web sessions.

There should be a Negotiations and Communications 101 session at next year’s conference.

Secretary	Amy Sarrinikolaou
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Sarrinikolaou indicated that the review session for the PP Exam went well, and wanted to “pay back” the speakers some way, monetary or a thank you note. Mercer suggested that Sarrinikolaou draft a thank you letter.

It was suggested that Sarrinikolaou start attending the Board of PP meetings, and follow up with the Board’s website maintenance.

Treasurer	John Reiser
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Online registration is going well for the conference and the Chapter should continue to use the system. If the Chapter wanted to pay for a more secure system we could. The current system is free. We still need to sit down with the web developer and establish the scope of service – new design and maintenance or just design.

Reiser reported on last year’s Income Generators:

The Chapter received \$65,000 from last year’s conference. The Chapter paid \$38,000 out plus other expenses, and profited at least \$18,000. The Chapter splits this profit with Rutgers and the scholarship fund. The Chapter received \$22,000 in Chapter dues; Advertisements and exam reviews totaled \$5,000; Books totaled \$3,640.

Taxes – Reiser is going to do taxes for this year very early because he is doing back taxes. APA has still not gotten back to John regarding switching banks. National will do taxes for the Chapter. Reiser would like to reinvest our savings. John will follow-up

Housing Committee	Vito Gallo
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Gallo intends to discuss with the legislation committee about a bill up for endorsement, known as A2517 – S1599 – NJ Homeownership Preservation Act. The bill deals with the idea that with foreclosure, blight occurs. The object of the legislation is to require a fee to deal with foreclosure prevention (and blight).

Housing and Economic recovery act – Signed last June, and created neighborhood stabilization program. Money is flowing through the CDBG program to five communities in NJ including Newark, Union County, Paterson, Jersey City, and Bergen County. \$63Million must be spent by Dec 15.

COAH update – The regional entities are getting extended deadlines for municipalities to submit a plan to COAH.

Redevelopment Committee	Robert Cotter
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The Redevelopment Committee has been meeting monthly to update the handbook. The plan is to prepare a chapter per month. The handbook is likely to get thicker with 3 – 4 new chapters. With all the revisions planned, it seems like it will be a complete overhaul rather than just a CD supplement to the existing book.

Transportation Committee (pending)	Raymond Tomczak
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The NJ Turnpike toll increase went through. No Committee member was able to draft a piece/statement due to conflict of interests. He reached out to Voorhees Transportation Dept to do a transportation symposium, and is waiting to hear back. Should this symposium be combined with the infrastructure forum that Mercer had brought up? There could be concurrent sessions. Tomczak and Cotter should reach out to Tom Dalessio to see how Leadership NJ would coordinate their infrastructure program/session.

Tomczak asked what the agenda of the forums would be. Infrastructure in the area is severely under funded and not comprehensive. He wants to send a message of Reinvestment through these symposiums.

Tomczak also recommended that the Chapter could meet once a month for presentations similar to AIA and ASCE and give credits. The Chapter will be doing similar sessions through the webinars. If the Chapter organized these monthly meetings, a line item in the budget would have to be added.

Chapter Administrator	Michael Levine
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Nothing to report.

Bulletin Editor's	Rebecca Hersh
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Nothing to report.

Student Representatives	Katie White Katharine Otto
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Nothing to report.

Area Representative:	Eric Snyder
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Nothing to report.

Area Representative:	Maura McManimon Fennessy
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Nothing to report.

**Adjourn; all in favor**

*Respectfully submitted: Amy Sarrinikolaou*