

Utah Planner

Utah Chapter American Planning Association, Vol. 34 No 1, January 2007



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Presidents Message

Hope you had a great Holiday, said a pleasant goodbye to 2006, and didn't need to formulate too many New Year's resolutions!

Over the past few months, the League, planners from APA and attorneys have been meeting with the development community to discuss new legislation. They are trying to address some of the issues that were aggressively promoted during last year's SB 170. One objective of the potential new legislation is aimed at the time it takes to process applications. A part of that issue is the time period for accepting an application to determine if the application is complete. Did you know that you do not have to take an application if it is incomplete? Did you know that you can take an application in, study it and then decide if it is complete (and hand it back if it isn't) before beginning to actually process it? We should all have, in ordinance form, a way to address the completeness of an application. In West Valley City, we have always used a checklist that the applicant "must" address, but technically we have no ordinance to support that checklist, and no ability to take some time to review what has been handed in and see if it really is complete. We are working on that and hope to get some text amendments within the next few months. This could be a useful exercise for all the cities and counties in the state.

With the legislature in session, we may see some additional "shots" taken at zoning/LUDMA. Unfortunately there are and may always be cities that the development community perceives as difficult or problematic to work with. As long as those communities are following a reasonable process, it seems to me, that the development community needs some patience. Some land use decisions are not easy. When development is proposed on steep slopes, sensitive lands, or contrary to the General Plan, processing can take a long time to assure environmental and land use compatibility. At a recent conference, I heard that some communities use "Zoning like a weapon" (Gamvroulas). Interesting statement - zoning can occasionally be a battle. So, maybe sometimes the planning process is a war (hopefully a better war than 'Nam, the 'Stan, or getting Saddam), but let's understand that it does take two to "tango" and both sides of any zoning conflict can compromise, work out a solution, and forge a win-win. We are good negotiators and we can find a way to allow development that complements our community. Besides with current case law, you have to be pretty crafty to "just say no", these days...

The Rural/Spring Conference in Springdale is quickly shaping up! Thomas Dansie is leading a fine group of planners in finalizing the agenda.

To Continue→





What is Certification Maintenance?
(Information from APA and the AICP Commission)
 Compiled by Max Johnson, AICP



Communicate

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The AICP Commission is considering requiring Certification Maintenance of AICP members. Members would be required to earn a yet to be determined number of eligible continuing education hours from a diverse collection of sources within a specified time frame. Certification Maintenance is similar to what we currently know as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit. The following letter from AICP President Sue Schwartz, FAICP and AICP President-Elect Graham Billingsley, outlines the issue of Certification Maintenance and how the Commission will move forward on the matter.

"The AICP Commission is convinced that it is time to take the next step toward certification maintenance. The goal is to make AICP more meaningful and the practice of planning more professional. Education is the core of this goal. Professional development and continuing education have been the responsibility of AICP since its inception in 1978. This has been a continuation of the work AIP, one of APA's two predecessor organizations. The Commission has encouraged certified planners to continue building their skills, expanding their planning knowledge throughout their careers. Over the last several years we have expanded educational offerings through CD packages on planning topics, reinstated the Planners Training Service, and we are currently developing online education products.

The Commission thinks the time has come to more than just encourage and develop educational products. The AICP Commission is evaluating taking a major step forward by considering requiring continuing education of the members of our Professional Institute to maintain their certification.

The issue of requiring continuing education has been debated throughout the organization for many years. It is not an easy decision to make but the Commission feels strongly that it is time to bring the professional standards of AICP on par with other professional organizations and mandate continuing education. This position is supported by the chapter leadership and many of AICP members.

Before a final decision is made about the introduction of new certification maintenance standards, the Commission would like to hear from AICP members on their views of this proposed program. Please expect to see a report outlining the details of the proposed certification program before the end of the year. If you have not received an e-mail by December 15th, you can log on the AICP section of the website and download the proposal. All AICP members will have the opportunity and be encouraged to submit their feedback. We anticipate two public review opportunities with a final decision to be made at the Commission meeting prior to the APA national conference in April 2007."



Presidents Message Continued....

The theme is "Higher Ground," which is intended to explore and educate on the issues of development on more difficult, environmentally sensitive properties. This will be a good conference that caters to the rural community and those urban communities dealing with tough development properties. In addition, Steve McCutchan will be conducting an intensive subdivision design class. If you sign up, you will have a hands on, "How to" kind of experience, as Steve leads you through techniques of advanced design. The conference will be held on March 22nd and 23rd. Join me for a hike in Zion National Park!



