

A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

APA-IOWA CHAPTER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022, ISSUE 2

CHAPTER UPDATE FROM THE APA IA PRESIDENT

SUBMITTED BY MADELINE STURMS, AICP
PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

A true sign of spring nearing is the anticipation and excitement for the National Planning Conference. I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego and I am excited to be participating in my first meeting of the Chapter President's Council. The APA-Iowa Chapter, Iowa State University Department of Community and Regional Planning and University of Iowa School of Planning and Public Affairs invite colleagues and alumni to attend the All Iowa Reception on Monday, May 2 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at Half Door Brewing Co., 903 Island Ave, San Diego. Join on the patio for appetizers and a cash bar to network with colleagues.

The Chapter will be participating in the National Chapter's Consolidated Election process for consideration of amendments to the Chapter's bylaws. Bylaw amendments may be proposed by the Executive Board of the Chapter. The membership may amend the Bylaws by a majority of those voting by secure electronic ballot. The final recommendation for bylaw amendments will be provided at the May 20, 2022 Board meeting. Members will begin receiving the ballots mid-July for consideration of the changes to the bylaws which are intended to provide clarity and direction for the Chapter to continuing operation successfully.

During the March Board meeting, the Executive Board voted to approve modifications to the Chapter's leadership structure. The changes eliminate redundancies, add clarity and direction to each Board position, improve accountability and resources for the volunteer members, and increase opportunities for member participation. The major changes include adding focus areas for each At-Large position, removing duplicative Chair positions, and formalizing terms.

Thank you to the individuals who have volunteered their time to serve the membership of the Chapter, including:

- Rose Schroder, Outreach / Advocacy Chair, 8 years
- Jim Holz, At-Large Representative, 5 years
- Chris Janson, Chapter Development Chair, 4 years



IN THIS ISSUE:

CHAPTER UPDATE - 1
PLANNING ON TAP - 2
LEAN COMP PLAN - 3
CONFERENCE RFP - 4
CALL FOR SESSIONS - 4
QUIET TITLE - 4
SPONSORSHIPS - 5
ISU WORKSHOPS - 7
DECARBONIZATION - 7
SOUTH OF GRAYS LAKE - 8
PLANNER SPOTLIGHT - 9
JOB POSTINGS - 10
ALL IOWA RECEPTION - 10
SUDAS - 10
LONG RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN - 10
UPCOMING EVENTS - 10



CON'T: CHAPTER UPDATE

The newly defined At-Large Board Member positions include:

- Alexis Fleener as Conference Chair
- Charlie Cowell as Sponsorship Chair
- Caleb Knutson as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair

Additional appointments to the board include:

- Steven Stranksy as Communications Chair
- Anne Russett as Chapter Development Chair

I look forward to working together with our newly appointed and existing board members to continue to elevate the Chapter and provide value to our membership. Program areas are empowered to create committees both permanent or ad-hoc to assist in implementing the Chapter's adopted Development Plan and Annual Work Program. If you have an interest in serving the Chapter in any way, visit the website to complete a poll or email me.

APRIL PLANNING ON TAP

Join us for the next in the Planning on Tap series on Thursday, April 21st from 3-4PM. Iowa State University Faculty and Students will present recent community engagement projects they have completed, including:

Play Ames: Imagine Your City: This community engagement festival represents an innovative way of community engagement. The Iowa State University, Community and Regional Planning (CRP) department signed a Request for Assistance with the City of Ames to help identify successful strategies, methodologies and technologies with the aim to enable the City to engage underrepresented and marginalized populations in urban planning.

Mapping Unsafe Places: This research project concentrates on mapping places and emotions. The research questions concentrated on the locations of unsafe places in the city, their characteristics and the emotions felt at these places. The unsafe places were collected in a map-based experiment conducted at the "Play Ames: Imagine your City" community engagement festival. While taking the survey, residents were asked to plot a point where their unsafe place was on the paper map and describe emotions they felt at this place.

