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May 2005

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President's Message

By: Chuck Klingenstein, AICP
Utah APA Chapter President

As I reported to you in my last message, we had leadership meetings right before the San Francisco conference. The highlights for me were found at the Chapter President's Council Issues Meeting (thanks to Ethel Sheffer, NY Metro Chapter for the notes):

There are differences and details among chapters, but here are some themes, large and small—

1. *How can decisions and resources within APA come from the grass roots, the chapters, in a systematic and meaningful way?*
2. *How can change or action occur in the next 6 months, one year? I have heard of many things expressed, membership rosters, travel expenses, financial and other help with training and many more. Can we have a timetable on these and other matters?*
3. *And can we work out an agenda now and in the next few months for the issues meeting and for the leadership meeting and can that agenda be drafted, circulated, commented on and distributed earlier than a month before? We all agreed that it was good to meet twice a year and we had a lot of positive things to say about that, but, I believe that we have to know what our priorities are, what is pressing, what needs longer, thoughtful discussion etc., at a 2-3 day meeting. We like each other and we get a lot out of meeting, but time counts, and you know what, quality time is what really counts!*

Another highlight will be the new National APA Communication Plan. In theory, this plan is to begin to address many of the issues I shared with you in my last message. It is to allow our national organization to do a better job communicating with citizens, elected and appointed officials, other professions, education providers, and most importantly, with us, the membership!

At the March Utah Chapter Executive Board meeting (March 14), the Board made three important decisions. One is to support the final investigation of the Chapter hiring an administrator. We have come to the point where the Chapter has a solid membership hovering between 440 and 460 members. The volunteer Board accomplishes a lot with its current resources, but the Board believes that to take this organization to the next level, we need to retain the services of a part time contract administrator. The job description we have drafted is quite large but in a nutshell, it is to provide better, consistent and expanded services to the membership. Two areas are of critical importance. One is the membership,



2005 Utah APA Executive Board

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The Utah Chapter of the American Planning Association publishes the Utah Planner. Circulation is to APA members. The Utah Planner welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners.

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whether it is fielding information requests, welcoming new members, finding out why members do not renew and keeping membership lists up to date especially email addresses (this will become apparent in a moment). Another is the newsletter.

The Board has agreed to fully investigate taking the newsletter digital and delivering it to the membership and others via e-mail. The biggest reason is cost. We are spending close to \$10,000 a year and the cost associated with postage continues to go up. Our printers have been great and have held the line. But if we want to go from an 8-page to a 10-page newsletter, the cost jumps. Also by going digital, we can be timelier in the delivery of important information (currently the newsletter is a one month turnaround). Finally, we can share the newsletter with our elected and appointed officials, especially those jurisdictions that are unable to afford the cost of membership (we would ask that everyone continue to make the effort to sign up planning commissioners, planners and others that are currently not members, we need their support). To do this, however, we need someone who can keep our membership database current, especially the email addresses. The savings in going to a digital format would go to partially funding the administrator.

Finally, to take this organization to the next level, we are exploring a dues increase for the Utah Chapter. Whatever dues increase is considered, it will be modest. It will be enough to fund the remaining portion of the proposed administrator. I asked Nora Sheppard when the last time an increase was done. She said, "Not for a long, long time. I don't remember ever doing a dues increase." It is my feeling, and that of the Executive Board, that with the continued consistency of service, continued improvement in the delivery of information, continued expansion of services to the membership, and a better managed chapter, our membership will again grow allowing us to become more of an influencer in the state. I do not believe in growth for the sake of growth. Rather, I think it is important that all planners and a majority of planning commissioners and appeals boards should be a part of the Chapter and support this important organization. "*Making Great Communities Happen*" is an important mission and who better to help guide the communities of Utah towards that mission. So while we have done a good job of living within our means, it is time to explore all of the options to take this organization to the next level.

The next level needs to be defined and we have not had a strategic planning effort for the Board in about two years. If the Board supports these changes and after the Chapter elections this spring, it will be time for a strategic planning session to define our future goals and objectives.



**Western Planner Resources and Utah APA
Presents
LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING
At The Homestead Resort
Midway, Utah
August 3-5, 2005**

What? The annual Western Planner Conference in conjunction with Utah APA. The theme of this year's conference is **LEADERSHIP**. The program is designed to involve planners and citizen planners from all over the West to discuss urban and rural topics related to leadership.

When? August 3rd through August 5th, 2005. Conference sessions will start on Wednesday morning and will continue through lunch on Friday.

