

IOWA PLANNING



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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MARCH 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Aging Livable Communities and Economic Demands	3
The Zoner's Corner - HOUSE FILE 184	4
Transportation Day 2013	5
What is Agenda 21?	5
University Planning News	6
Meet the Planner	10
Upcoming Events	11



2013 APA National Conference

The 2013 APA National Conference is quickly approaching! This year's conference is being held in Chicago from Saturday, April 13 to Wednesday, April 17. Register today!

The advance registration deadline for the this years Conference is March 14th. And **new this year**: APA will send all advance conference registrants their badge and event tickets through USPS first-class mail prior to the conference opening. **Don't leave home without them** - APA will charge to reprint badges onsite. APA will also distribute bags and the final program in Chicago.

Conference highlights include special sessions and speakers such as best-selling author **Blue Balliett**, who will deliver the [closing keynote](#); social events such as the ["Exhibitor Meet and Greet Reception"](#); and new this year, the "Unconference", which will give planners the chance to dive into multi-faceted discussions on technology, planning, and cities in a live, interactive environment. For more information, visit the APA National Conference Website at www.planning.org/conference/

Also, be sure to attend the All Iowa Reception, which will give Iowa Planners the opportunity to network and socialize in a smaller setting. The Reception is being held on Tuesday, April 16th from 5 to 8 pm at the Emerald Loop Bar and Grill, located at 216 N Wabash, Chicago.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided from 5:30--7:30 PM. A cash bar will also be available.

A great thanks to our event co-sponsors: Iowa State University Community and Regional Planning Department and University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning!

For more information on the Emerald Loop Bar and Grill visit their website at www.vaughanhospitality.com/index.php?section=3 ■

2013 APA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 13TH-17TH

HYATT REGENCY

151 EAST WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL

ALL IOWA PLANNERS RECEPTION

5:00 PM, APRIL 16TH

EMERALD LOOP BAR AND
GRILL

216 N WABASH
CHICAGO, IL

President's Message

Rich Russell, AICP

Greetings Iowa Planners!

It is my hope that the snow has melted away in a non-disastrous way by the time you see this edition of our newsletter. It is time for the seasons to change. Change is also occurring on our Board. Eric Jensen, AICP has resigned from the Board due to other time commitments. Eric has served APA Iowa well for 13 years; 4 as Secretary, 6 as President and 3 as an At-Large member of the Board. He will be difficult to replace. Thanks, Eric, for your invaluable service to our chapter!

I have been soliciting nominations for Eric's replacement. An email was sent to all members and an announcement was placed on our chapter website. As of press time, seven chapter members have expressed an interest. Thanks for all of the interest, so far.

I will accept nominations until March 22, 2013. I plan to ask for approval of the new At-Large member at the Board's May 17th meeting.

I attended Design Professional's Day at the Capitol on your behalf on February 20, 2013. The event is arranged by AIA Iowa. I was able to talk to the following legislators: President of the Senate Pam Jochum, Senator Joe Bolkcom, Representatives Chuck Isenhardt, Dave Jacoby, Nancy Dunkel and Dawn Pettingill.

HF 184, the proposal that will prohibit communities in Iowa from using zoning regulations to limit the number of unrelated people allowed to live together in an apartment or rental home, is of biggest concern for us. Look for Bob Miklo's article in Zoner's Corner for more information about this concern.

APA Iowa's Spring Conference will be held in Ames on April 4th. The event will be held in the Scheman Center. Please visit the AIA Iowa's website for more info: <https://m360.aiaiowa.org/event.aspx?eventID=72394&instance=0>

This is a great chance for training and networking. I hope you can make it!

APA's National Conference will be held in Chicago April 13th through 17th. We will have the All-Iowa Reception on the evening of April 16th. Please visit our website for more information about the reception under Upcoming Events: www.iowa-apa.org

I hope you can make plans to attend the conference and reception. The location offers a wonderful opportunity for Iowa members to attend at a reasonable cost.

Please make an effort to attend some of these chapter meetings in the coming months:

- May 17, 2013--City of Davenport--Davenport--Matt Flynn--Topic TBD
- July 19, 2013--Region XII COG--Carroll--Karina Ward will help with a CM presentation.
- September 20, 2013--Linn County--Cedar Rapids--Les Beck--2013 Conference Planning + Topic TBD
- November 15, 2013--University of Iowa--Iowa City--Chuck Connerly-- University-Community Partnerships for Sustainability: The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities.