Historic Oak Park: Beyond the Districts: As the modern historic preservation movement and discipline soar past half a century old, communities across the United States are reevaluating their historic built environments and how those resources are being - or could be better - utilized. This Creative Component used the unique Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Illinois as a case study and real-world application of preservation principles and practices.

Speakers include: Vishnu Priya Sai Ramesh, Stella Schroeder, Thomas Kosacz, Max Gula, Alenka Poplin, Andrew Fackler, Tim Tobin, Natalie Jacobson and Fatema Nourin. More information on the session, speakers and registration link can be found online.

Save the date for the Technology in Planning session on May 19 from 3-4pm. This event will focus on two ways in which technology is playing a role in planning and community development. Part 1 will focus on a project AARP Iowa is undertaking with Apple in Charles City, IA. Part 2 will cover a resource developed by the Iowa Council on Automated Transportation about autonomous transportation in planning.

LEAN COMP PLAN - OXYMORON OR NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT?

SUBMITTED BY JASON VALERIUS, AICP, SENIOR PLANNER + TEAM LEADER, MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC (MSA), JVALERIUS@MSA-PS.COM

Comprehensive Plans have evolved over the decades to take advantage of the ever-growing supply of data describing every aspect of the community. As they've expanded in scope, they've expanded in volume too, often running to hundreds of pages.

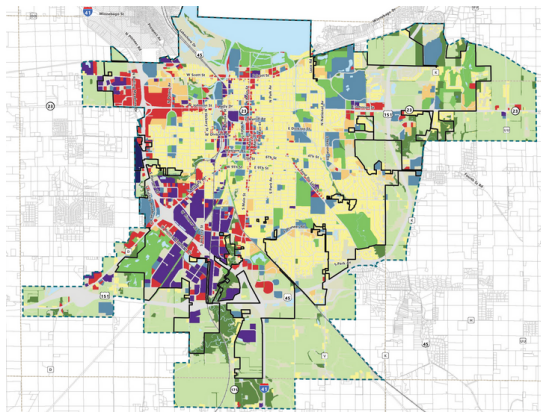
In theory, the data informs good policy decisions, but in practice, most participants don't show much interest in the data and don't have the bandwidth to seriously consider all the policy ideas presented, either initially or later. The effort to consider all the issues means that focus is diluted, and the resulting plan fails to capture attention or lead to implementation. In other words, it doesn't work.

It's time for a course correction in comprehensive planning — to use less data, fewer words, and shorter policy lists. It's time for the Lean Comp Plan.

I borrowed this term from the Project for Lean Urbanism, a non-profit that promotes strategies to enable the success of small-scale developers, builders and entrepreneurs. Their Lean Comp Plan Tool is lean itself and worth your time if you work on comprehensive plans. I like many of the policy ideas it offers, including the idea of Pink Zones that strategically reduce barriers to investment.

With or without that content, the Lean Comp Plan requires a new approach to the work. Ask hard questions about data — is it truly useful to enable a policy decision, or just interesting and available? Be assertive as a process facilitator; help participants identify and focus on the highest priorities, and don't just add more content in response to each new idea expressed in the process. Finally, be concise.

The Lean Comp Plan isn't typically easier or cheaper; editing requires effort, and probably more meetings, too. But it's a better outcome and it's worth the investment.



MSA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RFP

APA Iowa Chapter has opened a request for proposals for the locations of the Fall 2023, 2024, and 2025 APA-Iowa Conferences.

Please review the Conference Location RFP and Sample Session Block Guide on our website to consider if you and your community could be the right host for one of the next big conference events. **Responses are due May 31st, 2022.** Potential site visits would occur in July. Selections will be made in August with APA Board Approval on September 16, 2022.

Contact Alexis Fleener at alexis.fleener@swipco.org with any questions.

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION PROPOSALS

The Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association has announced its call for session proposals. If you would like to propose a conference session and share your work with other planners, please submit the Session Proposal Application, available on the website.

Submit all online forms no later than Wednesday, May 15, 2022.

