

IOWA PLANNING



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

Submitted by Naomi Hamlett, AICP

Each year, the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-Iowa) asks its more than 350 members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in as many as fourteen categories ranging from planning excellence to

distinguished leadership. Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners from the Nebraska Chapter of the APA, six nominees have been selected to receive APA-Iowa Awards in 2010. These six recipients and a summary of their planning contributions are described, beginning on Page 6.



City of Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Master Plan



The Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods Planning Initiative



President's Message



Greetings Iowa Planners!

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are all geared up for an exciting 2011.

With the New Year, brings a new legislative session. As discussed at the Fall APA Iowa Conference there seemed to be momentum behind the recommendations from the Iowa Smart Planning Taskforce that would further planning in the State. However, early legislation coming out of the House is already suggesting a full rescission of the Smart Planning Act that was just adopted in 2010. Thus, it appears that 2011 will again be a busy legislative year and many volunteers will be needed to track legislation and attend hearings.

This year, APA Iowa is pleased to be partnering with the Iowa Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, Consulting Engineering Society, American Society of Landscape Architects, and the International Interior Design Association for the **2011 Design Professionals Day on the Hill**. The event will be held on March 14, 2011 and be an opportunity for APA Iowa membership to have a voice with their legislators. There will be more details forthcoming, but please mark your calendars now for this important event. Given this is scheduled for a time late in the session, please don't wait until then to get involved in legislative efforts! If you would like to be involved in legislative efforts or the planning of this event, please contact Don Gross, Legislative Chair or myself.

As previously announced, the APA Iowa membership overwhelmingly supported a number of changes to the By Laws. Included in those changes were a number of changes to the composition of the APA Iowa Board. In carrying out those changes, I am pleased to announce the addition of the following individuals who have been recently appointed to the positions noted:

- Dave Tallman, Planning Commission Representative: Dave is a Planning Commissioner for the City of Davenport, and also the Government Sector Market Manager for Shive-Hattery.
- Charles Connerly, University of Iowa Representative: Charles is a Professor and Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning.
- Doug Johnston, Iowa State University Representative: Doug is a Professor and Director of the Community and Regional Planning Department.
- RJ Moore, AICP, Iowa County Zoning Officials (COZO) Liaison: RJ is the Assistant Planning and Zoning Administrator for Johnson County and is active in COZO.

In addition to the four new additions to the Board, there remain vacancies on the Board that I am looking to fill, if you are interested in serving the Chapter in this capacity, or would like to volunteer to assist with specific projects or activities please don't hesitate to contact me.

Longtime APA Iowa Board Member and Past President, Erik Lundy has resigned his position as the Co-Chair of Networking, Leadership and Professional Development so he is able to focus more time on the pursuit of a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Erik has dedicated a significant portion of his career in service to the Chapter and his contributions will have a lasting impact. I am confident that Erik will be no stranger to APA Iowa, but please join me in thanking him for his service and contributions.

Best wishes,

David R. Wilwerding, AICP
APA Iowa President
dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us
515-727-7775

Des Moines Area MPO Awarded \$2 Million to Create Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Submitted by Bethany Wilcoxon



On Thursday, October 14, 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is one of forty-five recipients of grant funding through the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*. The \$2 million grant will be utilized to develop a regional plan for sustainable development (RPSD) for the MPO's metropolitan planning area, which encompasses 542 square miles.

The MPO led a consortium of local stakeholders to apply for the grant. The consortium's steering committee includes representatives from the MPO; Dallas, Polk, and Warren counties; Carlisle, Des Moines, Johnston, Urbandale, and West Des Moines; the Greater Des Moines Partnership; the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines; and, the Center on Sustainable Communities. This consortium continues to lead the planning efforts now that grant funding has been awarded. The consortium also recognizes and thanks Iowa's congressional delegation for their work in securing this grant.

The grant will be used to create an RPSD that will provide a comprehensive framework for future development of the region, creating new and integrating existing regionally-planned components. Grant funding will facilitate the creation of regional housing, environmental, and land use plans. It also will provide the opportunity to produce a long-range regional transit plan and a strategic plan for economic and workforce development, both of which are vital components of the area's RPSD. The formulation of the RPSD ultimately will provide the chance to link these key endeavors to one another as well as to other existing regional plans. Additionally, the RPSD will suggest updates to existing plans in order to align all regional planning efforts. The RPSD, with its time horizon stretching to 2050, will relate the findings of the aforementioned studies and plans to the overall multi-disciplinary vision, goals, and initiatives underway in the greater Des Moines metropolitan area.