We are moving these events around the state so more of you can attend at least one. I hope to see you there!

As always, please let me know of any way your chapter can provide more benefits to you as a member. Also, please let me know of any way you'd like to be more involved in the chapter. This is the primary way that the chapter can become more effective for all of us.

Rich Russell, AICP
APA Iowa
russell@cityofdubuque.org
(563) 589-4152 ■

Check us out on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter!
Visit our webpage at www.iowa-apa.org

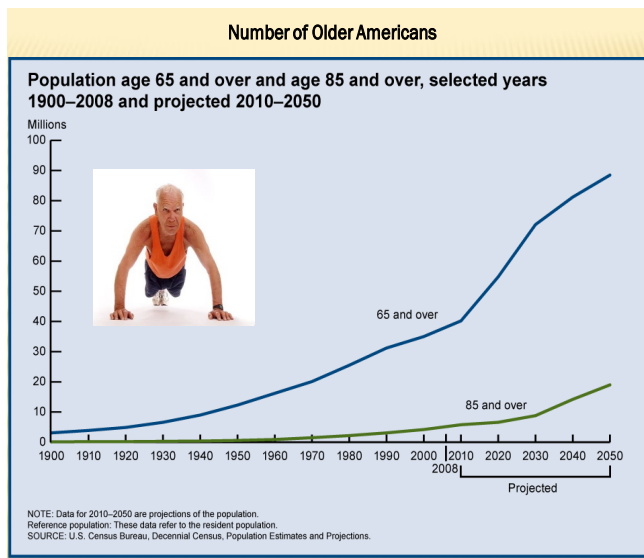


Aging Livable Communities and Economic Demands

Submitted by Ramona Mullahey

[Divisions Council/Chapter Presidents Council Task Force on Collaboration
Divisions Council Initiative on Aging & Livable Communities]

The U.S. is undergoing a demographic transformation. On January 1, 2011, the very first Baby Boomers born between January 1, 1946 and December 31, 1964, turned 65. Further, the Pew Research Center has projected that about 10,000 people “will cross that threshold” every day over the next 19 years. By 2030, the 65 and older population will have grown to 18 percent. By 2050, 20 percent of Americans will be 65 or older, an increase of 120 percent from 40 million to over 88 million.



As today's population live longer, the cost of healthcare rises, dramatically increasing demands on entitlement programs such as social security and Medicare. Those two factors are going to make it incredibly challenging to address the needs of retiring Baby Boomers, especially as many of them have no intention of ceding their independence and their youthful perspective towards life.

This means that the 79 million baby boomers, about 26 percent of this country's population, will be redefining what it means to be older. Boomers will work longer and demand that community infrastructure be more responsive to their needs as those who “age in place.” This will further increase economic demands on communities, not to mention the Federal Government through various transportation programs. Older adults require access to services, a range

of housing types and transportation options for active living in the community. According to AARP [<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place-2011-full.pdf>], unsupportive community design, unaffordable and inaccessible housing, and a lack of access to needed services are barriers to the desire of older adults to live in their own homes and to thrive in their communities.

Progress is being made in more than 300 age-friendly/livable community initiatives underway nationwide based on age-friendly models from organizations such as the World Health Organization, AARP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Innovative partnerships are forming among government agencies, businesses, social service providers, aging experts, and grassroots advocacy groups to brainstorm how to make their city or town age-friendly. Further, the lifetime associations and connections rooted in place can be pivotal to successful aging. However, making cities more age-friendly can be daunting. Most experts agree that many communities have not planned for the aging boomers. Fiscal constraints are pushing some communities to cut spending on critically needed programs and services.

“Progress is being made in more that 300 age friendly/livable community initiatives underway nationwide...”

On the Radar & See Yourself in a Division

The APA Aging of America Initiative provides an extraordinary opportunity for planners. Join the conversation. Visit the APA Aging and Livable Communities Initiative online at: <http://www.planning.org/leadership/divisions/initiatives/aging/index.htm>. Planners may also contact the DC/CPC Task Force or Noel Comeaux (noel.comeaux@dot.gov) to get involved with this and other division initiatives.

Further, Ramona Mullahey is Past –Chair of the Private Practice Division. For more information on this and the other 20 divisions of the APA, please go to <http://www.planning.org/divisions/>. Division membership is a great way to participate in APA as well as to network with planners involved in your area of expertise and to network nationally and internationally. ■



THE ZONER'S CORNER

HOUSE FILE 184 Regarding Local Zoning Codes

Submitted by Bob Miklo

[City of Iowa City]

House File 184, which recently passed out of the Iowa House Judiciary Committee, will prohibit communities in Iowa from using zoning regulations to limit the number of unrelated people allowed to live together in an apartment or rental home. [Click Here](#) for the link to the bill.