Where? The beautiful **HOMESTEAD RESORT** in Midway, Utah. The Homestead is less than 1 hour from the Salt Lake City International Airport and about 15 minutes from Park City. It is located on the back side of the Wasatch Mountains, in rapidly growing and stunningly beautiful Wasatch County.

Fun Stuff: The conference program will include the annual Wyoming vs. the World softball game and Barbecue on Wednesday night. On Thursday night, join your fellow planners and take trip to Park City for dinner, visit Soldier Hollow (the site of the 2002 Olympic Cross Country events) or take a ride on the historic Heber Valley Railroad. Your local host committee will provide a variety of fun activities to choose from. Watch for details!

The Homestead Resort offers a variety of fun activities. There is an 18-hole championship golf course on site and an activity center that offers Croquet, volleyball, basketball, tetherball, horseshoes and shuffleboard. There are indoor and outdoor pools, and even a 90° mineral pool inside a limestone crater that you can swim, or even scuba dive, in. Finally, the Homestead Day Spa offers a full menu of Spa treatments. Check out the Homestead Resort at www.homesteadresort.com.

Lodging Reservations: A group rate of \$99 per room or \$154 per suite has been arranged. Room reservations must be made by Thursday, June 30, 2005 by calling the Homestead Resort at 800-327-7220. Mention *Western Planner* for the group rate.

Getting There: The Homestead is located 55 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport. From Salt Lake City, take I-80 east 32 miles to US Highway 40. Travel south on US 40 about 14 miles to the Midway and Wasatch Mountain State Park turnoff. Turn right at the stop light onto River Road. Follow the green directional signs for about 5 miles to the Homestead. Shuttle service from the airport is available through Aspen Transportation 435-657-1223.

Preliminary Program

On each day there will be 3 tracts covering Leadership, Urban, and Rural topics. In addition there will concurrent mobile workshops.

Wednesday, August 3

The keynote is Myles Rademan AICP, who will explore the leadership theme of the conference. Myles is the Director of Public Affairs in Park City and has a private consulting group that focuses on fostering leadership in government. Our lunch speaker will be Mary Kay Peck, past President of the American Planning Association. She will discuss leadership on the national level and provide new insights into what's going on across the country. Lunch will also include the awards presentations for both organizations. That evening, the infamous Wyoming versus the World, softball and barbecue will be held.

During the day, the conference sessions will include tips on ordinance writing, consensus building, open space preservation, disaster management, public involvement techniques, updating your General Plan, a zoning clinic and regional planning efforts. The mobile workshop in the afternoon will tour Park City's Main Street program.

Thursday, August 4

Thursday will be a full day of sessions with an exciting lunch debate by Park City's grass roots mayor, Dana Williams, and State Representative Ralph Becker FAICP. The evening activities will be on your own but there are many choices ranging from dinner in Park City or Heber City, or riding the Heber Creeper Railroad.

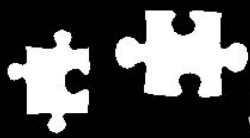
Anticipated sessions during the day include how to improve your public meetings, vested rights, future leadership skills, customer service, design review boards, community character preservation, illegal apartments and nuisance rentals, TOD/ mixed use projects, and successful redevelopment projects. Mobile workshops will include a morning tour of the Jordanelle Reservoir, cabin development issues and rapid growth. In the afternoon, a trip to Soldier Hollow, an Olympic venue, and Heber's Main Street program will be offered.

Friday, August 5

Friday will consist of morning sessions only to allow time for afternoon and weekend travel and/or recreation, as part of an organized conference activity or on your own. Planned activities include biking, hiking, golf, backpacking, camping, fishing or sight seeing.

Morning sessions will include infill design, subdivision design, place making, regional plans with local implementation, problem solving, building inspectors/planners, and cultivating citizen leaders. A downtown and innovative mixed use projects mobile workshop will be held in the Provo/Orem city area.

More Details of the Program and an opportunity to register will be posted on the Western Planner Resources Website and will be mailed out to you soon!!



Utah Planning Student Organization

www.arch.utah.edu/upso

-UPSO EVENTS -STUDENT GROUP INFO
-INTERNSHIP RESOURCE -PLANNING LINKS

APA 2005 National Conference | San Francisco

UPSO

Corner

Aaron Nelson.....04/03/05

For the 2005 National APA Conference in S.F., the UPSO was able to help send 7 students with financial assistance from the Utah Chapter APA, The CA+P, and the ASUU. The following are a few of their true stories...

