

A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

APA-IOWA CHAPTER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021, ISSUE 3

CHAPTER UPDATE FROM THE APA IA PRESIDENT

SUBMITTED BY DYLAN MULLENIX, AICP
PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

Happy Summer Iowa Planners,

I have a few updates about the APA Iowa chapter to provide to you:

Elections

APA will be holding consolidated elections over the next few weeks.

You will all soon be receiving a ballot via email from APA in which you can cast your vote for numerous positions at the national and chapter level. At the chapter level, these will include the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Those elected to the positions will serve two-year terms beginning in January 2022.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

Later this fall, the APA Iowa board and its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee will participate in a TDIEM training (Training in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equitable Mindfulness) facilitated by Crowned Vitta, LLC, in partnership with Tristen Johnson, LLC. This training was a key recommendation from the DEI Committee in its mission to create an empowered and authentically driven planning profession by providing resources, tools, and collaboration/co-creation opportunities for planners, with a focus on supporting DEI efforts, reducing barriers, fostering brave spaces, and expanding networks for under-represented planners. The intent is for this training to be ongoing and potentially offered to all APA IA members.

Board Changes

At its May meeting the APA Iowa board welcomed Professor Lucie Laurian as the new representative from the University of Iowa's School of Planning and Public Affairs. Lucie joined the University of Iowa's faculty in 2004. Earlier this year she named Director of the School of Planning and Public Affairs, replacing the retiring Charles Connerly. We look forward to working with Lucie and we wish Dr. Connerly a happy retirement and thank him for his years of service to the University of Iowa, APA Iowa, and the planning profession.



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PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

Did you know that you can earn AICP CM credits every year online, at no cost to members of participating APA Divisions and Chapters.

You can see the current listing of all webcasts at www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast.

July 16 – Street Commerce: The Hidden Structure of Retail Location Patterns and Vibrant Sidewalks – Urban Design and Preservation Division (CM #9216783)

- Street commerce will play an important role in twenty-first-century cities, particularly in producing far-reaching benefits for the environment and local communities.

July 30 – Increasing Affordable Housing Production by Modernizing State Laws & Prioritizing Funding – Housing & Community Development Division (CM #9217870)

- Street commerce will play an important role in twenty-first-century cities, particularly in producing far-reaching benefits for the environment and local communities.

Distance Education – On-demand sessions are available to view at your convenience for CM credit through December 31, 2021.

- Ethics for Planners 1.5 CM ETHICS Credits (#9212131)
- Public Art Life Cycle Part 1: Concept to Commission - 1.5 CM LAW Credits

For video recordings of over 300 past webcasts, visit the Planning Webcast Series YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/planningwebcast.



IOWA'S NEXT HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

Help plan historic preservation's path in Iowa for the next 10 years by taking a survey!

Iowa's Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan is intended to embrace local, regional and state perspectives. The current Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for 2013-2022 includes the state's goals for the years 2013 to 2022, each of which is accompanied by strategies or action steps.

In early 2021, the State Historic Preservation Office began the process to develop the next ten-year plan for the years 2023-2032. An advisory committee composed of members of the public and representatives of Iowa's preservation partners has been formed and had their first meeting in April.

You can help us formulate this plan by completing this survey by August 1, 2021.

If you have questions, comments or would like to receive updates on the planning process, please email historic.preservation@iowa.gov.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN

SUBMITTED BY RIA HULL, AICP – MSA SENIOR PLANNER, RHULL@MSA-PS.COM AND
STEPHEN TREMLETT, AICP, CNU-A – MSA SENIOR PLANNER, STREMLETT@MSA-PS.COM

Healthy, balanced neighborhoods rarely develop on their own. Behind the scenes, planners, developers and municipal leaders need to make strategic decisions about when, where and how to create these pockets of community—with a keen eye toward equity, access and opportunity. Ultimately, it is about diversity, and providing the right housing types and price points to meet the needs of every resident.

Planning for Balanced Neighborhoods

Developing balanced neighborhoods can be a challenge, with factors such as marketplace economics or landowner interests often out of a municipality's control. However, leaders have two invaluable tools to guide and define community land use and the creation of healthy, thriving neighborhoods: the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance.

Comprehensive Plan

A comprehensive plan can promote balanced neighborhood development through goals and policies, especially through the future land use (FLU) plan. The FLU plan should include residential categories that allow for varying building types (ex. no single-use districts) with locational policies and design standards guiding how each fit into a neighborhood. A well-balanced neighborhood should also allow for walkable commercial and mixed-use developments along the periphery, with a focus on standards that blend these more intensive uses with the low-intensity residential.

Zoning Ordinance

The zoning ordinance needs greater flexibility than is typically found in today's codes, such as allowing for a mixture of housing types to co-exist in the same neighborhood. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) can also increase density without changing or degrading the character of the neighborhood, and should be considered as permitted or conditionally acceptable use in all residential districts.



With the right planning and strategy, slight modifications to a community's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance can make impactful and sustainable changes to neighborhoods and to the health and well-being of all who call them home.

To learn more, join MSA Tuesday, July 27 for a free webinar about Healthy Neighborhood Design Challenges. Register online.

