

# A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

APA-IOWA CHAPTER  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2020, ISSUE 2

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## CHAPTER UPDATE FROM THE APA IA PRESIDENT

SUBMITTED BY DYLAN MULLENIX, AICP  
PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

Dear APA Iowa Members,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well in our (hopefully short-lived) new normal dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you need a break between online meetings from your kitchen table or your new role as homeschool parent, take a few minutes to catch up on what the APA Iowa chapter and your fellow planners have been up to in 2020.

Pre COVID-19

The APA Iowa chapter met on January 17th for its regular board meeting. At this meeting the board approved several organizational documents, including its 2020 work plan, its 2019 annual report, and the 2020 legislative agenda. These materials can be found on the chapter's website at <https://iowa.planning.org/connect-apa-iowa/bylaws-minutes-and-agendas/>

In February APA Iowa held its first Planning on Tap event at Peace Tree Brewing in Des Moines. These events aim to connect the Iowa chapter to APA's Divisions with the format being a facilitated discussion led by a APA Iowa member who is a member of the featured division, followed by a happy hour. This first event was led by the Transportation Division and featured a discussion on emerging mobility options. Also in February the APA Iowa chapter participated in the Design Professionals Day on the Hill. Approximately 20 chapter members attended the event, which featured a professional development component led by APA Iowa Legislative Chair Steven Van Steenhuyse with special guest Rep. Andy McKeen of Anamosa.

APA Iowa also engaged in a few events with the Iowa State University Community and Regional Planning Program. On February 20th APA Iowa participated in the College of Design Career Fair where it was able to meet with students to discuss planning as a career, showcase open jobs and internships, and share information about the AICP Candidate Program. Later in March, a panel of APA IA members met with the undergraduate and graduate CRP clubs.

Post COVID-19

APA Iowa is following guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Governor Reynolds' office to practice social distancing and avoid in-person gatherings. This has meant that some events and programs have been cancelled altogether, such as the March Division Social, while others have become online events. APA Iowa has invested in a Zoom subscription and successfully held its March board meeting online.

On April 9th we will host our first online Division Social – the City Planning and Management Roundtable, via Zoom. While these have been an adjustment, a positive outcome is that these online events are now accessible to a larger audience.

We will continue to adjust our programming and events as necessary for the foreseeable future. We also are beginning to explore contingencies for October's Upper Midwest APA Conference, scheduled for October 14-16, 2020, in Des Moines, in case social distancing precautions extend into the fall. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any other board members if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the APA Iowa chapter.



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# DOWNTOWN MASON CITY'S RENAISSANCE

STEVEN J. VAN STEENHUYSE, AICP, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR, MASON CITY  
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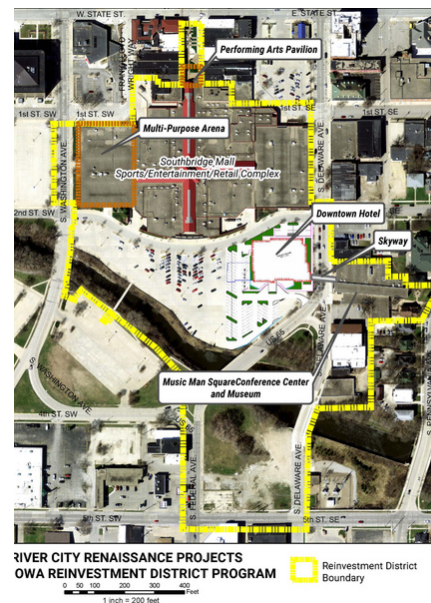
When society turns back to normal and social distancing is in the past, people will clamor for opportunities to socialize, be entertained, and again attend large scale events like concerts and sports. While the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic will affect nearly every aspect of the local economy, Mason City will have a brand new, premier facility where people can gather and celebrate being together again.