Much is at stake in the regulation of density and occupancy for cities and neighbors. Occupancy standards are one tool cities use to control density and population in their jurisdictions. This helps to assure adequate public services, such as police and fire protection, sanitary sewer service and garbage and recycling collection. Occupancy standards help cities to manage traffic, and are a means of preserving residential character, quality of life and preventing overcrowding. In addition to affecting neighborhoods, overcrowding creates significant problems for tenants, such as inability to exit a building safely in an emergency.

The Supreme Court of Iowa and the U.S. Supreme Court have found that communities do have the right to control density by creating occupancy standards that differentiate between families and groups of unrelated persons. The courts have also been clear that definitions for what constitutes a "family" or "household" must be broad enough to include the diversity of modern living arrangements, including blended and extended families and foster and adoptive families as well as limited numbers of unrelated adults and group homes for the elderly or disabled.

In Iowa and elsewhere, definitions for what reasonably constitutes a "family" or "household" are included in local zoning ordinances as one measure that helps preserve neighborhood character and quality of life, safety, and the general welfare. In communities with high rental demand, the absence of occupancy limits could result in the unplanned conversion of single-family zones into high density, high occupancy, zones that do not adequately address increased traffic, parking, garbage, or noise. House File 184 proposes a change in the law in such a way that rooming

houses could be established in almost any home, in effect nullifying single-family zones throughout the state.

College towns in particular face a unique situation due to large student populations that dominate the local rental market. This has led to high housing costs and high rents, as landlords readily outbid families and other households to purchase homes as income properties. Groups of students are able to pool funds far beyond what most families or working people can afford. Landlords, who can rent a home to an unlimited number of individuals, can raise rents accordingly. This leaves renters (families, individuals, and students) who can least afford it vulnerable to rising rents.

"College towns in particular face a unique situation due to large student populations that dominate the local rental market."

In Iowa City the student rental business has become so lucrative that out-of-state landlords from as far away as Florida and California have bought up a significant number of single-family homes in neighborhoods near the university to operate as rentals. Compound this with the annual turnover in student population and you have a recipe for neighborhood decline.

Control over zoning and occupancy standards as a means to manage density and ensure safe, adequate and affordable rental housing, is best managed at the local level by mayors and city councilors who know the needs of their communities. Cities must be able to respond to shifts in local market demand and to direct density to areas with the infrastructure and services to support it.

Proponents of the change say any problems that arise from high occupancy should be addressed after the fact by policing and building enforcement. But any community can tell you that this approach comes at a high cost, putting the burden on the local taxpayers at

(Continued on page 10)

Transportation Day 2013 - It's time for a Dime

Previously Published in the U.S. Highway 20 Association Newsletter



<http://www.iowapha.org/Events?eventId=536608&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

On February 27, more than 200 advocates for increasing investment in Iowa's transportation infrastructure converged in Des Moines in a winter storm to tell Governor Terry Branstad

and Legislators, "It's Time for a Dime." Their mission was to encourage an increase in the state's fuel user fee to generate more revenue for Iowa's transportation infrastructure.

What does a dime cost the consumer?

- Increasing the user fee by 1¢ is less than 10¢ per week or \$4.40 a year per vehicle.
- Increasing the user fee by 5¢ would equal \$22.00 per year per vehicle.
- Increasing the user fee by 10¢ would equal \$44.00 per year per vehicle.

Each week, the added investment in Iowa's transportation infrastructure from a 10¢ per gallon increase in the fuel user fee would cost less than one can of your favorite soda, half the price of a cup of gourmet coffee (\$1.85 for a large cup of Starbucks coffee), and a fraction of the cost of one movie ticket.

Every 1¢ increase in the user fee generates \$23 million to be spent on Iowa transportation infrastructure! These are Constitutionally protected funds for roads and bridges and 20 percent of the payers are from out-of-state.

Average miles driven per household vehicle is 12,100 miles per year. Average passenger vehicle (2004 and newer) is required by federal law (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) to obtain 27.5 miles per gallon. Average passenger vehicles consume 440 gallons per year or 8.5 gallons per week.

What does a dime do for Iowa transportation infrastructure? It will generate \$230 million annually which covers the critical needs shortfall of maintenance projects identified by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Increasing the fuel user fee also gives Iowa the ability

(Continued on page 8)

What is Agenda 21?

