

APA Board Meeting Teleconference
July 13, 2006

Board Members Present:

John McPherson
Laurie Cummings
Caren Mathis
Suzanne Taylor
Barb Sheinberg
Earl Finkler

Guests Present:

Maryellen Tuttell
Allen Kemplen
Jim Powell, VP, United Nations Best Practices Program - North/North Network for Urban Sustainability and Leadership
Gerald Gotschall, AIA, Northwind Architects, Juneau AK

Agenda topics:

Welcome by John McPherson.

Summer Newsletter

Articles suggested to date, include:

AICP results and scholarship, Laurie?

Regional VP reports

Fall Conference, John

Fall Conference The AML conference this year is in Juneau, Nov. 15th -17th APA typically does the conference/annual meeting in conjunction with AML. It usually includes a membership meeting and some training sessions. Barb will co-chair organizing the conference and will find another person in Juneau to be the other co-chair. John will interface with AML. He will coordinate for APA to have a membership meeting the day before AML and possibly present 2 sessions during the AML conference.

There was discussion of AIA's conference and workshops occurring in Juneau in November (Nov 8 – 10). Barb noted that the week before the AML conference, AIA is in Juneau doing design charrettes that seem to be very applicable and could be reported on at APA conf. Charrettes like this are scheduled to occur in Anchorage and Fairbanks and a rural community in subsequent years. They will focus on sustainable development. Jim suggested that there is a need to show how to make sustainability concrete and viable in the communities. This could be the topic of a presentation, panel or training. It could be a joint panel with AIA and APA, discussing what was accomplished in AIA's Juneau workshop.

Jim noted that climate change is another issue that has to do with sustainability, and that Juneau is actually in the forefront of looking at how communities can deal with climate change. This could be another topic for a session at AML.

There would be a benefit to having planners and elected officials interacting during AML.

Earl noted that in the past APA has done a meeting in the late afternoon or the early evening before AML. It would be good to have the maximum interface between APA and AML. This would provide more visibility for planners.

John is charged with interfacing with Kevin at AML to work out the coordination of the APA meeting/sessions with AML. Once this is complete, Barb will take the conference organizing from there.

AIA informational report/proposal - Allen Kemplen

Allen suggested that APA should be jumping on board with AIA's sustainability initiative. AIA is engaging the public in a discussion of sustainability. What resources can APA bring to the table to complement or enhance this effort? We want this to have a planning component, not only an architectural one. Resources could be financial or in-kind.

For example, the Title 21 rewrite will have a major impact on sustainability in Anchorage. The administration would likely be open to input from the professional planning community. This also should apply to the Interior and to Rural Alaska. We have an opportunity to spur the discussion of sustainability in these areas.

Barb agreed that this is a very exciting possibility. APA could bring insight on livable communities and sustainability, being involved in master planning. Assistance could be provided during charrettes. Some concerns were noted about being sure that APA doesn't step into AIA's territory without coordinating with them. They have done a lot of work to get the grants and start the process. We need to ask if we would be welcome.

Allen said he could serve as a conduit between APA and AIA, since he is already serving on this committee. Working with Newtok on its move to a more viable, sustainable location. What design do they want for this new community? Can it be designed in a more sustainable framework? It could be a model, a template for a sustainable community. The committee expressed interest in this. The committee wants to make sure it is tied in with the political process and to impact elected officials and the decision-making process. APA could provide additional funding and could lend support to the effort.

The Rasmuson Foundation or the Denali Commission could be interested in providing matching grants, if approached by APA.

James Malanaphy, current AIA chair, would be the person for John McPherson to approach about APA participation in the program. AIA contact info can be found at http://www.aiaak.org/aiaak_bod.htm. John will follow up with AIA and will report back to the board.

Barb noted that the more organizations that are on board, the more attractive the proposals will be to funding sources. John stated that APA has money in the bank and APA national could provide grant funds in the coming years.

Jim Powell asked what APA's focus is. Is it on better sustainable design in communities?

The AIA proposal with the charrettes is very "real-world" and would be likely to have political/mayoral buy-in.

Allen noted that this activity would help to raise awareness. AML and APA would be the ones who craft ordinances and land use regulations that translate the sustainability principles into reality and implementation. That is APA's expertise and could be a welcome addition to AIA's initiative. APA and AML could point out the real world tools necessary to make it actually happen.

Jim Powell, noted that a group in the state associated with US Green Building Assn. is doing a structured approach to sustainable design. For all interested in building on the landscape in the right way. The program is called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Maryellen noted that 2-3 engineers and landscape architects at DOWL have been LEED certified and another group is going through the training now.

Caren reported that there are developers in Anchorage who are involved in sustainable development and are LEED certified.

South-central lunch meeting – This month's meeting on July 19 will feature David Post on the Highway to Highway project at Doriolas. Maryellen noted that she hasn't received much interest from Anchorage planners in going to the Valley for the August meeting, but lots of interest from planners in the Valley. Dave Hansen at the MSB is interested – perhaps a half-day or full-day event with lunch and presentation on what is happening in the valley. Maryellen will work the Valley contacts and will schedule something for August.

Web site update - Status report from Laurie Cummings. Laurie will work with the designer and will insert pages as they are completed in order to not have to continually update both the old and new versions. Planning commissioner training and quizzes will be available online.

Treasurer report - Status report from Suzanne Taylor (provided to board members via e-mail.)

Planning commissioner training - Remaining tasks include

- Thank you letters to presenters – John will write
- Payment to Anne Brooks for the public involvement trainer - John will follow up again with Anne.
- Posting materials to the website
- Final accounting - completed

New business

Is anyone going to Western Planner Conf. in Idaho? Not that we know of.