In December 2019, Mason City's new Multi-Purpose Arena opened to great acclaim. This 2,000 fixed-seat facility was constructed within the walls of the former J. C. Penney store inside Mason City's downtown Southbridge Mall. Like most malls, Southbridge was dying after the anchor stores left. In 2017, the City's application to the Iowa Reinvestment District Program was accepted. This program includes not only the new arena, but also an Indoor/Outdoor Performing Arts Pavilion at the north entrance to the Mall, a new conference hotel next to the Mall, and a skywalk connecting the hotel to Mason City's iconic Music Man Square (which celebrates North Iowa's musical heritage as the home of Meredith Willson, composer of "The Music Man").

The new arena was the catalyst for several new businesses in the mall and Downtown. A new sports bar/restaurant, an indoor mini-golf course, an axe-throwing alley, and several retail stores opened just as the arena held its first North Iowa Bulls hockey game. Business optimism was high as the community anticipated the arena's first music concert and other events this spring and summer.

Mason City's efforts were being touted as a model for communities to make their malls viable again. The pandemic, of course, put the brakes on all of this.

While the post-pandemic impact of the on the economy is yet to be seen, Mason City now has the infrastructure to bring people back downtown and enjoy being together again. As the other elements of the Reinvestment District fall into place, Downtown Mason City can claim to have some of the best amenities one could find in a small, Midwestern city.



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## APA NATIONAL REPORT

SUBMITTED BY DYLAN MULLENIX, AICP, PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

As with APA Iowa, APA national has been dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19. As many have likely heard, the 2020 APA National Planning Conference has been cancelled. Full information about APA's decision, as well as information about refunds, CM Maintenance impacts, and other contingencies, can be found at <https://planning.org/conference/coronavirus/>. In lieu of the national conference, APA is exploring options for additional remote learning opportunities and will announce those plans when finalized.

APA also has been closely monitoring the impacts to planners and communities from the CARES Act passed by Congress in response to COVID-19. To learn more, visit <https://planning.org/blog/9198299/coronavirus-relief-for-communities-apa-breaks-it-down/>

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# JERRY ANTHONY: INDUCTEE TO THE AICP COLLEGE OF FELLOWS - CLASS OF 2020

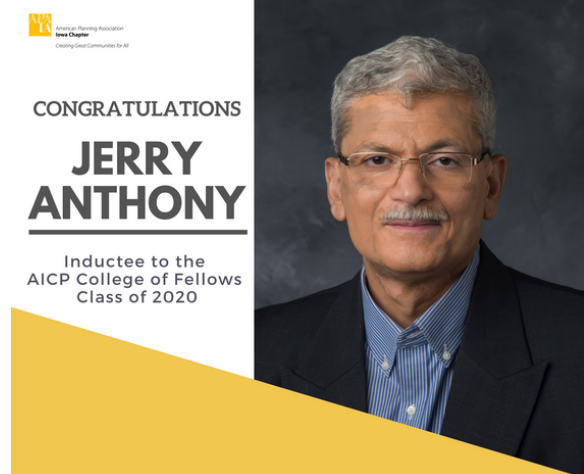
The APA Iowa Chapter is delighted to share that Professor Jerry Anthony of the School of Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Iowa has been selected to be inducted to the AICP College of Fellows!

Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. All Fellows are long-time members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

Jerry has been an outstanding teacher at the University of Iowa's School of Urban & Regional Planning since he arrived nearly 20 years ago.

An APA member who received his AICP in 1998, APA Iowa presented Jerry with the Excellence in Planning Education award in 2001, an honor so rare that it has not been awarded since.

The APA Iowa community extends its heartiest congratulations to Professor Jerry Anthony, FAICP, on this well-earned achievement!



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# PLANNING & ZONING ONLINE WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE THROUGH ISU EXTENSION

Elected officials and citizen-led boards and commissions make up the backbone of the local planning and zoning process. Unfortunately, the issues surrounding land use, and the tools and techniques available to address them, are becoming increasingly complex. At the same time developers, landowners, and residents are increasingly likely to litigate over unfavorable decisions.