You may contact Chris Widmer at cwidmer@pleasanthilliowa.org or 515-309-9463 with any questions.

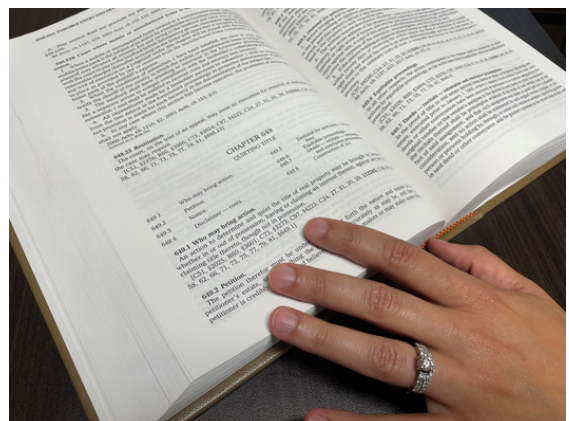
QUIET TITLE

Kassidy Arena with Iowa Public Radio has been working to raise awareness about the impacts of quiet titles laws in the midwest. A quiet title action, also known as an action of quiet title, is a circuit court action—or lawsuit—that is filed with the intended purpose to establish or settle the title to a property. Quiet title actions are particularly prevalent in cases where there is a disagreement on the title and the lawsuit is meant to remove, or “quiet,” a claim or objection to a title.

According to Arena, quiet title laws across the Midwest can disproportionately affect homeowners who don't speak English. So while people may file quiet title actions to resolve boundary disputes or to resolve who owns property after someone dies, some worry that problems in the law can result in the exploitation of homeowners, particularly in communities like Marshalltown where many residents are immigrants or don't speak fluent English.

Experts tell the Midwest Newsroom that shortcomings in the way Iowa's quiet title law is written include vague language that defines how someone can argue that the property belongs to them. Another is the way people are notified that there's a dispute involving ownership of their property.

Read Arena's article online and stayed tuned for additional opportunities to learn and discuss this challenging law impacting communities across the state and midwest.



2022 SPONSORSHIPS

The Chapter has updated our sponsorship opportunities to include session or event-specific categories. As we are finalizing our keynote speakers for the October conference in Ottumwa, consider how your organization may be able to support our program! Contact Charlie Cowell for more information - ccowell@rdgusa.com



AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION IOWA CHAPTER

2022 SPONSORSHIPS

APA Iowa Chapter sponsorship opportunities encompass year-long visibility and exposure to industry members during educational, informational, and celebration events, including the Annual APA Iowa Chapter Conference.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER SPONSOR: \$5,000 (limited to 3)

- 5 minute introduction speech at chapter conference keynote presentation plus special signage
- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition during the chapter conference with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- 2-chapter conference registrations

PLATINUM: \$2,500 (limited to 3)

- Intro speech at chapter conference welcome meeting plus special signage
- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition during the chapter conference with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- 4-chapter conference registrations

GOLD: \$1,500

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- 3-chapter conference registrations
- Recognition during the chapter conference with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference

SILVER: \$1,000

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- Recognition during the chapter conference with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- 2-chapter conference registrations

BRONZE: \$750

- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition during the chapter conference with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- 1 chapter conference registration



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter
Creating Great Communities for All

CONFERENCE DEI SESSION SPONSOR: \$500

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition during the chapter conference sponsor with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program

CONFERENCE RECEPTION DRINK TICKET SPONSOR: \$2,500 (limited to 1)

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Intro speech at Conference Reception plus special signage
- Recognition during the chapter conference sponsor with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- 2-chapter conference registrations

CONFERENCE AWARDS SPONSOR: \$2,500 (limited to 1)

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Intro speech at chapter awards presentation plus special signage
- Recognition during the chapter conference sponsor with sponsor signage and in the electronic conference program
- Exhibitor booth at the chapter conference
- 2-chapter conference registrations