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Sara Staffanson3/24/05

I went to some great sessions at the APA conference. My favorite was called "Zoning on Trial." It put form-based zoning up against traditional zoning in a court-like format. Two people represented form-based zoning and two represented traditional zoning. It was really interesting to hear their arguments and rebuttals. In the end I was more in favor of the form-based zoning because of its attention to neighborhoods. Its downfall is that it doesn't work on a regional scale. While traditional zoning works well for large scale planning I've been more disappointed with it because it has evolved into a greater segregation of the uses. I understand that there is no perfect system but I feel that some sort of hybrid between form-based and traditional zoning would be a step in the right direction.

San Francisco was an excellent location for the conference. There are some great examples of mixed use development that make the city interesting. It's walkable and their transportation system is easily accessible and functional. It was a great experience and I'm really glad that I had the opportunity to attend.

Jennifer Jastremsky.....3/31/05

First off, as the UPSO Secretary and a conference goer, let me thank the Utah Chapter APA in helping to fund students attending the National Conference. I think it is safe to say we all had a blast. This year's conference was both educational and fun. On top of going to the San Francisco Ballet and the Museum of Modern Art, I was offered the chance to see parts of the City that I would otherwise not have seen.

I learned about the City's open space policy, which requires a certain amount of open space per square foot of office, commercial and residential developments. In this mobile workshop, I went to many different public open spaces, like Union Square, various rooftop gardens, and back alleys that have been closed off to automobiles and turned into pedestrian streets. We saw how a major city can incorporate open space into its design.

For school I am working on a study with the WFRC concerning a BRT line along Redwood Road. At the conference I and a group member were able to attend a couple of sessions on BRTs. We learned about several FTA studies, and some design features that will help up with our plan. I feel this new knowledge will help us to give WFRC a better informed and thought out preferred plan. Since Redwood Road goes through seven Cities in Salt Lake County, this is a big bonus to the Salt Lake Valley as well.

I attended a session about incorporating diversity into community planning. This session discussed different ways to get the community involved in the planning process while dealing with a diverse population. This will be helpful in my professional career considering Utah's growing diversity.

San Francisco is a dynamic city. As students, spending time there gave us the opportunity to see a City function in a way that we cannot get in Salt Lake, with all the ups and downs a city has to offer, both socially and physically. This experience gave me something extra to complement my schooling and career, and I thank you.

Analia Ferreyra Valdemoros.....03/24/05

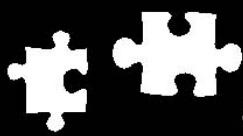
I am a senior Urban Planning student at the University of Utah and a student member of the APA. I attended my first APA conference this past week in the exciting city of San Francisco. For five days, I was able to discover planning practices in the real world and how communities are being built around the U.S. My sessions of preference talked about Transportation Planning, Transit Oriented Developments (TOD), and New Urbanism and Latino New Urbanism.

The newest trend in Transportation Planning is the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. It is successfully used in many parts of the world and it is starting to do so in some American cities. I was particularly interested in these sessions since my group in a U of U class is doing a BRT study along a major road in the state. By attending these sessions I was able to ask some questions, learn about other BRT systems in the world (apart from the Vancouver, Curitiba and Las Vegas systems which we included in our study), and station and vehicle trends.

TOD, in my opinion, was many times tied together with New Urbanism trends and Latino New Urbanism as well. Infill developments and affordable housing were many times developed around public transportation corridors. Other aspects were strongly considered for Latino New Urbanism development. One example was the cultural part of the communities and how New Urbanism practices, such as mixed-use, "the plaza", "the Major/Main street" integrate the cultural heritage and background, not necessarily Latino, that makes these movement be more popular and attractive everyday in many U.S. cities.

I can not leave my environment-friendly soft side out of this essay. In many of the Transportation, TOD, and New Urbanism sessions, health and clean air topics were presented. All these were tied together since it is increasingly affecting our health in many ways, especially children. Asthma, respiratory and heart problems, obesity and diabetes are just some of the effects created by our car dependency. The solution is very simple. The less we use our cars, the less air pollution and respiratory problems. The more we use mass transit systems and walk, the more clean air and the less obesity, diabetes and heart problems. TOD's and New Urbanism trends integrate mass transit and walkability becoming an excellent example and solution to some of our current health and air problems.

In conclusion, the conference was very enlightening in many aspects of real-world planning and reinforced many other issues that I was taught during my academic years. I hope that in the coming years we all continue working and putting our best efforts in planning better, healthier and more livable communities.