The Introduction to Planning and Zoning workshop is designed as a "basic training" for local elected and appointed officials on the land use issues facing them today. Using case scenarios in a highly-interactive format, it will provide participants with an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the planning commission, the board of adjustment, and the elected council and board of supervisors. It also will highlight legal issues frequently faced by local officials, such as variances, special uses, nonconforming uses, spot zoning, hearing procedures, and conflicts of interest. The workshop is intended primarily for local officials new to planning and zoning issues, though it also will serve as a refresher for veteran members.

ISU Extension has canceled all remaining in person workshops this year. They are now opening registration for four online workshops. Please register at least one week in advance as they will be mailing the workbooks to you so you can follow along and take notes as we move through the presentation. Participation will require a computer with a strong internet connection, but all interaction will take place through chat and interactive questions on the screen. No microphone or camera are necessary for participation. For now they are capping each of these workshops at 25 individuals so register soon. They may add more dates in the future depending on demand. The cost to participate is \$25 per registrant.

The dates and times for these workshops are:

Thursday April 23, 2020	5:00-8:30 pm
Tuesday April 28, 2020	1:00-4:30 pm
Thursday April 30, 2020	5:00-8:30 pm
Saturday May 2, 2020	1:00-4:30 pm

Register for the Spring 2020 Introduction to Planning and Zoning workshops online.

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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CODE

CHARLIE COWELL, AICP, RDG PLANNING & DESIGN, CCOWELL@RDGUSA.COM

Are you staying at home and doing your part? Fantastic! Do you have yourself wondering what your city or county can do to be more sustainable? Even better! What better way to spend your time at home than considering updates to your local municipal codes. Luckily, a new resource is available to help cities and counties identify standards to be more sustainable. Enter the Sustainable Development Code. ([sustainablecitycode.org/](http://sustainablecitycode.org/))

Estimates show that 50-75 million more people will live in the U.S. by 2030. This increase in population plus aging buildings suggests a need for an additional 90 billion sq. ft. of commercial, retail, and industrial space, as well as 80 million new residential units. At current rates of expansion, accommodating the additional space and units requires space. Also, many development codes are decades old and not prepared to confront today's changes. These changes include:

- Environmental changes like climate change and invasive species
- Economic changes like the sharing economy and autonomous vehicles
- Societal changes like obesity, safety, and inequality

The code offers several levels of resources and content continues to be added:

1. Provides research, data, and statistics to support sustainable code amendments.
2. Offers three degrees of possible sustainable code amendments
  - Removing Code Barriers, Creating Incentives, Filling Regulatory Gaps.
3. Lists case examples of other communities using the standards.



The Sustainable Development Code is principally sponsored by Drake University in partnership with various supporting partners. Through the efforts of subject matter experts from across the country and an advisory committee of leaders in the field, the code provides feasible strategies to amend development codes and adapt to changes as they occur. Jonathan Rosenbloom, Professor of Law at Drake University and visiting professor at Vermont Law School, is the Executive Director overseeing the development of the code.



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## 2020 UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

The APA Iowa Chapter is excited to host the Upper Midwest APA Conference in Des Moines in 2020. We will be inviting our colleagues from Wisconsin and Minnesota to share planning successes October 14-16, 2020 at the Iowa Events Center.

**CALL FOR SESSIONS:** In order to develop an incredible conference lineup, the Conference Committee is soliciting session proposals. If you would like to propose a conference session and share your work with other planners, please complete the form linked on our website. Please submit all online forms no later than Friday, May 15, 2020.

**CALL FOR SPONSORS:** If your business or organization is interested in sponsoring the 2020 APA Upper Midwest Conference, please check out the 2020 APA Upper Midwest Conference Sponsor Form online for sponsorship levels and additional details.

