

A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

APA-IOWA CHAPTER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022, ISSUE 3

CHAPTER UPDATE FROM THE APA IA PRESIDENT

SUBMITTED BY MADELINE STURMS, AICP
PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

The Chapter is 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 Chapter board voted on a final recommendation of bylaw amendments at the May meeting and members should have received an email from APA Election Coordinator recently to cast a vote. The changes to the bylaws are intended to provide clarity and direction for the Chapter to continuing operation successfully.

A new division has recently been created at the National American Planning Association, Tribal and Indigenous Planning Division, with the mission "To promote awareness, communication and action on tribal and indigenous planning issues for tribal and indigenous planners, peoples, nations and their non-tribal partners." Many divisions are available for planning specialties and interest areas to connect with a community of professionals.

The fall National Policy and Advocacy Conference will again be held virtually this fall. Look for more information and registration coming soon.

Beginning January 1, 2022, two new mandatory Certification Maintenance credits are required for AICP members, Equity and Sustainability & Resilience. There are over 100 course options available on each topic available through APA Learn and the 2022 Annual Iowa Chapter Conference will offer sessions that meet these requirements in addition to Law and Ethics.

Registration for the 2022 Annual Conference will be available in August for the event happening in Ottumwa October 12-14 at the Bridge View Center.



IN THIS ISSUE:

CHAPTER UPDATE - 1
PLACEMAKING GRANT - 2
DROUGHT PLANNING - 2
COMMUNITY PLANNING
FOR EVERY BODY - 3
DERECHO RECOVERY - 4
DISABILITY PRIDE - 5
RAGBRAI - 5
PLANNER SPOTLIGHT - 6
JOB POSTINGS - 7
AICP CANDIDATES - 7
BYLAWS ELECTION - 7
SUDAS - 7
UPCOMING EVENTS - 7



STATE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING GRANT

Iowa Economic Development Authority is now accepting applications to the Creative Placemaking Fund grant program. Placemaking is about creating attractive and memorable places for people to live and work by developing transformational projects that leverage local community assets to improve the experience for visitors and residents of the area. Community placemaking projects and recreational opportunities are vital components of Iowa's workforce attraction and retention strategy. This fund will assist in the development of regionally significant quality of life projects that leverage local area and community assets. Across the state, individual communities can enhance their unique characteristics to appeal to the current or future workforce.

Applications are due by September 30, 2022. This fund will operate as a pilot and identify two or three recipients. More information is available online.



IOWA DROUGHT PLANNING

As the summer heat intensifies, the value of water comes to mind more and more. Water is essential for our health and wellbeing. It is also an essential resource for Iowa communities. From agricultural fields to industrial uses to the kayaking opportunities in the Driftless region, water is a key resource to Iowa communities.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of meetings throughout July and August to seek public input on the state's Drought Preparedness Plan. These meetings will bring together the Iowa DNR, Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and connect these State agencies with local planners, community leaders, and members of the public in shaping how Iowa will prepare and respond to future droughts.

The final session is virtual on **August 3**.

See the following link for more information on registration:
<<https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases/ArticleID/4090/Public-meetings-to-address-statewide-drought-plan>>