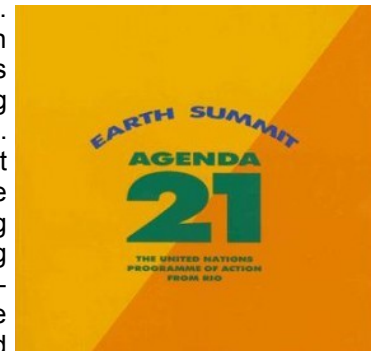
Submitted by Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP

Marie Louise Ryan is a graduate student in Community & Regional Planning and Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

Gary Taylor is an Extension Specialist and Associate Professor of Community & Regional Planning at Iowa State University.

Until recently, most city and county planners had never heard of Agenda 21 unless they had been blindsided at public meetings by accusations that the planning process they were facilitating was part of a vast United Nations-led conspiracy. The anti-Agenda 21 movement has come on fast. In just the last two years, the movement has scuttled planning efforts across the country, been present to oppose planning efforts in Iowa, and spawned anti-sustainability legislation in at least eleven states, including Iowa. What is Agenda 21, and where did the anti-Agenda 21 movement come from?

Agenda 21 (shorthand for "Agenda for the 21st Century") was the product of the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. When it was produced in 1992, 178 world leaders signed on, including President George H.W. Bush. The document itself, a 300-plus-page guide, is a non-binding set of principles offering ideas for nations to develop in ways that are more economically and environmentally sustainable. It recognizes that all nations share in the responsibility to fight pollution, poverty and environmental degradation. It contains no obligations. All initiatives suggested in the document are completely voluntary. The document's four sections are:



<http://www.wnd.com/2012/06/u-s-rebellion-ignited-against-u-n-s-globalization/>

1. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS
2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT
3. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS
4. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

After 20 years of negligible notice in the U.S., Agenda 21 is suddenly front and center, largely driven by media pundits and internet conspiracy theorists. They argue that the document represents the U.N.'s attempt to establish a new world order, and to eradicate private prop-

(Continued on page 8)



University of Iowa Students to Present at APA National Conference

Submitted by Charlie Cowell - University of Iowa

Several graduate students in The University of Iowa Department of Urban and Regional Planning will present at the National APA Conference in Chicago. Students in their second year of the program take a year-long capstone course called "Field Problems in Planning". For the 2012-2013 school year students, in partnership with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities and the City of Dubuque, are working on projects throughout the City of Dubuque and Dubuque County. Three groups were accepted to present their projects as part of the Student Capstone Sessions on Saturday and Sunday of the conference. Speakers are required to have a seven minute power point presentation with each slide automatically timed for 30 seconds. It should be an interesting and fast way to learn about a variety of student projects from across the U.S.

Each project is detailed below, with the time each group will present. All who will be attending the National Conference are invited to hear about what the next generation of planners have been doing in Iowa!

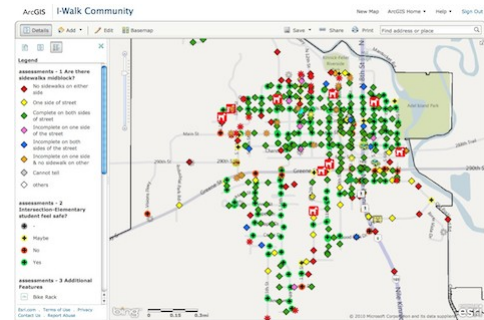
Capstone Presentations 1: Saturday, April 13, 10:00 - 12:00 "Schools, Neighborhoods, and Student Outcomes"

Dubuque has an existing neighborhood schools platform that needs to respond to changing needs in education and in the community to prepare Dubuque's young people for the 21st century. This project analyzes the relationship between neighborhood schools, community development, and elementary student achievement in the Dubuque Community School District. The school district and community currently face challenges related to imbalanced enrollment demographics and achievement gaps in the public elementary schools. In addition to exploring the existing school-neighborhood framework, this project examines how various changes to school policy, transportation services, and facility use might affect neighborhood traits and, ultimately, student outcomes. Special attention is given to the changing demographics in Du-

(Continued on page 9)

Iowa State Landscape Architecture Professor Receives National Planning Award

Previously Published in Iowa State University News Service



A sample of the map data from Adel, an I-WALK pilot community.