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# JASPER'S BRIGHT FUTURE

## A COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### WITH STRONG PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SUBMITTED BY PREPARED BY NICK FRATZKE, MINDY MOORE, AICP,  
& MACKENZIE LLOYD SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.,  
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Jasper County had an eventful 2019. To develop a new comprehensive plan, the county wanted to ensure broad public engagement that was geographically dispersed while also representing a range of interests. The county partnered with the planning team at Snyder & Associates to manage a Project Review Committee, attend community events, facilitate focus groups, and engage residents with a robust website ([www.jaspersbrightfuture.com](http://www.jaspersbrightfuture.com)) and an online survey.

The Project Review Committee met three times throughout the planning process that spanned from June through November. To better understand different interests in the county, the planning team conducted focus groups comprised of county staff, business community members, incorporated area representatives, and agricultural interests. A subconsultant, Solutions in the Land, led the agricultural focus groups. Mind-mapping and small-group brainstorming efforts resulted in lists of issues and possible solutions.

To engage the general public, the planning team set up booths at six community events. Participants were asked to drop five marbles into jars that represented the issues they were most passionate about, such as transportation or agricultural preservation. Over 1,000 data points were collected. An online survey using MetroQuest was open from July 12 to August 30. This survey garnered over 20,000 data points from 600 participants.

The data gathered from these engagement efforts allowed the planning team to identify goals, objectives, and actions that were tailored to address the concerns of the county residents. On February 10, 2020, the planning team showcased the draft plan at a public open house at the Newton High School.



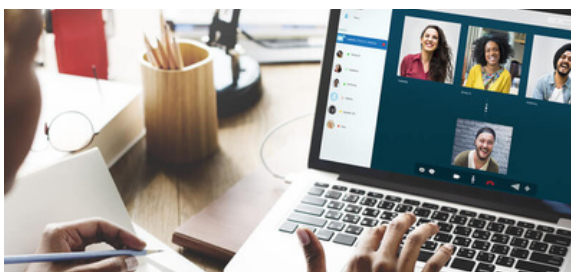
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## VIRTUAL PLANNING ON TAP TODAY, APRIL 9!

APA Iowa Chapter is offering a free virtual learning and networking opportunity! The Planning On Tap series will be held via Zoom today, Thursday, April 9 and available to all APA-Iowa Members. Join for a panel discussion moderated by John Peterson featuring a cross-section of new and experienced planners including Dylan Mullenix, Steven Van Steenhuyse, and Katherine Geist. A portion of the program will provide some background into the APA City Planning and Management Division and the contributions that have been made to the planning community and APA members by the Division.

Planning on Tap: City Planning and Management  
When: Thursday, April 9, 2020, 3 pm - 5 pm  
1 CM (3:00 - 4:00 pm)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/600840679>  
Meeting ID: 600 840 679  
Dial by phone  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



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# AICP CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE UPDATES: EQUITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND RESILIENCE

SUBMITTED BY DAVID R. WILWERDING, AICP, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,  
APA-IA CHAPTER, DWILWERDING@CITYOFJOHNSTON.COM

Certification Maintenance provides AICP-certified planners with professional development opportunities and ensures that the certification – and the planners who hold it – remains relevant in a rapidly changing field.

As part of its 10-year evaluation of the CM program, the AICP Commission has approved updates, introducing two new mandatory credits in addition to the mandatory Law and Ethics credits.

The two new mandatory credits will be Equity and a targeted topic, Sustainability and Resilience. All mandatory CM credits, including existing Law and Ethics credits, will be 1 CM each. (This will be a reduction in the current Law and Ethics requirements of 1.5 CM each, to be implemented when the new credits are introduced.) The total number of required CM credits will remain 32 credits per two-year reporting period.

The new credits will be introduced January 1, 2022.

Two task forces will be established to develop the criteria for each of the new credits and resources to support CM providers, beginning winter 2020, for delivery of the final criteria by January 2021. This will allow time for CM Providers to develop new opportunities and evaluate existing education, ensuring AICP members will have many options available to fulfill the new requirements once they are introduced.