Utah Planning Student Organization

www.arch.utah.edu/upso

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HOW TO BE A PEDESTRIAN | THE WALKABLE GUIDE TO WALKABILITY | cont. from last month

Step 4: Be Healthy

- Eat carbs or whatever you want as a walker



- Smoking is probably not a good idea



- Make a stand against oil dependency and its associated problems



Step 5: More walking ideas

- Sell your car and use a bike for those long trips



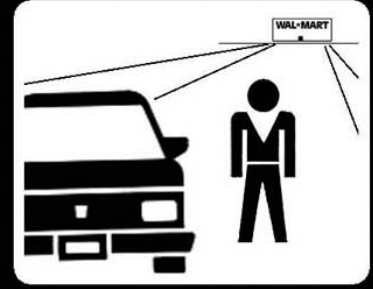
- Buy a dog, walk your dog, and please pick up after your dog



- Develop an interest in local architecture



- Park in the back of the of the Wal-Mart parking lot



Step 6: Additional methods for walkability

- Learn to seize the day and enjoy the walkable outdoors of the Utah landscape



- If these guidelines are not effective in teaching you how to become a walker, try six years of urban planning education to learn the psychology of the pedestrian



by Aaron Nelson

- Move to New York City



Utah Chapter APA – Spring 2005 Elections Secretary and Treasurer Candidate Information

Candidate for Treasurer

Laura Hanson

Hello Utah Planners! My name is Laura Hanson, and I am running for Treasurer of the Utah APA Chapter. I received my planning education from the University of Utah, and I am currently part of the University's first Masters of Urban Planning class. I am a planner at Bear West Company, a local Salt Lake City consulting firm, and have been serving as a Treasurer for the Chapter for the past 18 months.

APA has provided me a wonderful opportunity to get more involved in the local planning community. I have learned so much from my fellow planners, and hope that through my participation in APA that I can help make this learning experience more available to planners across the state. As the current Treasurer, I have developed a system for keeping track of the Chapter's funds and financial flows which is accurate and effective; we have a healthy bottom line and the flexibility to explore options to streamline the services that the Chapter provides to its members. One of my goals for this next term is to provide periodic fiscal update reports in the Chapter Newsletter or at the conferences. I want all members of the Chapter to know how their dues are used to support the outstanding opportunities for education and discussion that the Chapter provides. Thank you for your support, and expect things bigger and better from the Chapter this next year.

Candidates for Secretary

Sherrie Christensen, AICP

Biography:

Sherrie is currently employed by Morgan County as Director of Planning. Sherrie served as Utah APA Executive Committee member representing Small Cities for 3 years and as Chapter Secretary for the past three years. Prior to her employment with Morgan County she was a circuit rider planner for Mountainland Association of Governments and a County Planner for the Utah County Community Development Department. Sherrie graduated from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Urban Planning in 1996 and received her AICP designation in June 2001.

Statement:

Serving on the executive committee as the Small Cities representative and as Secretary has been a wonderful experience. I have enjoyed contributing to the Utah Chapter and know that your committee is working hard to promote planning interests in Utah. As Secretary for the I have spent a great deal of time organizing the minutes of previous years into both an electronic record and hard copy record that can be easily accessed by future executive committees. I have worked on the update of the chapter bylaws. I feel I have a great deal of experience and expertise to offer the membership and hope to continue to serve you as your UAPA Secretary.

I look forward to continue serving the members of the Utah Chapter, and appreciate your support in the election. Thanks for your vote of confidence.

Maria Vyas, AICP

My name is Maria Vyas and I'm running for APA Utah Chapter Secretary. I'm a native of Salt Lake City, and I received my planning degree from the University of Utah. I am a transportation planner for Fehr & Peers, where I started last fall; before this, I worked for the land development department of a civil engineering firm, obtaining entitlements for master planned communities. I am running for Secretary because it's a good opportunity to get more involved with APA, interact with fellow planners, and learn about the interesting things happening in planning across the state. I'd be a good candidate for Chapter Secretary because I'm meticulous, observant, and remarkably organized. My husband Jeff and I have an 11-month-old son, Henry, in addition to two excessively furry dogs and two cats who prefer our neighbor to us.



THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP..

**Utah Chapter
American Planning Association**

2005 Official Ballot

For candidate information, please visit www.utah-apa.org or see your May issue of Utah Planner for biographical sketch and position statement.

Please cut at the dotted line, vote for one candidate for each position below and return the completed ballot to:

Kim Struthers, Teller Committee Chair
Lehi City Planning Department
99 West Main Street, Suite 100
Lehi, Utah 84043

Please place in an envelope with a stamp. Ballots must be postmarked by June 6, 2005. Thank you.

**Utah Chapter
American Planning Association
2005 Official Ballot**

Please check off your selection:

Secretary

- Sherrie Christensen

- Maria Vayas

Treasurer

- Laura Hanson

- Write-in: _____

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