NATIONAL CONF UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,000

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website

NATIONAL CONFERENCE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP: \$500

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website

NATIONAL CONFERENCE - IOWA RECEPTION SPONSOR: \$1,200 (limited to 1)

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition at the All-Iowa Reception at the national conference plus special signage

DEI TRAINING SPONSOR: \$500 (as available)

- Feature recognition in the newsletter with article or ad
- Recognition and logo on the chapter website

PLANNING ON TAP EVENT SPONSOR: \$250 (as available)

- Recognition and logo on the chapter website
- Recognition at the event



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter
Creating Great Communities for All

ISU EXTENSION & OUTREACH - PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOPS

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the return of in-person Introduction to Planning and Zoning Workshops.

As land use issues and the techniques used to address them become more complex, it is critical that local officials and community leaders understand the basics of local planning and zoning processes.

Introduction to Planning and Zoning for Local Officials is a three-hour workshop designed to introduce the basic principles of land use planning and development management to elected officials, planning and zoning officials, and board of adjustment members without formal training in the subjects. Using case scenarios in a highly-interactive format, the workshop highlights issues frequently faced in the land use process.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development offers the workshop annually in several locations across the state. Locations change from year-to-year so that city and county officials are able to attend a location near them at least once every two years. The remaining Spring 2022 dates and locations are:

- TBD: Okoboji
- April 19th: Fort Dodge
- May 3rd: Davenport
- May 10th: Creston
- May 31st : Johnston

The workshop is offered annually in multiple locations across the state. Locations change from year-to-year so that city and county officials are able to attend a location near them at least once every two years. All workshops begin with registration and a light supper at 5:30 p.m. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. and concludes by 8:45 p.m. The registration fee is \$65 per individual. This fee is reduced to \$55 per individual if a city or county registers five or more officials to attend. The fee covers the workshop instruction, workshop materials, and supper.

See here for registration links and additional information:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/intro-planning-and-zoning-workshops>

HAWKEYE DECARBONIZATION SUMMIT

Mark your calendars for the Hawkeye Decarbonization Summit. This will be held on April 21 (Thursday) and April 22 (Friday). The summit is focused on the need to decarbonize Iowa's energy and agriculture sectors and will draw attention to the opportunities and challenges in these areas. More details about the event can be found online.

The summit is in hybrid format (in-person and online). The in-person event will be held at the University of Iowa campus. There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is required. Register online. CM credits pending.

SOUTH OF GRAY'S LAKE STUDY

SUBMITTED BY RYAN MOFFATT, AICP, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, CITY OF DES MOINES, RLMOFFATT@DMGOV.ORG

The City of Des Moines, in conjunction with Confluence Landscape Architecture Planning + Urban Design, and FHU Civil Engineering undertook a recent master planning effort for an area of the City with tremendous future potential that is both proximate to downtown and is adjacent to the popular Gray's Lake Park, that is expected to transition over the longer term from the currently largely light industrial uses to a more vibrant mixed-use neighborhood.

The South of Gray's Lake study area is in a high-profile location for the Des Moines community. It is close to Downtown Des Moines and is located south of the West Gateway/Riverfront redevelopment district. Its location adjacent to Fleur Drive ensures it is associated with the first views into Downtown Des Moines for visitors arriving from the Des Moines International Airport. Collectively, these factors make the future of the South of Gray's Lake study area important for the City of Des Moines.

Specifically, the plan addressed the following:

- Review existing infrastructure conditions and developer framework diagrams for the area south of Gray's Lake Park.
- Review currently proposed land uses and projected traffic patterns to identify future Capital Improvements Plan infrastructure needs, including multimodal transportation improvements.
- Public information and planning processes held to engage stakeholders, residents, and nearby property owners.
- Prepare a detailed master plan and land use review indicating the types of uses and level of density desired, which can help guide future planning decisions and infrastructure improvements necessary to support the redevelopment of the area.
- Prepare a drainage analysis for the proposed Gray's Lake Park wetland area and show concepts for how this can be accomplished to provide a stormwater runoff cleansing and treatment area for the lake, as well as be an asset for the surrounding area

The outcome of the master plan contemplated an area that would create a unique, walkable mixed-use district within the metro that is integrated with open spaces and parks and adds appropriate residential and commercial densities to a location that is close to the heart of the city.