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## IOWA CITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

SUBMITTED BY BRENDA NATIONS, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, CITY OF IOWA CITY,  
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After Iowa City completed its first-ever Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in September 2018, the City Council further strengthened local climate action by declaring a “climate crisis” and adopting new greenhouse gas emission goals in August 2019.

In line with IPCC recommendations, these goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and to net zero by 2050, using 2010 levels as a baseline. The Council also requested and received a report from City staff outlining 64 accelerated actions in five categories—buildings, transportation, waste, adaptation, and sustainable lifestyle—designed to speed progress toward climate goals.



A new 11-member Climate Action Commission was formed to advise the City Council and engage the public on climate issues. Progress since the Plan’s completion includes the City’s curbside recycling program expanded significantly, with a 27% increase in recyclables. Electric vehicle charging stations were added to City parking ramps; 11 Community Climate Action grants were awarded; bike lanes were added and enhanced; an Equity-Diversity-Inclusion fellow joined the City for a 12-week fellowship and compiled a report on local equity and climate change issues; Iowa City joined Coralville and UI in launching a local transit study; Iowa City, taking the lead among its eastern Iowa community partners, received an Electric Vehicle Readiness grant; and in November 2019 Iowa City hosted its first Climate Expo for an enthusiastic audience.





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## OUR POSTVILLE PLAN

SUBMITTED BY NATHAN THOMPSON, COMMUNITY PLANNER,  
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In the space of two blocks, you can find Kosher, Guatemalan, Somali, and Mexican grocery stores, a historically German-American community hall, and a mosque. That's not a scene from an urban area, but from a small town in rural Allamakee County. This unexpected diversity is an important part of Our Postville, a plan developed by Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) and Postville residents that will be completed this spring.

The plan reflects Postville's location and unique identity. Unlike many brownfield area-wide plans, it emphasizes the need for both small-scale, incremental changes to the built environment as well as long-term community cohesion and capacity-building. The plan calls for strengthened links to regional economic development and tourism initiatives, additional tools and pathways to entrepreneurship, and highlighting the town's unique story of diversity and resilience, all identified by residents as top priorities.

Key to realizing the plan elements is the continued work of Our Postville, a group that served as the advisory committee during the planning process and which gave its name to the completed plan. "We have such a unique story to tell, but it's getting lost in a different narrative," read one comment from a planning open house.

Postville residents are proud of their town and how well it works, and if elements of the plan are realized, more people will be able to identify Postville as a multicultural mosaic for the region, a regional employment hub, and the beginning of the most scenic byway in Iowa.



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## BUSINESS RECORD 40 UNDER 40 INCLUDES 4 PLANNERS IN 2020 LINEUP

The Business Record recently announced the 21st annual list of Forty Under 40 honorees from the Des Moines Metro Area. These 40 local business leaders, who were chosen by past award winners, are under the age of 40, and have demonstrated impressive career achievements and unparalleled community involvement. Together, they join 800 past Business Record Forty Under 40 honorees to bring the total number of honorees to 840 since the Business Record began the awards in 2000.

This year, APA Iowa Chapter is proud to share that four planners were among the list recognized as leaders! The planners include: Madeline Sturms, APA IA Chapter Vice President and Community Development Director in City of Pleasant Hill; Laura Kessel, Studio Director, Urban Planner, Landscape Architect at RDG Planning & Design; and Johnny Alcivar, Workforce Program Director at Proteus Inc., of whom are current APA IA members. Aaron Todd, Chief Executive Officer at Iowa Primary Care Association, is a former APA IA member. All four are graduates of the ISU Community and Regional Planning program.

Each of the honorees were profiled in the March 20 edition of the Business Record and will be recognized at an event on July 23. Congratulations to all of this year's honorees!