AMES, Iowa -- The American Planning Association is honoring an Iowa State University faculty member with a national award. Christopher J. Seeger, an associate professor of landscape architecture and extension specialist, will receive a 2013 National Planning Achievement Award for Transportation Planning at the APA annual conference in April.

The planning profession's highest honor, APA's national awards program was established more than 50 years ago to recognize outstanding community plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues.

Seeger's APA award is one of 12 for exemplary planning achievement and one of two for achievement in the area of transportation planning.

Seeger won for his development of the geo-spatial planning tools and processes that help communities identify and collect information to create a Safe Routes to School program. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program provides funding to improve the ability of primary- and middle-school students to walk and bike to school safely. To create such a program, steps include obtaining maps; collecting information about where children live, the routes they take

(Continued on page 9)

"Several graduate students in the University of Iowa Department of Urban and Regional Planning will present at the National APA Conference..."

Congratulations Chris J. Seeger on your 2013 National Planning Achievement Award!



"GIS Facility Director Kevin Kane has been appointed Interim Director of Research for the College of Design and Associate Director of the Institute for Design Research and Outreach."

ISU GIS Support and Research Facility Joins College of Design

Previously Published Online at www.design.iastate.edu

The [Iowa State University Geographic Information Systems Support and Research Facility](#), a public computing facility that provides high-level GIS research, education and outreach to the university community and the state of Iowa, is now a part of the ISU College of Design.

Formerly a unit of ISU's information technology services department, the facility includes a research laboratory in room 218 Durham Hall and a teaching lab in 248 Durham.

The facility will continue its support of the University's GIS research and teaching missions as well as outreach to the state of Iowa. GIS Analyst and Lab Manager Robin McNeely will manage the facility's daily operations in Durham.

"The GIS Support and Research Facility is a vital University resource that I expect will be a catalyst for new partnerships between our College of Design faculty and scholars throughout the university with similar goals," said Design Dean Luis Rico-Gutierrez.

"Many of our design disciplines integrate GIS research, education and outreach, and we do a great deal of extension work with Iowa communities involving GIS services," he said. "Given the strong history of collaboration between the College of Design and ISU Extension and Outreach, it makes sense to expand that collaboration to include the GIS Facility."

GIS Facility Director Kevin Kane has been appointed Interim Director of Research for the College of Design and Associate Director of the [Institute for Design Research and Outreach](#).

"As the Director of the ISU GIS Facility, Kevin has a great deal of experience in securing external funding to support faculty research," Rico-Gutierrez said. "In his new roles for the College of Design, he will provide research administration and support for our faculty, staff and students and help us identify and pursue external resources for research."

Kane has been director of the ISU GIS Facility and an adjunct assistant professor of landscape

architecture since 1997. He has coordinated GIS research and instruction with colleges and departments; developed programs to help faculty, staff and students understand and use GIS; prepared and administered contracts for GIS work throughout the university, the state, and nationally; managed the ISU GIS data and software libraries and provided technical assistance and training to ISU GIS users and public agencies.

Kane also mentors graduate students working with natural resources and GIS in their degree programs and in the university's GIS certificate program, administered by the community and regional planning department in the College of Design.

Kane received bachelor's degrees in landscape architecture and physical education/leisure studies in 1982, a master of landscape architecture in 1986 and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies in 2007, all from Iowa State. He represents ISU and the state of Iowa on the Iowa Geographic Information Council and the MidAmerica Geographic Information Consortium.

Luis Rico-Gutierrez, Design Administration, lrico@iastate.edu • Kevin Kane, ISU GIS Support and Research Facility/Design Administration, kkane@iastate.edu • Heather Sauer, Design Communications, hsauer@iastate.edu ■

University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning Awarded

Submitted by Charles Connerly- University of Iowa

Last year's University of Iowa Sustainability Indicators Field Problems project has won the **2013 AICP Student Project Award for the Contribution of Planning to a Contemporary Issue**. This is one of the 10 projects the School of Urban and Regional Planning is completing with the City of Dubuque under the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities in 2011-2013.

The students and the School will be presented with a school plaque and individual certificates during the APA/AICP Annual Business Meeting and Leadership Honors Program in Chicago on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 (2:30-3:45pm). Please join the School at the ceremony to celebrate the students' work. ■

Congratulations to the University of Iowa's School of Urban and Regional Planning on their 2013 AICP Project Award! - Attend the awards ceremony during the APA/AICP Annual Business Meeting at the National Conference!

Transportation Day 2013

(Continued from page 5)

to generate revenue from out-of-state drivers using our roads, highways, and bridges. The mechanism for collecting the fee is already in place. And those who use the roads more, truly do pay their fair share.