This is the first year for the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*. The program drew 225 eligible applications, which were reviewed by multidisciplinary teams of federal agency and philanthropic organization representatives. More information is available online at <http://www.dmampo.org/sustainability.html>.



The New Towncrest

Submitted by the City of Iowa City Planning & Community Development Department

Originally Featured in The Planner 8.30.2010



Concept Plan A: Towncrest Drive Entrance

RDG Planning & Design, the landscape architecture firm hired by the City to develop a streetscape plan for the Towncrest urban renewal project, unveiled two concept plans at an open house last week. Now, they're looking for feedback from Towncrest area business owners, residents, and the Iowa City public on the pros and cons of each plan before they prepare their final recommendations for the City. The deadline for public feedback is next Tuesday, August 31. Comments may be submitted via the RDG website at: www.rdgusa.com/urbandesign/towncrest.

After previous meetings with the Towncrest neighborhood to gather input on what business owners and residents would like to see for the future of the Towncrest district, representatives of RDG Planning & Design hosted an open house on August 23 to unveil two redevelopment design concepts. RDG, a landscape architecture firm, has been hired by the City to develop a streetscape plan for the Towncrest urban renewal project, which will include design concepts for sidewalks, landscaping, signage, basic architectural treatments, parks, public open spaces, and other amenities such as lighting, benches and public art.

Referred to as "Concept A" and "Concept B," the two plans offer widely varying approaches. Christina Kuecker, a Planner with the City of Iowa City who has been associated with the project for the past year, said Concept A represents a more modern architectural approach, while Concept B is more traditional.

Concept A, she said, is more "organic" in design, reflected by free-flowing lines, the use of limestone and other natural materials, and a more artistic approach to details in benches, planters, street lighting, and signage. This concept also offers a modern interpretation of Iowa's agricultural heritage, including the use of prairie grasses in the landscaping plans, bolder colors that are reminiscent of Iowa's red barns and farm buildings, and metal roofs.

Concept B, Kuecker continued, offered an approach that is more representative of a Midwestern Main Street. "It's more traditional, more simple," Kuecker said of the second...



Concept Plan B: Towncrest Drive Entrance

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Incentives to Promote Green Affordable Housing

Submitted by Megan Moody, HUD USER

Originally Featured in Breakthroughs Volume 9, Issue 1



Completed in 2007, SOLARA is California's first, fully solar-powered apartment community. A photovoltaic system produces approximately 90 percent of the electricity needed to meet the demands of this 56-unit affordable housing complex. Green affordable housing or affordable housing incorporating sustainable building practices and materials can provide significant financial and environmental benefits to residents over the long term. However, the upfront costs associated with green building can be higher when compared to regular building practices. To offset these development costs and promote green affordable housing, many state and local governments offer financial assistance in the form of tax credits, rebate programs, tax exemptions, and funding grants. In this article, we'll take a look at some regulatory incentives adopted by state and local governments, such as lot size reductions, density bonuses, and expedited approvals.

Development Standards

In March 2009, the city of Redmond, Washington adopted its green building incentive program to encourage the incorporation of sustainable building and infrastructure techniques in residential developments. Points are assigned for each green building technique incorporated in a development, ranging from storm water management, drought-resistant vegetation, and green roofs to native soil preservation. In exchange for using these techniques, the city provides incentives, such as priority building permit processing, lot size reductions, unit type flexibility, and density bonuses. The type of incentive is based on the total number of points earned. For example, reducing the impervious surface area by 20 percent will earn 2 points. To qualify for a density bonus of 10 percent, a project



must have earned 5 points. An additional 4 points will make the project eligible for a 30 percent reduction in minimum lot size requirements.

Expedited Permitting and Fee Waivers

Several communities provide expedited permitting for residential developments that incorporate green features. Builders installing solar systems for "prescriptive path" residential projects (projects that meet certain structural requirements) in Portland, Oregon can take advantage of the city's streamlined electronic permit processing system. Trained contractors can submit plans and permit applications online and receive approval within 24 hours. Sarasota County, Florida offers expedited processing for rezoning, site plan reviews, and building permits for green affordable housing projects that meet the Florida Green Building Coalition's green development standards. Residential projects with 20 percent of units set aside as affordable housing can receive site plan approvals within 5 working days and building permits in 3 working days. In Ashville, North Carolina, residential units that qualify for certain...