Madeline Sturms



Laura Kessel



Aaron Todd



Johnny Alcivar

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# IOWA PLANNER SPOTLIGHT:

## BRIDGET CARBERRY MONTGOMERY

City Council Member, City of Urbandale, Iowa,  
bcarberrymontgomery@urbandale.org

MA, Urban and Regional Planning, University of Iowa

### What are your areas of expertise?

When I was a practicing planner, I worked as a Neighborhood Planner for the City of Des Moines where I wrote and implemented neighborhood level plans that addressed housing, infrastructure, zoning, parks, commercial revitalization and community building. I also served as a member of the Urbandale Plan & Zoning Commission for over eight years upon "retiring" from the City of Des Moines to be a stay at home mom.

### Why did you decide to become a planner?

Growing up and 3/4 of the way through undergrad at Loyola Marymount University, I always intended to become a lawyer. There was never any doubt in my mind that I would go to law school and end up in Washington, DC doing something political. As a Jesuit institution, I was exposed to the spectrum of liberal arts as an undergraduate. The summer between my junior and senior year, I served as an intern at The White House under President Clinton assigned to the Domestic Policy Council. At a meeting with the interns, the Director asked who wants to go law school? Every hand went up. Next he asked who wants to be lawyer. Some of us hesitated, including myself. He then went on to implore those of us that do not want to be lawyers to NOT go to law school. This was mind blowing to me. I had never envisioned myself in a courtroom, but just thought law school was what I was supposed to do. I had NEVER considered there was other career paths for me. I was going to law school, moving to DC and was going to help people. THE END. So, now at 21, I was facing a conundrum. What was I going to do with my life? I went back to Los Angeles to start my senior year with no idea what I was going to do. After my sophomore year, I had spent the summer at Oxford and I was growing fond of European history. Should I do a complete 180 and I get my PhD in history? I was clueless, and time was not on my side. Thank goodness Al Gore had already invented the internet, so I was able to explore my options on the interwebs. The thought of staying in Los Angeles after graduation scared me to death, so I decided to see what the University of Iowa (I grew up in Iowa City and parents still lived there) had to offer besides law school. That is when I stumbled upon something called Urban Planning. Upon further inspection, I discovered that Urban Planning was exactly what I did not know I was looking for. After being at the White House, I had determined that I wanted help people directly, not make policy. I wanted to get my hands dirty helping people improve their lives. I ended up taking the GRE over Christmas, and starting at Iowa in the Fall of 1997. When I started, I still was not convinced planning was for me, but after only a few weeks to feel like I had finally found the right path for me. Twenty-one years later, I have no regrets.

### Describe a recent project you've contributed to that you are proud of. Why is it important?

#### Highlight methods that made the project a success.

Given that I have not been a practicing planner since 2008, "recent" is a relative term for me. The project I am most proud of is the Highland Park Streetscape project. I started working on the project almost immediately after starting at the City of Des Moines in 1999. It was a labor of love, taking at least six years to complete and was a project that continued throughout my tenure. The intent of the project was to revitalize the commercial area surrounding 6th and Euclid. We were successful in creating a strong base of support among the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses. These relationships continue to this day through the Parks Area Foundation. The arch over 6th Avenue that was the keystone of the project has become iconic in North Des Moines. The project was successful because it was a true partnership between the City and community stakeholders. We also created a SSMD (Self Supporting Municipal Improvement District), which is not something that a planner gets to do regularly.

### What is one planning challenge you foresee for Iowa or your community over the next 10 years?

#### What preparation do you recommend to meet this challenge?

The biggest challenge I see is the lack of affordable housing in the Des Moines Metro. According to a recent report by the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, the Metro is tens of thousands of units short to meet our current and future workforce needs. We need a Metro wide task force to create a consistent policy and funding source for affordable work force housing. The suburbs need to recognize that in order for our entire region to be prosperous, we need to have affordable housing spread out throughout the region and near all job centers.