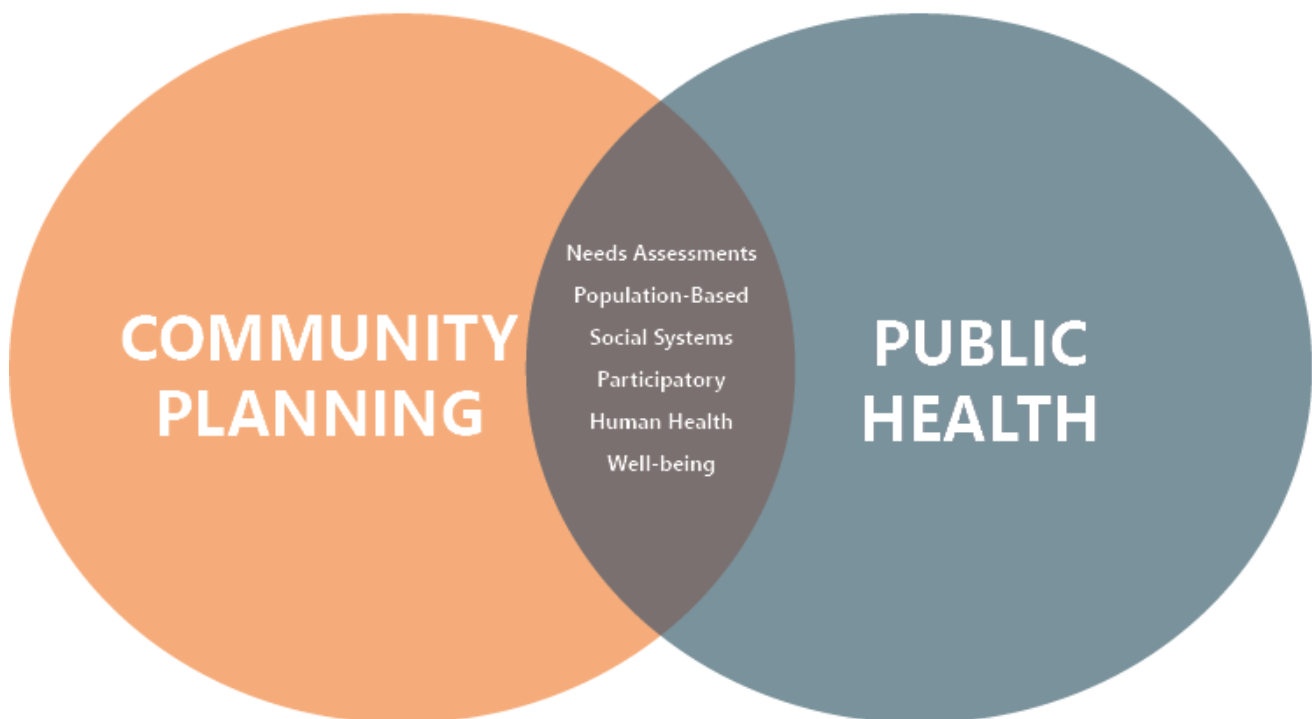
COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR EVERY BODY

SUBMITTED BY SARAH CONSTABLE RUNKEL, ASSOCIATE PLANNER, MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. SRUNKEL@MSA-PS.COM

Community Planning and Public Health are tethered topics that have drifted apart over the past century. The two fields simultaneously emerged from the cholera outbreak of 1854. It was the first recorded use of geographic systems to identify health issues and led to land use and zoning considerations. The parallel industries still share significant similarities and can aid one another in their shared intent to improve communities. Both are population-based practices that focus on needs assessments and social systems. They both rely on community participation and commit to the improvement of human health and well-being.

Planners act as mediators amongst a variety of areas of community development. Green space, transportation, and economic development are standard subjects to address in a comprehensive plan. Yet a generally overlooked commonality is public health. As the instigator of community planning, public health has become more of an after-thought to planning than a propellant.

Revisiting Public Health motivations could improve efficiency and efficacy in planning. Health Needs Assessments and Health Improvement Plans can provide important insight into the impact that community planning has on the population. These assessments and plans may also contain guidance for community needs and goals.



Reviving the innate relationship between Community Planning and Public Health can begin by acknowledging overlap, including public health professionals in planning efforts, and emphasizing shared experiences. By acknowledging planning instigators and consequences through a Public Health perspective, we can help reduce redundancies across fields and partner with our Public Health allies for solutions-based approaches to the health indicators impacting our communities. Emphasizing our shared experiences can strengthen the efforts being expended to reach our shared goals. Shared goals and responsibilities can also lead to more opportunities – opportunities for robust projects, potential funding, and improved outcomes.

Although Community Planning and Public Health have evolved into separate fields, they can still mutually benefit from one another. They share the primary objective to improve the health, safety, and well-being of communities, and should be working together towards their mutual intention. Inclusion, acknowledgement, and emphasis are simple means through which each can support the other.



DERECHO DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has awarded the State of Iowa \$57.5 million in CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to assist in the long-term recovery from the August 2020 derecho. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA_) has submitted its action plan for the funding, which includes proposed programs for affordable new housing, rehabilitation, treeservation (tree canopy preservation), and generators for critical facilities.

If you live and work in Linn, Marshall, Tama, and Benton counties, stay tuned for further updates from IEDA on when programs will launch. For more information, contact Steven Stransky, AICP, at Steven.Stransky@IowaEDA.com.

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

There are an estimated 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. Their contributions benefit us all.

In the United States, July was Disability Pride Month. It marks the 1990 enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a landmark U.S. rights law that extended civil rights protections to persons with disabilities and assured that all Americans would benefit from their talents.