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APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan – Confluence – “Iowa State Capitol Complex Master Plan”

The design team was challenged to provide a 50-year vision, as well as priorities for the next decade, for the State Capitol Complex in Des Moines, Iowa’s state capitol. Following the previous master plan completed in 2000, several improvements were made to the Capitol Complex, including: creation of the West Capitol Terrace, construction of the Judicial Building, and renovation of the Records and Property Building, which prompted an update for the long-term vision for the Complex. The 2010 plan sought to correct past planning errors, provide for greater axial respect, and provide a logical sequence of improvement that enable greater fulfillment of the many functions of the Iowa Capitol Complex. The Master Plan proposed a five-phased plan that takes a bold look to the future, but remains sensitive to the issues of today.

With input from the department leaders, neighborhoods, and City staff, and the results of a “right-sizing” exercise, a central idea of reclaiming off-campus leased office space emerged in the 2010 plan. Combined with the desire to strengthen the pedestrian-oriented core, originally established by



E.L. Masqueray in the 1913 Master Plan, the 2010 Plan recommends bold transportation, parking, and open space strategies for the Capitol Complex. A proposed shuttle would provide service from the parking facilities to the buildings on the interior of the complex. Once ridership increases, the Master Plan suggests minimizing interior parking, replacing it with satellite facilities, and reclaiming the pedestrian-oriented core with grand, axial open space.

Completed in January 2010, the Master Plan process was grounded in neighborhood support and engaged property owners on all sides of the Capitol. The result of this process includes new housing and redevelopment opportunities that will improve the neighborhoods, the City, and ultimately benefit the Capitol Complex. These new additions will continue and strengthen a revival of the East Village area between the Capitol and the Des Moines River. The team brought all of these concepts, as well as the mainstreaming of LEED design principles, together to provide a clear direction for the future development of the complex.

For questions or to request more information on this project, please contact Brian Clark at Confluence, 515-288-4875 or bclark@thinkconfluence.com (Continued on Page 7)



APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice – City of Dubuque and JEO Consulting – “City of Dubuque Unified Development Code”

In 2009, the City of Dubuque’s new Unified Development Code (UDC) went into effect. The UDC updates and consolidates zoning, subdivision, site development, historic preservation, and sign regulations into a single city code. The Dubuque UDC incorporates text, photographs, drawings, charts and diagrams for ease of use in an online illustrated version.

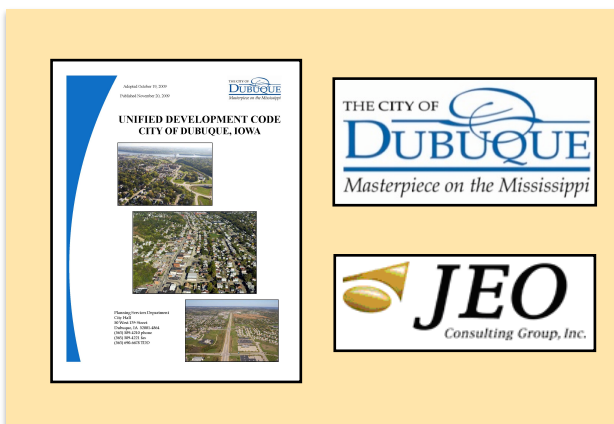
The four-year process for developing the Dubuque UDC incorporated three citizen advisory committees and an interdisciplinary task force of City staff working with JEO Consulting. The last 12 months of the process were devoted to seeking and responding to input on the draft UDC from developers, engineers, architects, neighborhood and business associations, sign contractors, City Boards and Commissions, and the general public prior to City Council work sessions and public hearings.

The Dubuque UDC incorporates sustainable design while meeting smart growth objectives. Sustainable design is the expectation. While traditional development is still allowed, it is now the exception. The UDC received strong support from City officials and citizens alike. This acceptance of sustainable design has continued through implementation.

Subdivision and site development regulations were extensively revised to promote sustainable design, such as conservation design, solar access, and low-impact development measures. Access for pedestrians, bicycles, and public transit as well as design guidelines for historic districts, the downtown, and older neighborhoods also are now part of the UDC.