The last time the fuel user fee was raised in Iowa was 1989. Governor Branstad was in office during his first tenure. The national average price for gasoline was \$.98 and median household income in Iowa was \$26,229. Today, the national average price for a gallon of gasoline is \$3.78 and median household income in Iowa is \$52,451.

If the fuel user fee had been indexed in 1989, it would look very different today. ■

What is Agenda 21?

(Continued from page 5)

erty rights and individual freedoms, even though it makes no such statements. Local planning processes seem to be drawing the most anti-Agenda 21 activity. Critics state that “sustainable development” is merely code for “centralized control over human life.” They create lists of buzzwords that, when heard in public meetings, supposedly signal the conspiracy at work; words such as “Smart Growth,” “comprehensive planning,” “consensus,” and “stakeholder.” This guarantees that any plan that includes practices shown to improve the quality of life in our communities will be seen as the plot in action. Efforts to conserve energy, to reduce the miles we drive to work or the grocery store, or to provide broader housing choices are to be attacked as efforts to move everyone out of rural areas and single-family suburbs and into densely-settled cities.

There are many examples of how anti-Agenda 21 protests have had serious consequences across the country. Carroll County, Maryland abolished their Office of Sustainability. Janesville, Wisconsin was forced to shelve their participation in the state’s Green Tier program. La Plata County, Colorado abandoned their effort to develop a new comprehensive plan after the expenditure of \$750,000 on the process. States have taken up legislation opposing Agenda 21, including Alabama, Arizona, Iowa (House File 66), Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

While Agenda 21 states “the broadest public participation and the active involvement of the non-governmental organizations and other groups should also be encouraged,” organizations such as the John Birch Society tell followers that “every word planners say is a UN-inspired lie” (Reinbach 2012) and encourage disruption of public meetings. Discerning the truth about Agenda 21 requires

simply reading the document itself. The document contains no obligations; encourages public engagement at the local level; and offers guidance in attaining more sustainable development practices.



The challenge for planners is to separate the rhetoric about Agenda 21 from the merits of practices that have been shown to provide broader housing choices, reduce VMT, protect the environment, promote healthy local economies, create vibrant downtowns and activity centers, and improve the overall quality of life in our communities. The principles that make communities healthy, efficient and sustainable should be debated on their merits. Conspiracy theories are distractions.

A sample of internet sources on Agenda 21

- United Nations. 1992. Agenda 21. Accessed 2 February 2013 at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=23&menu=35>
- United Nations Agenda 21 Fact Sheet available at: http://www.unausa.org/images/content/Advocacy/Agenda21_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Springston, Rex. 2012. Agenda 21: Plot or Paranoia? Richmond-Times Dispatch. Accessed 2 February 2013 at: http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/agenda-plot-or-paranoia/article_f6e46e1e-9473-5825-a83a-dd235da01aa4.html
- Beckett, Daniel. 2004. Agenda 21—The Blueprint to Advance Sustainable Development. Freedom Advocates. Accessed 2 February 2013: http://www.freedomadvocates.org/articles/sustainable_development/agenda_21_-_the_blueprint_to_advance_sustainable_development_20040615100/
- Stop Agenda 21 – John Birch Society. Accessed 15 February, 2013 at: <http://www.jbs.org/issues-pages/stop-agenda-21>
- Reinbach, Andrew. 2012. Agenda 21: Sustainability? You Mean the New World Order, says John Birch Society. Huffington Post. Accessed 2 February 2013 at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-reinbach/agenda-21-sustainability-_b_1523118.html
- DeWeese, Tom. 2012. Agenda 21 In One Easy Lesson. Accessed 15 February 2013 at: <http://americanpolicy.org/agenda21/> (you can donate to his \$500,000 anti-Agenda 21 campaign at <http://americanpolicy.org/2013/01/15/a-plan-to-stop-agenda-21/>).
- APA (undated). APA: Agenda 21: Myths and Facts. Accessed 15 February 2013 at: <http://www.smartvalleyplaces.org/wpcontent/uploads/Agenda21mythsfacts.pdf>
- DeWeese, Tom. 2012. The American Planning Association and Its “Faulty” Handbook. Accessed 15 February 2013 at: <http://www.libertyroundtable.com/2012/08/25/the-american-planning-association-and-its-faulty-handbook/> ■



University Planning News...