Affordable housing has always been an issue I have been passionate about and was the issue with which I intended to lead my City Council campaign. I'm not sure anyone has ever run a successful suburban City Council campaign by focusing on increasing the supply affordable housing, but I was going to do it. I had already decided to run for City Council last Spring when the then Urbandale City Council voted NO on a PUD amendment that would have allowed a local affordable housing developer to build a Low Income Housing Tax Credit multi-family project on an outlot at Merle Hay Mall. \$7 million in LIHTC had already been allocated to the project and all the City had to do was approve the PUD amendment. It was not a perfect project, but the need for affordable housing in Urbandale was far more significant than the minor flaws in the project. A year after the initial submission, the project was brought back with significant revisions to appease the two Councilmembers who objected and it was ultimately approved at the last meeting of 2019 with the Council that had initially denied the project.

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# DON'T MISS OUT CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES...

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## JOB POSTINGS LINN COUNTY IMPLEMENTS

### Planning Intern

Job Type: Internship  
Location: Olathe, KS  
Employer: City of Olathe  
Deadline: Open until Filled

### Planning and Development Director

Job Type: Full Time  
Location: Manhattan, KS  
Employer: Riley County  
Deadline: May 3, 2020

### Planner I

Job Type: Full Time  
Location: Merriam, KS  
Employer: City of Merriam  
Deadline: Open until Filled

### Executive Director

Job Type: Full Time  
Location: Manhattan, KS  
Employer: Flint Hills Regional Planning Council  
Deadline: May 1, 2020

### Land Development Manager

Job Type: Full Time  
Location: Moline, IL  
Employer: City of Moline  
Deadline: April 17, 2020

**Did You Know?** You can now post jobs directly to the APA Iowa website for free! This is a feature of the new chapter website. To post a job, visit <https://iowa.planning.org/career-center/job-posting-instructions/>.

## GOTOMEETING STRATEGY

SUBMITTED BY CHARLIE NICHOLS, PLANNING & ZONING DIVISION MANAGER, LINN COUNTY, [CHARLIE.NICHOLS@LINNCOUNTY.ORG](mailto:CHARLIE.NICHOLS@LINNCOUNTY.ORG)

Like many business sectors, the planning profession is facing its own unique set of coronavirus-related challenges. Chief among these is holding public meetings when public gatherings are either discouraged or banned outright. Fortunately, we have guidance from several sources on how to hold public meetings in the age of social distancing. On March 11, the Iowa Public Information Board issued a news release outlining the following three requirements for holding an online public meeting:

1. Public access to the conversation of the meeting must be available.
2. The provisions of section 21.4 (notice) must be followed.
3. Minutes must be kept and must include a statement explaining why an in-person meeting was impossible or impractical.

The Linn County Planning and Development Department uses GoToMeeting for our various meetings. It works because:

1. It allows you to share your screen with meeting participants. We recently used this feature to walk through case exhibits with applicants at a Technical Review Committee meeting. Additionally, you can grant the share-screen ability to meeting participants, allowing any attendee to share materials with the group.
2. You can record the meeting and share it with anyone immediately after the meeting ends.
3. Attendees can join through a browser, a mobile app, by telephone, or by a combination of methods (e.g. you can join the meeting on a computer but use your phone for audio).
4. The meeting organizer can mute and unmute attendees as needed.

It's also important to make sure the board/commission chair is familiar with the existing rules of procedure (if adopted) - a modified Robert's Rules of Order lend themselves fairly well to online meetings (only one person can speak at a time, they must state their name, vote must be taken by roll call, etc.).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9: Virtual Planning on Tap, 3-5pm

May 15: APA Iowa Chapter Board Meeting

June 1: Iowa Rural Innovation Grant Applications Due

June 1: Iowa Rural Housing Assessment Grant Applications Due

June 1: Iowa Cultural & Entertainment Districts Designation Applications Due

June 1: Iowa Arts Council Grant Applications Due

June 1: Iowa Great Places Designation Applications Due

June 11: Brightside Aleworks, Altoona, Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Planning

July 9: Lua Brewing, Des Moines, Sustainable Communities



Submit your community updates for July's newsletter by Friday, July 3rd.

Fill out the form to be featured in our Planner Spotlight.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on events and happenings.