The intent of the Dubuque UDC is to

guide the physical, economic, and social development, redevelopment and conservation of the community. The UDC protects and enhances the historic, cultural, and aesthetic resources that make Dubuque a unique, identifiable, and vital community.



The City of Dubuque hopes the UDC will serve as a model for other sustainable land development codes in Iowa. For more information on the Dubuque UDC, contact the Planning Services Department at planning@cityofdubuque.org or check it out online at:

www.cityofdubuque.org/index.aspx?nid=1209.

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APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative – City of Des Moines and Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods Coalition– “The “Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods” Planning Initiative”

The Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods (TBN) Planning Initiative has gone beyond the scope of a traditional planning process to focus investment in the physical and social capital of two distressed Des Moines neighborhoods through the collaborative efforts of a wide range of participants. The TBN project has truly been a catalyst for a neighborhood change. This fresh and innovative approach, where partnership and collaborations are a project priority, has resulted in over \$14.5 million of committed investment in the neighborhoods.

The TBN Initiative began in 2007 after the City of Des Moines was awarded a \$1 million grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The King Irving and Mondamin Presidential neighborhoods are located just north of downtown Des Moines, and are largely populated by minority and/or low-income residents. Beginning in 2002, the City and neighborhood residents laid the groundwork for a brighter future by working to overcome past decades of abandonment, disinvestment, and increased levels of illegal activity. However, the City’s Neighborhood Revitalization Program primarily focuses on infrastructure and housing needs. The City recognized that physical investments alone were not enough to make an impact on residents’ lives. The TBN Planning Initiative provided an unprecedented opportunity for stakeholders across sectors to come together with neighborhood residents and target investment to improve their overall quality of life.

A unique coalition of neighborhood residents, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, the City of Des Moines, community organizations, and non-profit agencies banded together to build community, create opportunity, and establish change. This initiative has gone beyond “bricks and mortar” to

encompass the wide range of issues that neighborhood residents face. It allows neighborhood stakeholders to determine what issues most affect them and what solutions make the most sense for their particular situation. The plan focuses on six priority areas: housing, employment/asset building, youth, neighborhood pride and perception, crime and safety, and the reuse of Casady School.

Although the implementation phase is not yet complete, the results speak for themselves. Project partners have made a significant coordinated effort to tackle housing issues, resulting in 36 new and rehabbed single-family housing units and housing improvements for 350 households. 400-500 volunteers have participated in “Rock the Block” and “Rebuilding Together” events, impacting another 25 homes through minor repair, clean-up and beautification projects. Other events like Art in the Park and Youth Achievers have been very successful. Through the TBN initiative, neighborhood revitalization is not only planned, but being realized.

For more information on this project, please contact Phil Delafield at pmdelafield@dmgov.org or Sadie Hildebrand at srhildebrand@dmgov.org at the City of Des Moines. *(Continued on Page 9)*



APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Excellence Award for Innovation for Sustaining Places – City of Cedar Rapids and Sasaki Associates – “City of Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Master Plan”

Over the last decades, Cedar Rapids – Iowa’s second largest City – has struggled, like many Midwestern cities, to retain and attract its next generation workforce. In 2007, the City created a forward-looking and exciting vision for its future- a framework plan that prioritized riverfront improvements along with seven other civic initiatives to reposition the City for its own renaissance. Then, in June 2008, the unthinkable happened – a flood of unimaginable scale inundated ten square miles of the downtown and nine nearside neighborhoods with over 11 feet of water. The Flood caused \$2.5 billion in damage, displacing 310 city facilities, and devastating more than 7000 properties, including over 5000 homes.

Following the flood, the City embarked on an ambitious series of planning initiatives, each with broad public engagement and the goal of creating a better City for future generations. Three distinct phases of planning resulted in: first, a flood management strategy to protect the City; second, a reinvestment plan for the flood-impacted neighborhoods; and third, a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that integrates nearly 220 acres of new floodplain greenway within the existing Park System.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan creates a park system for Cedar Rapids grounded in the City’s history but alive with a socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable future. Its inclusive process and holistic outcomes represent a model for park system planning. The Master Plan outlines the planning context, public process, key elements of the plan, and preliminary design of the first phases of implementation.

The Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation System will...



be a wise investment for the future of the city



create a vibrant, destination riverfront



provide signature neighborhood parks



improve the ecological health of the city



increase connectivity



be efficient and cost-effective to maintain

For questions or more information on this project, please contact Jason Hellendrung at Sasaki Associates at 617-926-3300 or jhellendrung@sasaki.com. *(Continued on Page 10)*

APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Excellence Award for Innovation for Sustaining Places – City of Dubuque – “Sustainable Dubuque”

Sustainable Dubuque (SD) was a community planning process for citizens to help design a sustainability initiative for Dubuque. In 2006, in response to a growing request from the citizens of Dubuque, the Mayor and City Council identified sustainability as a top priority during their annual goal-setting process. This was identified as a priority based upon citizens wanting to make a contribution to preserve their community for future generations. As part of this process the City Council approved the creation of a community task force to help develop a vision statement and principles that would further define the Sustainable Dubuque initiative.

The Sustainable Dubuque Task Force included representatives from local government, schools, utility companies, religious organizations, neighborhood associations, youth organizations, non-profits, environmental organizations, and business stakeholders.

Based upon this process a vision statement was developed, along with a sustainability model that is focused on creating policies and programs that address economic prosperity, environmental integrity, and social cultural vibrancy. The Sustainable Dubuque program focused on educating the public on the 11 key principles to a more sustainable community. These 11 key principles include: Regional Economy, Smart Energy Use, Resource Management, Community Design, Green Buildings, Healthy Local Foods, Community Knowledge, Reasonable Mobility, Healthy Air, Clean Water and Native Plants & Animals.

The work of the task force has influenced the activities of the government, private sector, schools, non-profits, and individuals in their homes. Since the task force completed their work, Dubuque 2.0, a collaborative of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD) and the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has been formed to inspire sustainability in businesses, schools, non-profits and neighborhoods. IBM has partnered with the City and local utility providers to make Dubuque the first Smarter City in North America. Programs including Green Vision Schools, the Petal Project (a green business certification program), the Buyer Supplier Network, the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Green Jobs program, and the Sustainability Innovation Consortium have launched to assist residents and businesses in achieving the Sustainable Dubuque vision. The strategic and holistic plan created by the community through the Sustainable Dubuque Task Force is now the focus of the community and guides the integration and future-focus of all planning efforts in the City and throughout the tri-states.

For questions or more information on this project, please contact Cori Burbach at 563-690-6038 or cburbach@cityofcubuque.org.

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APA-Iowa announces recipients of 2010 Iowa Planning Awards

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Planning Achievement Award for a Hard Won Victory – Rebuild Iowa Office and Iowa Legislature – 83rd General Assembly, 2010 Session and Office of the Governor, State of Iowa - “Iowa Smart Planning Legislation”

On April 26, 2010, Iowa Smart Planning Legislation was signed into law (SF2389). There are four primary components:

- Ten Smart Planning Principles
- Thirteen Comprehensive Plan Elements
- Iowa Smart Planning Task Force
- \$30 Million Disaster Mitigation Grant Program for local governments that follow Smart Planning Principles and consider Comprehensive Plan Elements

Passage of this legislation is a tremendous advancement to comprehensive planning in Iowa. Not only are recommended elements of a comprehensive plan codified for the first time, but best practices are outlined, an incentive to undertake Smart Planning is provided, and a task force is implemented to recommend ways to best implement and build on this planning framework.

Overcoming past failures to modernize Iowa’s planning laws hinged on legislators’ view that Smart Planning would serve as a future risk mitigation tool in the wake of disastrous flooding in 2008, and by the innovative and inclusive effort by the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) to develop stakeholder support for the proposal.

A Rebuild Iowa Advisory Committee (RIAC) was convened after the 2008 weather disasters to recommend policy improvements that could limit future damage from floods and other risks. An important RIAC recommendation stated “the state will lead in developing guidance for and support of integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.” To seek input to best achieve this planning recommendation, Aaron Todd and Annette Mansheim, program planners at the RIO,



authored a “green paper” entitled Recovering from the Storms, Planning for the Future: A Safer, Smarter, Stronger Iowa. (A “green paper” is intended to invite interested individuals and organization to contribute views, data and information.) Multiple stakeholders were encouraged to provide their best ideas to improve the proposal. Drafted legislation reflected stakeholder input, and RIO staff continued to encourage their involvement in improving the bill until it passed at the end of the 2010 session. Floor managers who shepherded the bill were Senator Bill Heckroth and Representative Donovan Olson.