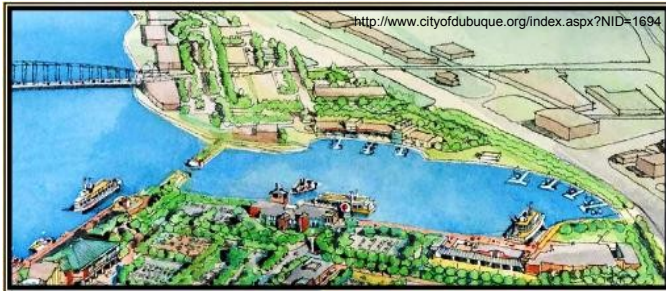
University of Iowa Students to Present at APA National Conference

(Continued from page 6)

buque and the resulting implications to socioeconomic diversity within the elementary school system.

Capstone Presentations 2: Saturday, April 13, 1:00 - 3:00 "Dubuque South Port Redevelopment Sandwich"

The presentation describes the redevelopment of 33 acres within the Port of Dubuque, Iowa on the Mississippi River. The city wants to revamp the current industrial use to create a more attractive entrance into the city. Dubuque, with a population just under 58,000, has undergone extensive changes in the past ten years and is



now leading the way for sustainability in cities. They want the main entrance in the city to reflect this change. The Port has several barriers to redevelopment including an active rail yard, limited parcel sizes, and an unsightly floodwall on the edge of the water. The project shows how to use communicative and rational planning to engage the public in the planning process of updating the current Port Master Plan. Attendees will hear how to integrate community views and site planning into a port redevelopment. Overcoming physical barriers in redevelopment with creative solutions will be a key focus of the presentation.

Capstone Presentations 3: Sunday, April 14, 11:00 - 1:00 "Housing Needs for a Vibrant Dubuque"

This study analyzes consumer preferences in the Dubuque housing market with the goal of making Dubuque a more attractive place to live. A hedonic regression relating residential sales over a twelve-year period to neighborhood amenities and dis-amenities identifies the characteristics that have a significant impact on housing preference. Based on these findings and an analysis of housing affordability, general policy recommendations for residential development in the city will be prepared, along with recommendations for redevelopment in the



areas that have the highest proportion of significant dis-amenities.

Come support the University at the Student Capstone Sessions on Saturday and Sunday of the 2013 APA National Conference. ■

Iowa State Landscape Architecture Professor Receives National Planning Award

(Continued from page 6)

to school and the condition of the streets along the way; and identifying walking and bicycling barriers. Seeger recognized that this task was difficult for many communities, and sought to help them.

In partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health, Seeger co-developed [I-WALK](#) (Iowans Walking Assessment Logistics Kit), and spearheaded creation of [the innovative, participatory process](#) that uses smartphones, global position system and geographic information systems technology. The I-WALK process provides detailed site data and public perception information that enable community coalitions to make decisions, which will result in the most impact with the limited funds available.

Volunteers in Riceville collecting walkability information.

In 2011, the program was piloted in 12 Iowa communities and the results documented. Hundreds of parents, students, teachers and community residents participated in surveys and GPS walkability assessments. A total of 3,300 midblocks, 2,080 intersections and 1,247 additional features were mapped during the pilot year. The program continues in 2012-13 at 17 additional elementary schools in Iowa. It has been expanded into a broader-based, community-wide walkability assessment, and the processes have been implemented in neighboring states. Tens of thousands of current and future students will be impacted. I-WALK is administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. ■

University of Iowa, URP
www.urban.uiowa.edu/

Visit their WebPages!

Iowa State University, CRP:
www.design.iastate.edu/communityplanning/index.php

Meet the Planner: Michael Johnson, AICP



Occupation:

Director of Planning & Building, City of Norwalk

Family:

I was born and raised in Hudson, Wisconsin. I have one younger brother who is an accountant and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

My parents recently relocated to the Madison area which is where the majority of my immediate and extended family now live. My wife, Audrey, and I are expecting our first child in August.

What planning tasks do you enjoy?

I really enjoy working with GIS and other mapping tools. I often times find it therapeutic when things get really busy and need to push the reset button. I also really appreciate and value the wide array of planning, economic development and policy projects that I have been able to work on. Working for a smaller, but rapidly growing community with limited staff and resources, has greatly enhanced my exposure to so many different facets of planning that I think many in the profession do not see in their careers.

What are some challenges you see in planning?