MAKE YOUR PITCH - PLANNING ON TAP TOPICS

Do you have a topic that would interest Iowa planners? Did your community recently do something innovative? Are you researching planning topics? If so, consider presenting for Planning on Tap presentations. Planning on Tap is a virtual learning session with short presentations on specific planning topics targeting planners in Iowa.

Typically held on a Thursday at 3:00 p.m., the sessions invite planners and others from across the state to learn about best practices, research, project implementation, and other planning processes. Speakers are only asked to have 15 minutes of presentation with about half of the 60-minute session for Q&A. Collaborations with other speakers are encouraged! The sessions are submitted for CM credit for presenters and attendees.

We are targeting the following topics for this year, but others are welcome!

- Sustainability and Resilience
- Climate Change
- Legislation and Policy
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

If you have a topic, please send the request to Charlie Cowell,
Professional Development Chair -
ccowell@rdgusa.com



2021 APA IOWA CHAPTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGIONALISM: PLANNING KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Join us in Des Moines for the Annual APA-Iowa Conference on October 13-15 at the Iowa Event Center! After a year of virtual events, meetings, and conferences, we are excited to see planners from across the state in person for three days of learning, networking, and sharing.

More information about the agenda and registration coming soon. Check the website for frequent updates, including hotel block opportunities.



If you are interested in being a conference sponsor, please contact Chris Shires for more information at CShires@thinkconfluence.com.

IOWA PLANNER SPOTLIGHT:

SREYOSHI CHAKRABORTY, AICP

Senior Planner, Des Moines Area MPO
schakraborty@dmampo.org

Degree & School

Masters in Urban and Regional Planning,
University of Iowa

What are your areas of expertise?

Transportation, land use, community and neighborhood planning.

Why did you decide to become a planner?

My interest in planning began with a fascination with cities, the built environment, and public spaces.

What aspects of planning do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy visual story telling through maps and graphics. I also enjoy being able to communicate and collaborate at all levels of a community from elected officials to members of the general public, and stakeholders and advocates.

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.

As a planner focused on regional planning, rather than leading my own projects, my work has primarily involved in being part of and facilitating a range of efforts across the region to improve active transportation options. My role has been to serve as a resource for communities within our region and provide technical assistance, data or subject matter guidance for non-motorized focused projects.

Also, managing the Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable has been important in facilitating regular and close collaboration which is key to establishing regional priorities and working cooperatively. Whether its working to provide trail condition and usership data, developing policy and design best practices or facilitating new and ongoing discussions that impact alternative modes of transportation, they have all helped Central Iowa communities achieve success

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?

Climate change is the single biggest challenge that planners and communities will have to grapple with over the next decade. Unfortunately, mitigation will not be enough. Planners will have to start thinking about climate adaptation and mitigation with every aspect of planning work that they do. What planners do over the next decade will have huge implications on cities for years to come.

Do you have a favorite book about planning?

Bicycle Diaries by David Byrne. It is not a traditional book on planning but is an idiosyncratic behind-the-handlebars view of some of the world's most iconic cities. The book is a testament to how urban biking opens one's eyes to the inner workings and rhythms of a city's geography and population.



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

JOB POSTINGS

Economic Development Manager

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Pleasant Hill, IA
Employer: City of Pleasant Hill
Deadline: July 23, 2021

Community & Economic Development Director

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Moline, IL
Employer: City of Moline
Deadline: July 30, 2021

Planner I

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Cedar Rapids, IA
Employer: Linn County
Deadline: July 19, 2021

Community Development Specialist - Planner

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Atlantic, IA
Employer: Southwest Iowa Planning Council
Deadline: July 28, 2021

Additional job opportunities are available on the APA Iowa Chapter website.

PLANNING SURVEYS

ISU HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE SENTIMENT SURVEY

Daniel Kuhlmann, Assistant Professor of Planning, Real Estate, and Extension at ISU, is seeking participants for the 1st annual Iowa State University Housing and Real Estate Sentiment Survey. The purpose of this project is to capture Iowa real estate professional's opinions on housing development conditions across the state. As the project's name suggests, this will be an annual survey, allowing us to track changes in development conditions over time. Survey results will be published in a public summary report through ISU Community and Economic Development Extension. (You will have the opportunity at the end of the survey to sign up to receive a copy of the report.). The survey should take around 5 minutes to complete.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SURVEY ON ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY JUSTICE IN PLANNING

TA Temple University student in the Department of City and Regional Planning is conducting a pre-research survey on the kinds of topics and resources planners would like to see in an open-access resource/curriculum on disability justice and accessibility. More information about the project is available by clicking the link above.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16: Webinar - Street Commerce: The Hidden Structure of Retail Location Patterns and Vibrant Sidewalks

August 3-4: 2021 Iowa Downtown Conference

August 18-20: 2021 Iowa Rural Summit

September 15-17: 2021 Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference

October 13-15: 2021 APA-Iowa Chapter Annual Conference

Fill out the form to be featured in the Planner Spotlight



Submit your community updates for October's newsletter by Friday, October 22nd.

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