The master plan was approved by the City and incorporated as a component of the city's comprehensive land use plan in March of 2022. The master plan can be viewed in entirety online.



IOWA PLANNER SPOTLIGHT:

NATHAN PARCH

Planning & Zoning Administrator for City of Knoxville
nparch@knoxvilleia.gov

Degree & School

Master of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University

What are your areas of expertise?

Planning, zoning, and historic preservation

Why did you decide to become a planner?

I fell into it at Iowa State University. Originally thought I wanted to pursue architecture.

What aspects of planning do you enjoy the most?

I find value in assisting property owners with achieving their development goals, as well as working collaboratively with elected/appointed bodies on local planning efforts and zoning regulations that address a current issue or achieve a longer term vision for the community.



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.

I am most proud of my work on the Writers Theater redevelopment project, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe, Illinois, which was proposed, constructed, and completed over a 4-year period in which I served as Planning & Development Administrator. 60,000 visitors now attend live performances at this theater annually and it has become the northern anchor to Glencoe's downtown and an engine for economic development.

The project was a success because of its extensive community outreach and support, and due to a public/private partnership between the theater, the Village, and other stakeholders whose cooperation and determination made it possible.

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?

While this topic is often discussed on a global or regional scale, I would say the unpredictability of climate change and its impacts on local planning and development. This will likely include a change in focus on such things as preservation of natural areas and agricultural land, encouragement of compact development in lieu of sprawl, increased storm water storage capacity to account for more severe and frequent storms, increased setbacks and buffer areas adjacent to rivers and waterways prone to flooding, and codes that support resilient buildings and encourage or require green technologies in construction projects.

Do you have a favorite book about planning?

While a children's book, I would say *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, 1942. It tells the story of a country cottage that becomes engulfed by the expanding nearby city. It's a simple, but impactful, story about planning, or lack thereof.

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

JOB POSTINGS

Planner

Job Type: Full Time
Location: City of Sioux City
Employer: City of Sioux City
Deadline: April 30, 2022

Regional Planner

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Ottumwa, IA
Employer: Area 15 Regional
Planning Commission
Deadline: Open Until Filled

Urban Planner

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Des Moines or
Omaha
Employer: RDG Planning &
Design
Deadline: Open Until Filled

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/>

JOIN US FOR THE ALL IOWA RECEPTION IN SAN DIEGO

APA-Iowa Chapter, Iowa State University Department of Community and Regional Planning and University of Iowa School of Planning and Public Affairs invite colleagues and alumni to attend the All Iowa Reception on Monday, May 2 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at Half Door Brewing Co., 903 Island Ave, San Diego. Join on the patio for appetizers and a cash bar to network with colleagues.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Iowa Department of Transportation is updating the State's long range transportation plan. The latest overview online highlights what is in the Plan and the major new components.

Also online is a link to the full draft Plan document

IOWA STATEWIDE URBAN DESIGN AND SPECIFICATIONS

SUDAS is working with the IDOT and Toole Design to update chapter 5 of the design standards related to Complete Streets. This is in part work that will also inform changes to the IDOT Complete Streets Policy. Planners should contact their City Engineers or Engineering Design Consultants to let them know the value and importance of making changes in SUDAS Design Standards to encourage and improve active transportation, physical activity and community health outcomes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21: Planning on Tap

April 22: Webinar: Climate Resilience Includes Health: Planning in Native American Communities

April 30 - May 3: National APA Conference

May 2: All Iowa Reception

May 2: Webinar: Technology Tools for Sustainability

May 19: Planning on Tap



May 18-20: Online Only National Planning Conference

May 20: APA IA Chapter Board Meeting

June 16: Planning on Tap

Submit your updates for July's newsletter by Friday, July 6th.

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