I think one of the biggest challenges that I face every day is ensuring that I do not take on too much at one time. I am extremely fortunate to have such wonderful and capable staff. So while I really enjoy the variety of work that I get to be involved in, I need to make sure to share the load with others. As it pertains to planning, I think one of the biggest challenges we all face is making sure to continually push yourself to raise the bar. All too often, I think, planners can get complacent in their position and gradually become hesitant to be on the cutting edge of new ideas and trends.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I am an avid outdoorsman. Fishing and Hunting help me find balance in my busy life.

What's the best vacation you've taken?

I really enjoy fly-in fishing trips to Canada. The remoteness is awesome. I also had a great time attending the

Iowa State Bowl game in New York City two years ago. The game's outcome was disappointing but the things we had a chance to see and experience were amazing.

If you had a day and could do anything you wanted to do, what would it be?

Just spend the day out on the boat with my wife and some friends. Hopefully the fish are biting.

If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be?

Zach Parise. Left Wing for the Minnesota Wild. During this week the Wild would win the Stanley Cup by sweeping the Detroit Red Wings. Reality is that I am very happy where I am and would not change anything. ■

HOUSE FILE 184 Regarding Local Zoning Codes

(Continued from page 4)

a time when local budgets are already strained.

If passed, House file 184 would require most cities in Iowa to rewrite substantial portions of their zoning codes. This would divert time and resources away from other important planning work.

House file 184 would effectively eliminate occupancy requirements for single-family zones allowing rooming houses to be established in single family neighborhoods. This would hinder a community's ability to preserve the quality of life in residential neighborhoods as well as the ability to ensure quality housing for renters and homeowners. This change will have a real effect on property values; public safety and welfare; and public investment in infrastructure, services, and schools.

Members of Iowa APA, Planning Commissioners and City Councilors may wish to contact their State Representatives and Senators and urge them to leave zoning controls in the hands of cities who know what works best for their communities. ■

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Event	Date		Location	Website
APA Iowa Chapter Board Meeting	3/15/2013	--	Sioux City, IA	http://www.iowa-apa.org/events.html
Introduction to Planning and Zoning Workshop	3/25/2013	--	Council Bluffs, Hilton Garden Inn	http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/planningBLUZ/workshops/
	3/27/2013	--	Fort Dodge, Best Western Starlight Village	
	4/1/2013	--	Davenport, River Music Experience Performance Hall	
	4/2/2013	--	Fairfield, Fairfield Arts and Convention Center	
Iowa Geographical Information Council Conference	4/2/2013-4/4/2013	--	Cedar Rapids, Kirkwood Conference Center	http://conference.iowagic.org/
Introduction to Planning and Zoning Workshop	4/3/2013	--	Waterloo, Waterloo Center for the Arts	http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/planningBLUZ/workshops/
	4/8/2013	--	Dubuque, Grand River Center	
	4/9/2013	--	Johnston, Hilton Garden Inn	
APA Iowa/AIA Iowa Joint Spring Meeting "RePlace"	4/4/2013	--	Ames, IA	http://www.iowa-apa.org/events.html
APA 2013 National Planning Conference	4/13/2013-4/17/2013	--	Hyatt Regency, Chicago	https://www.planning.org/conference/
2013 APA All Iowa Reception	4/16/2013	--	Emerald Loop Bar and Grill, Chicago	http://www.iowa-apa.org/events.html
Iowa NAHRO Annual Conference	4/17/2013-4/19/2013	--	West Des Moines Marriott	http://www.ianahro.org/
Heartland Economic Development Course	4/21/2013	--	Blue Springs, MO	http://www.bcs.uni.edu/heartland/
APA Iowa Chapter Board Meeting	5/17/2013	--	Davenport, IA	http://www.iowa-apa.org/events.html
Lunch and Learn - Village of East Davenport Master Plan	5/17/2013	--	Davenport, IA	
Beyond Simple Mapping with GIS	5/20/2013	--	Iowa State University	http://www.iowa-apa.org/events.html
	5/29/2013	--		

APA Iowa Chapter Only Membership Contest

We are extending the deadline for you to recruit new chapter only members until April 1, 2013. So, it's not too late to get your name in the drawing for the \$150 Amazon gift card by having new members note that you referred them.

Please visit our website here for more info about the contest: <http://www.iowa-apa.org/assets/files/APA%20Chapter%20Only%20Flyer.pdf>

Access information about the program and application form here: <http://www.iowa-apa.org/assets/files/APA%20IOWA%20CHAPTER%20AND%20MEMBERSHIP%20APPLICATION.pdf>

Good luck! And thanks for contributing to the growth of your chapter! ■