Not only did this inclusive, innovative effort result in passage of the legislation, but the resulting stakeholder buy-in is proving to generate the best opportunity for beneficial implementation of the law. Nearly all stakeholders are participating in the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force and its workgroups, which will generate recommendations to state officials by 11/15/10 on important implementation issues such as planning incentives, regional planning, benchmarking, and state coordination. For questions or more information on this project, please contact Susan Judkins Josten at the Rebuild Iowa Office at 515-729-2837 or susan.judkins@rio.iowa.gov.

The New Towncrest

Submitted by the City of Iowa City Planning & Community Development Department

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proposal. This concept plan calls for the use of brick in many of the design elements, and more traditional approaches to landscaping, such as shrubs, flowers, and planters. Concept B, she continued, is “reminiscent of a traditional downtown.”

Both plans offer ideas for façade improvements to existing buildings, along with ideas for possible new construction. The plans focus heavily on a reconfiguration of the Towncrest Drive area, proposing two lanes of traffic, diagonal parking on both sides of the street, a seven-foot area for benches, trees, and plantings, and a seven-foot walkway adjacent to buildings and businesses. Ideas have also been included in each plan for an open space, if an open area was to be included in the final plan. While the firm has focused on this part of the neighborhood in its proposals, the design concepts could be implemented throughout the Towncrest business district for greater uniformity in appearance and presence.



Concept Plan A: Exterior facades, walkways and plantings

What now? Now, the RDG team is looking for feedback on the proposals, including what people like, what they don’t like, and any suggestions they have for improvement. Kuecker noted that the final plan would not be either Concept A or Concept B, but a variation based on comments received by the public. To view both proposals in full, visit www.rdgusa.com/urbandesign/towncrest.

What next? After reviewing what the public has to say, RDG staff will make revisions and prepare a final concept plan proposal that will be presented to the neighborhood. A date for that presentation has not yet been set. The firm will then create a final plan that will offer specific details on how to implement the new ideas for Towncrest business owners, local investors, and the City, pending authorization by the City Council.

The City recently announced a package of financial incentives for developers, business owners, property owners, etc. For more information, visit www.icgov.org/towncrest



Concept Plan B: Exterior facades, walkways and plantings

Incentives to Promote Green Affordable Housing

Submitted by Megan Moody, HUD USER

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green building certifications are eligible for building permit and plan review fee waivers. The city waives building permit fees altogether and reduces plan review fees by 50 percent for these units.

Tax Incentives

A number of states and localities have developed tax incentive programs to encourage green building. Most states award priority points for green design practices when allocating low-income housing tax credits, and allow property and sales tax exemptions for those which incorporate renewable energy systems. A website funded by the United States Department of Energy, Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE), catalogues various green building incentives available at the federal, state, and local levels across the nation. Maryland is one such state that allows local governments the option of providing property tax credits for multifamily residential and low-income residential developments with qualifying onsite energy production and conservation devices. According to DSIRE, five counties in the state have adopted the tax credit program thus far. Most recently, the city and county of Honolulu, Hawaii voted to allow property tax exemptions for any improvements or alterations made to buildings that increase energy efficiency or make use of alternative energy sources.

Conclusion

While the material and system upgrades and design strategies that make housing both affordable and green yield their benefits incrementally over the usable life of a dwelling, the (at times) higher upfront costs can sometimes discourage residential developers. As more and more local governments adopt mandatory green requirements in pursuit of sustainable growth, it is in a community's best interests to provide incentives that can reduce upfront costs in order to promote green affordable housing projects.





Announcements

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for Technical Assistance Grants from January 3 through February 28, 2011. The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program is designed to provide funding to communities and non-profit groups for engineering or other scientific analysis of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety issues. The funding can also be used to help promote public participation in official proceedings pertaining to pipeline safety. The maximum award for a single grantee is \$50,000 and a total of \$1,000,000 is available.

To learn more about the TAG program, visit <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/DamagePreventionGrantsToStates.htm>. To sign up to receive an email notice when the TAG solicitation is published, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/subscribeAdvanced.do> and enter your email address and CFDA Number 20.710. For more information, contact Sam Hall, TAG Program Manager for PHMSA, at sam.hall@dot.gov.