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For more information, please visit the APA website at:

www.planning.org/certification/maintenance.htm. APA is seeking your feedback on this important issue. Comments regarding the proposed Certification Maintenance program must be submitted to AICP-CM@planning.org by Tuesday, January 9, 2007, to be considered. A sampling of the program highlights are listed below. Please visit the URL listed above for complete details.

• **What does Certification Maintenance mean to me?**

- AICP certified planners will be required to maintain a minimum level of professional development training. Once Certification Maintenance is implemented, the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) branding will no longer be used.

• **How many credits will be required to maintain my AICP certification?**

- The current proposal outlines 48 hours of eligible activities within a two-year period.

• **From what sources can the credit be earned?**

- The proposal currently suggests the following breakdown:
 - 50% from APA or APA-sponsored programs
 - 50% from other registered educational providers with up to 25% of the non-APA credits from "self-study" credits.

• **When will Certification Maintenance begin?**

- Certification Maintenance is proposed to start with credits gained at the 2007 APA National Conference in Philadelphia, April 14th thru 18th, 2007, with the first reporting cycle starting in 2008.

• **How will I comply with Certification Maintenance?** Here are some examples of how the required credits could be earned:

○ **Scenario I**

Course Offering	# of Credits Earned
APA Chapter Conference	15
2 AICP Audio Conferences	6
Self Guided Reading / Study	12
APA-Sponsored Program	3
Non-APA Conferences	12
Total for 2-Year Reporting Period	48

To Continue→



Calendar

January 8, 12:30~ Corridor Preservation
 January 8, 12:00 Southern Utah Planners Meeting- Washington City
 February 12, 12:30~ City Creek Center
 March 12, 12:30~ Legislative Update
 March 22-23, 2007~ Spring Conference, Spring Dale- Higher Ground
 April 9, 12:30~ Infill Development
 May 14, 12:30~ Daybreak Tour
 June 11, 12:30~ West Valley City Center
 August 13, 12:30~ Layton Projects
 September 27-28~ Fall Conference; Davis County
 October 8, 12:30~ Tailoring Development Codes to Meet Development Needs and Trends
 November 12, 12:30~ Carbon and the Culture of City Building
 December 10, 12:30~ Transit Oriented Development on the Wasatch Front

Monthly Luncheon

Starting in January the time for the Monthly luncheon will **change from 11:30 to 12:30** we hope this better accommodates your schedule. Locations will be announced prior to the meeting. Thanks to the Programs Committee for organizing the luncheons.



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6th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 8-10, 2007 Los Angeles
 Registration deadline: January 26, 2007 (a \$50 late fee will apply after that date)
 The American Planning Association is pleased once again to join major corporate, federal and national partners in cosponsoring the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference. This annual event, organized by the Local Government Commission on behalf of EPA and the Smart Growth Network, brings together leading practitioners from public, private and nonprofit sectors to share the latest in smart growth research, implementation tools and strategies, as well as to strengthen alliances for future work.

The following is a sample of some of the topics to be addressed through hands-on workshops and education sessions at the conference:

- Coming Out Strong and Getting It Right: 2006 Smart Growth in the States
- Getting Developers on Board Transit-Oriented Development
- Gentrification in the Name of Smart Growth: Lessons and Strategies for Maintaining Diversity
- Density in an Urban Setting
- Smart Growth and Social Equity: Lessons in Civic Engagement
- Boomburbs: The Suburban Landscape and Smart Growth's Future
- Smart Growth Strategies for Preserving Open Spaces and Creating Green Spaces

For more information on speakers, special events, and optional tours, as well as online registration, visit www.NewPartners.org.

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AICP Corner Cont...

o **Scenario II**

Course Offering	# of Credits Earned
APA National Conference	36
Self Guided Reading / Study	12
Total for 2-Year Reporting Period	48

This is a condensed and summarized version of original documentation from APA and the AICP Commission. Please see the APA website for a complete discussion of Certification Maintenance and answers to more specific questions.

Remember, APA and the AICP Commission is looking for feedback on this very important issue. Now is your chance to offer suggestions on the program before a final decision is made.

Resources

1- American Planning Association. (www.planning.org)

Southern Utah Planners Unite!

On November 20, a group of eight planners gathered in St. George to form an informal association of Southern Utah planners. The group included planners from Washington City, Cedar City, Hurricane, Ivins, Springdale, the Dixie MPO, and the Five County Association of Governments. The main focus of the meeting was to organize a forum to discuss regional planning issues and to provide opportunities for training.