Keynote speaker from the 2021 APA Iowa Annual Conference, Wesley Hamilton, said the following about how his disability impacted him: "When discussing disability pride, I try to share my knowledge about identity. It wasn't the disability I had to accept. It was the identity of it and how I wanted it to identify me. Acquiring my disability ten years ago was the beginning of a beautiful unknown life full of lessons and experiences."

If you missed his keynote last year, read more about his story online.



RAGBRAI

Last week (July 24-July 30) marked the 49th Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI). Tens of thousands of cyclists ride from Sergeant Bluff to Lansing, stopping overnight in Ida Grove, Pocahontas, Emmetsburg, Mason City, Charles City, and West Union and passing through many other towns along the way!

Share any photos you took of Iowa APA riders, or other Iowa planning success stories along this year's northern route, to Steven.Stransky@IowaEDA.com for posting on the Iowa APA Facebook page!

IOWA PLANNER SPOTLIGHT:

STEVEN STRANSKY, AICP

Disaster Recovery Team Lead, IEDA
Steven.Stransky@IowaEDA.com

Degree & School

Master of Urban & Regional Planning, Ball State University

What are your areas of expertise?

Disaster recovery, CDBG, active transportation

Why did you decide to become a planner?

I wanted to learn how to help communities recover from economic downturns.

What aspects of planning do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy seeing planning come to fruition. As a planner, I spend a lot of time studying local conditions and writing plans but there's nothing quite like seeing a project get implemented that goes along with the plan you helped the community develop.



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 proud of the work I did on the Greater Burlington Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan while I was a Regional Planner at the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. We had several meetings (pre-pandemic), engaged with stakeholders across all aspects of active transportation in the community, and brought together a steering committee that was gender and age balanced and more representative of the community. The plan that resulted from this was targeted, realistic, and yet still aspirational. I recently saw a *Hawk Eye* article describing how one segment of the proposed multi-use path was being incorporated into a street reconstruction project. By having a targeted, well designed, and practical plan, I'm confident that the Burlington area will see results.

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 quality of place concept is a challenge many Iowa communities face. As the Des Moines metro was soared in growth, many communities have concurrently faced steep declines. Yet, there are bright spots all across rural Iowa as communities recognize that the key to retaining and even increasing their population is through community amenities, civic opportunities, and a well-rounded lifestyle for all ages. Woodbine is an amazing example of a community that restored its downtown, brought in upper-story housing, built a wellness center, and is now seeing new housing developments. I hope many more cities across Iowa will understand what makes themselves so unique and focus on making their towns the best places to live.

Do you have a favorite book about planning?

I have always found *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond to be very compelling. It focuses the struggles of low-income renters in the Milwaukee area but their experiences can be seen about everywhere. It brings the planning focus back to the people and really shows the importance of expanding affordable housing and economic development opportunities.

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

JOB POSTINGS

Executive Director

Job Type: Full Time

Location: Iowa City

Employer: South District
SSID

Deadline: Aug. 1, 2022

Planning Director

Job Type: Full Time

Location: Spencer, IA

Employer: City of Spencer

Deadline: Open Until Filled

Community Development Specialist & Planning/Grant Specialist

Job Type: Full Time

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

Employer: East Central Iowa
Council of Governments

Deadline: Aug. 8, 2022

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/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Taylor Beswick with the City of Bettendorf and Brian Dunkelberger with the City of Newton for passing the AICP Exam during the May testing window! Both Taylor and Brian are now AICP Candidates until completion of their job experience requirements. If you are interested in learning more information about taking the AICP Exam, please visit <https://iowa.planning.org/aicp-certification/aicp-exam-prep/>, or contact David Wilwerding, AICP, APA Iowa Professional Development Officer at dwilwerding@cityofjohnston.com.

CHAPTER BYLAW AMENDMENT ELECTION

Members should have received an invitation from the APA Election Coordinator to vote on a proposed amendment to the chapter bylaws. Please review the changes and vote before 11:59 PM on Saturday, August 20.

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

Aug 18: Planning on Tap - Housing

Sept 15: Planning on Tap - "What does the 'I' in DEI really look like in planning?"

Sept 16: APA Iowa Chapter Board Meeting

Oct 12-14: APA IA Annual Conference, Ottumwa

Oct. 20: Planning on Tap - Advanced Public Engagement

Submit your updates for October's newsletter by Friday, October 14th.



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