Are you an expert in the field of environmental planning or transportation planning?

If you are, be first among your peers to earn a unique credential that marks your expertise: AICP Certified Environmental Planner or AICP Certified Transportation Planner. APA is now accepting applications for the first-ever Advanced Specialty Certification exams, to be administered next May. Visit the APA website for information about ASC that includes eligibility criteria, application instructions, an Exam Candidate Bulletin, a suggested reading list to help you prepare for either the AICP CEP or AICP CTP exam, and testimonials from some of the experts who helped APA develop the criteria and exams for both credentials. Also, sign up to receive e-mail alerts from APA about Advanced Specialty Certification in the months ahead.

Learn More by visiting <http://www.planning.org/asc/index.htm>. Be in the vanguard of certified professional planners! Earn an Advanced Special Certification in environmental or transportation planning and demonstrate to your peers, employer, and colleagues in related professions that you are both an expert and leader in your chosen specialization.

Submit your articles now! If you have any articles for the March edition of Iowa Planning, email them to cmiller@midascog.net

The graphic is a 3D-style oval with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half, containing the text in a dark red color.



APA-Iowa Board Membership

January 2011

Officers

President: David Wilwerding, AICP
City of Johnston, (515) 727-7775,
dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us

President Elect: Rich Russell, AICP
City of Dubuque, (563) 589-4152,
rrussell@cityofdubuque.org

Secretary: Benjamin Champ, AICP
City of Pleasant Hill, (515) 309-9461,
bchamp@ci.pleasant-hill.ia.us

Treasurer: Rose Brown, AICP
City of Council Bluffs, (712) 328-4629,
rbrown@councilbluffs-ia.gov

Past President: John Peterson, AICP
City of Ankeny, (515) 963-3550,
jpeterson@ankenyiowa.gov

Board Members

Professional Development Officer:
Gary D. Taylor, AICP
Iowa State University, (515) 290-0214,
gtaylor@iastate.edu

Planning Commissioner Representative: Dave Tallman
City of Davenport Planning Commission, (309) 764-7650,
dtallman@shive-hattery.com

Iowa State University Representative: Doug Johnston
Iowa State University, (515) 294-5676,
dmjohnst@iastate.edu

University of Iowa Representative:
Charles Connerly
University of Iowa, (319) 335-0039,
charles-connerly@uiowa.edu

Communications Program Area Chair: Richard Brown, AICP
City of Des Moines, (515) 248-6356,
rbrown@dmgov.org

Newsletter Editor: Carissa Miller,
MIDAS Council of Governments
(515) 576-7183,
cmiller@midascog.net

Website Editor: Seana E. Perkins,
AICP, City of Ankeny
(515) 963-3557,
sperkins@ankenyiowa.gov

Advocacy, Outreach & External Voice Program Area Chair: Matt Flynn, AICP
City of Davenport, (563) 326-7743,
mflynn@ci.davenport.ia.us

Networking, Leadership & Professional Development Program Area Chair: Tom Treharne, AICP
City of Marion, (319) 743-6320,
ttreharne@cityofmarion.org

Legislative Program Area Chair: Don Gross
City of Council Bluffs community Development, (712) 328-4629,
dgross@councilbluffs-ia.gov

Awards Coordinator: Naomi A. Hamlett, AICP
City of West Des Moines, (515) 273-0770,
naomi.hamlett@wdm-ia.com

University Relations Coordinator:
Stevin Dahl, AICP
(515) 451-3000,
stevin@dahlcommunications.com

At-Large Representative: Eric C. Jensen, AICP
City of Ankeny, (515) 963-3547,
ejensen@ankenyiowa.gov

At-Large Representative: Brian Schoon, AICP
Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG), (319) 235-0311, bschoon@inrcog.org

Liaisons

Iowa County Zoning Officials (COZO) Representative: RJ Moore, AICP
Johnson County Planning and Zoning, (319) 356-6083,
rjmoore@co.johnson.ia.us

Student Representative (Iowa State University):
Graduate - Kate Dirks,
kdirks@iastate.edu

Undergraduate - Jesse Thornsen,
jthornse@iastate.edu

Student Representative (University of Iowa):
Graduate - Tabatha Ries-Miller,
t.ries.miller@gmail.com