During the meeting the group decided to meet regularly every three months to discuss planning issues of regional interest and impact. These quarterly meetings will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss best planning practices, and share experience. These meetings will also be valuable to local planners as a place to form associations and friendships with other area planners.

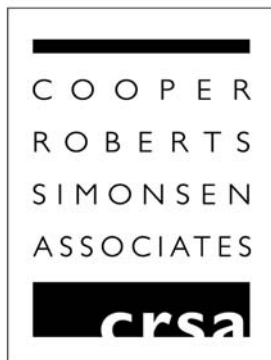
The quarterly meetings will be held at locations throughout the region and many will include field trips to see projects or places of current interest. This will give local planners the opportunity to see planning projects and practices in a variety of jurisdictions. The next meeting will be held in Washington City in January.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, the group will schedule occasional training opportunities and lunch speakers. These trainings and lunch speakers will be geared to both professional and citizen planners and may include APA Audio Conferences, invited guest speakers, and topic specific training.

As the group continues to meet we look forward to including more planners from the region. The group is open to everyone: planners, city managers, planning commissioners, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8 at 12:00 p.m. in Washington City. Everyone is welcome to attend.

When Garages Attack





Online Learning for Planners

By Christian Peralta

Editor, Planetizen (www.planetizen.com)

Virtual classrooms are providing new continuing education opportunities for planning professionals who are short on time and money, but still want to increase their knowledge in the field.

Staying current with the latest trends in the field can be a challenge for many professionals.

While some organizations provide regular training for their staff, many workers must find time outside of their busy work schedule and personal obligations for professional development. And then there's the cost. How many of us have grumbled at the price tag of a one-day continuing education seminar?

Fortunately for professionals that don't have the time or money for traditional continuing education programs, there are now several online programs that provide a more convenient and lower cost alternative.

Offered by a number of well-known universities and companies, the courses cover a range of topics from the basics of the planning profession to advanced land use and environmental issues.

Aside from the obvious benefit of providing training, online courses allow participants to tailor learning to their schedule. The increasing number of online course offerings is evidence of an already burgeoning trend. With the growing familiarity with the Web and the spread of high-speed Internet connections, more and more people are going online to learn. In 2004 alone, more than 2.3 million people took some kind of online course, according to a recent survey by The Sloan Consortium, an online education group.

Most web-based courses take advantage of learning management systems (LMS), a type of software that facilitates interaction between the course instructor and the students. Course materials are easily viewable from anywhere using an Internet browser, and include readings along with links to related materials. Some programs integrate audio or video clips to enrich the learning experience.

To facilitate the interaction between course participants and the instruction, most online courses take advantage of online forums and discussion boards, along with regular email, which have the advantage of allowing dialogues to happen without everyone needing to be online at the same time.

Among the universities offering urban planning courses online is the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Since its launch in April 2005, the Bloustein Online Continuing Education Program (BOCEP) has run 18 courses in a wide variety of subjects, including planning law and urban design. The courses, which are taught by Bloustein instructors, last for about 4½ weeks and cost about \$250. Discounts are available for APA members and employees of non-profit organizations, among others.

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Leo Vazquez, director of the Bloustein online program and an instructor at the school, commented that the quality of online courses can be just as good as in a face-to-face environment, provided students are committed to the process. "If you're the type of person who goes to training sessions to take a vacation from work, you probably won't enjoy the online format as much," says Vazquez. "However, one of the benefits of an online class that runs for a few weeks, such as BOCEP classes, is that you have time to absorb and explore new ideas, without having to commit to sitting in a room for several days."

Ohio State University's Planning Education at a Distance (PED) program provides the opportunity to earn a graduate certificate in facilities planning and management for professionals already working in the field. In addition to the certificate, the PED program offers continuing education courses covering issues such as smart growth and zoning and landscape laws. Registration fees for courses average around \$55.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) also offers a wide array of undergraduate and graduate level courses in urban studies and planning through its OpenCourseWare website. In contrast to the Bloustein School and OSU's PED program, MIT only provides access to course materials, and does not provide access to the instructor or interaction with other students other than through a seldom used discussion board. However, the materials are invaluable for those who wish to follow a self-instruction program. Best of all, the courses are free to the public.

In addition to universities, a few other organizations offer planning related courses online.

Planetizen, building on the popularity of its initial AICP exam preparation course launched in 2004, has recently added an array of new online courses for planners. Prepared and led by professional and/or academic experts, the new courses cover topics including transit-oriented development, historic preservation, economics for planners, and technology for planners. Each course costs \$99, and allows course participants to access materials for a six-month term.

The Lincoln Institute for Land Use Policy also offers online courses and distance learning opportunities as a supplement to its regular continuing education program. Enrollment is free for many of the courses, which include a planning and land use fundamentals program for planning commissioners and zoning board members.

For those looking to learn to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS), software maker ESRI provides instructor lead online courses, along with series of instructional audio podcasts.

Christian Peralta (christian@planetizen.com) is the managing editor for Planetizen, the planning and development network (www.planetizen.com).

Related Links

- Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy Online Continuing Education Program
<http://policy.rutgers.edu/bocep/>
- Planning Education at a Distance (PED) Ohio State University
<http://knowlton.osu.edu/ped/>
- MIT OpenCourseWare Urban Studies and Planning



<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Urban-Studies-and-Planning/>

- Planetizen Courses

<http://www.planetizen.com/courses/>

- Lincoln Institute for Land Use Policy

<http://www.lincolninst.edu>

- ESRI Virtual Campus

<http://campus.esri.com/>

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"Today's problems cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." - Albert Einstein

A hundred years after we are gone and forgotten, those who never heard of us will be living with the results of our actions.
- Oliver Wendell Homes, U.S. Supreme Court justice

L10

BY MARK TATULLI



American Planning Association Utah Chapter



Climbing to Higher Ground: Managing Growth to Avoid Natural Hazards and Preserve Natural Resources

March 22 and 23, 2007

Springdale, Utah
Canyon Community Center

Thursday, March 22			
Time	Higher Ground Track	Best Practices Track	Workshop Track
<i>11:00 – 12:00</i>	Conference Registration		
<i>12:00 – 1:00</i>	Welcome / Lunch		
<i>1:10 – 2:10</i>	Legislative Update		
<i>2:20 – 3:20</i>	Public Lands Planning Process: Panel Discussion	Annexation Policies	Design Workshop for Planning Professionals (Reservations required, see details on registration sheet)
<i>3:20 – 3:40</i>	Break		
<i>3:40 – 4:40</i>	Water Rights Discussion	LUDMA Implementation: Process and Responsibilities	
<i>5:30 – 7:00</i>	Dinner – Keynote Speaker- Ralph Becker, FAICP, minority leader Utah house of representatives, SLC mayoral candidate		
Friday, March 23			
Time	Higher Ground Track	Best Practices Track	Workshop Track
<i>8:30 – 9:00</i>	Conference Registration		
<i>9:00 – 10:00</i>	Hillside Development: Panel Discussion	Corridor Preservation Techniques	
<i>10:10 – 11:10</i>	Regulatory Takings vs. Environmental Concerns	Iron Destiny: Iron County’s New General Plan	Subdivision / Site Plan Review Techniques for Citizen Planners
<i>11:20 – 12:20</i>	Washington County FIRM Revision Process	Vision Dixie: Washington County’s Visioning Exercise	
<i>12:30 – 1:30</i>	Lunch		
<i>1:30 – 3:30</i>	Mobile Workshops		

Mobile Workshops

- 1- **Tour of Zion National Park’s context sensitive building and development solutions.** See the energy efficient visitor’s center, historically preserved human history museum and administration building, and recent road improvements at the ease end of the Zion – Mt. Carmel tunnel. (\$15 fee)
- 2- **Tour of Springdale.** See the Redhawk mixed income housing development, central commercial core, and cluster subdivisions with Conservation Easements.

2007 Utah APA Spring Conference

Climbing to Higher Ground: Managing Growth to Avoid Natural Hazards and Preserve Natural Resources

**March 22 and 23, 2007
Springdale, Utah
Canyon Community Center – 126 Lion Boulevard**

Name _____ AICP FAICP

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Item	Price	Subtotal
Early Registration* – APA Member	\$125	
Early Registration* – non-APA Member	\$150	
Regular Registration – APA Member	\$145	
Regular Registration – non-APA Member	\$170	
Student Registration	\$50	
Guest Diner (Thursday)	\$20	
Zion National Park Mobile Workshop	\$15	
Design Workshop for Planning Professionals	This will be a hands-on workshop limited to 20 participants. There is no fee, but reservations are required. Reservations will be taken on a first come basis. Please check the box to the right if you wish to attend the Design Workshop. You will be notified by email if you have a reservation.	
Total Enclosed		

**Registration must be received by February 15, 2007 to qualify for early registration rate.*

Utah APA Chapter Policy does not allow for refunds of registration fees based on failure to attend the conference.

Please include check or money order made payable to Utah APA with completed registration form and mail to:

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For lodging information please contact dcd@infowest.com or visit www.zionpark.com