

**APA New York Upstate Chapter
Executive Board Meeting – Conference Call
July 17, 2009**

Minutes

Board Present: Judy Breselor, Diane Carlton, Mark Castiglione, Doug Greene, Rich Guarino, Jason Haremza, Eve Holberg, Steve Iachetta, Elaine Jardine, Mike Kayes, Mike Long, Kirk McLean, Sandy Misiewicz, Dan O’Hanlon, Gary Palumbo, Andy Raus, Danielle Rovillo, Leigh Whyte

Staff Present: Tanya Zwahlen

Opens meeting: Judy Breselor opens meeting with roll call 10:03 AM

Motion: approval of May minutes, as amended, Steven Iachetta moves, Eve Holberg 2nds, passed unanimously

President’s Report – Judy Breselor

Judy Breselor: add agenda item re: call from Syracuse MPO regarding I-81 project. MPO asked APA for representative. Diane Carlton volunteered. Judy will follow up with MPO.

Bylaws: have had small committee updating bylaws. Draft was circulated. Will send to national as a draft. Full chapter membership will vote on it at September meeting.

Motion: Accept draft bylaws, forwarding to national, and presenting to membership. Mark Castiglione moves, Gary Palumbo 2nds, passed unanimously

Newsletter: George Homsy is going back to school for a phd. He is willing to stay on as editor. However, board questions whether he have enough time. Judy: feedback?

Jason Haremza: when was the last newsletter we received? Winter issue, came out in March.

Jason: what are the details of his contract? Do we include specific dates for him to meet?

Judy: let’s set up a small committee to look at this issue: Diane Carlton, Dan O’Hanlon, Judy Breselor.

Vice – President – Gary Palumbo

Gary: Awards Committee has 10-12 packages already. Deadline is today. Section Directors should let Gary know who will sit on the Awards Committee.

Krasner Scholarship: has been in touch with scholarship recipient re: 2009 conference

2010 Conference: Sept 22-24: comfortable with budget for conference facility. Next step is developing preliminary schedule. Looking at having sessions Wed PM, Thurs AM and PM, and Fri AM. Awards/scholarship luncheon on Thurs. Dine out on Wed evening. Reception Thurs evening. Chapter board meeting will be Wed. afternoon. Annual meeting will be Fri morning.

Past President – Mike Long

Nothing to report

Treasurer – Sandy Misiewicz

Sandy Misiewicz distributed budget report via email.

Sales tax exemption form issue. Chapter needs to establish permanent address. This issue comes from accepting credit cards for conference.

Dan O'Hanlon: PO box in Dewitt?

Mark Castiglione: Capital District has largest membership

Motion: Let Sandy Misiewicz pick location for PO box in Capital area. Mike Long moves, Doug Greene seconds, passed unanimously

Motion: accept financial report. Steve Iachetta moves, Eve Holberg 2nds, passed unanimously

Sandy: re: Morgan Stanley account, account has been closed, funds moved to CDs.

Mark Castiglione and Judy Breselor also have signing rights for accounts.

Finally received all sections 2008 financial reports, can now do 2008 taxes.

Chapter Conference

Sandy Misiewicz: please review conference website. Already received first registrations.

Submitting CM credits to Tanya Zwahlen and Ellen Parker within a few days. Still waiting for a few minor details; will update with AICP as needed.

Having trouble setting up ethics section. Can't find anyone who wants to do them. Patty Salkin is unavailable. Ellen Parker: in other chapters, the PDO does the ethics section. Ellen volunteers. Judy Breselor: AICP commissioner from Maine volunteered to help with conference.

AICP is not valued, so attorneys feel that they can talk about ethics in general, but are not familiar with AICP ethics.

Jason Haremza: would like to see ethics more targeted to situations faced by professional planners, rather than planning board member ethics. Even Patty Salkin's session at last year's conference seemed to focus on planning and zoning board member ethical issues.

Sandy Misiewicz: will get in touch with Ellen offline to find solutions

Sandy: is August 1 too early for early bird?

Jason Haremza: what about email blast? Have been getting questions from members on when conference registration is.

Sandy: email going out as soon as Tanya has info

Mike Long: August 1 may be too early.... August 15 would be better

Danielle Rovillo: would like to have student meet-up section on conference website. Sandy: email me

Secretary – Jason Haremza

Judy Breselor: makes request for minutes to be distributed sooner.

Professional Development Officer – Ellen Parker

12 people in Upstate chapter took AICP in May, 11 passed. This is a passing rate of 91.6%. National passing rate is 60%

Additional sessions being added to web seminars series. Check Utah Chapter website or link from Upstate Chapter website.

Discussion on logging credits and carrying over credits. PDO is not informed on how many credits members have logged.

Director of Legislative Affairs – Doug Greene

With recent events [i.e. Senate chaos] in Albany, not a lot to report.

Leg. Commission on Rural Resource – Land Use Advisory Committee has been very quiet. Nothing to report on this yet, trying to find out. Have found out that Senator Darrel Aubertine [D-Watertown] will be leading this Committee.

Trying to find out when next Smart Growth Cabinet meeting will be held.

Mark Castiglione: State Office of Taxpayer Accountability has been set up. Paul Beyer is new director. The Office of Taxpayer Accountability is an initiative of governor to address state spending and waste and efficiency. Not sure what this means for Smart Growth Cabinet.

Doug: Has attended Empire State Future meetings. However, linkage with ARISE group [a faith-based community organizing coalition] seemed cause a lack of direction and focus on best way to move smart growth forward. Felt attending Smart Growth Cabinet meetings is better use of time.

Membership Officer – Eve Holberg

Have sent the May rosters. Membership is down from one year ago, but up from 1st quarter.

Eve: Frustrated with National organization. Not seen as a ‘value added’ organization for membership. So maybe it’s time we add our own value.

Committee to look at this issue: Judy Breselor, Eve Holberg, Mark Castiglione, Jason Haremza

Judy, Eve: finds that Chapter expenditure for Tanya is well worth it and adds tremendous value to the chapter.

Mark Castiglione: volunteers to compile press lists

Education Officer – Andy Raus

Finally made contact with UB. Spoke with Naraj Virma. Focus of conversation was to have Nov 20 meeting on radar screen. Dr. Virma is going on leave this fall; Chapter should coordinate with Dr. Raja and Dr. Sternberg.

Rich Guarino: concentrate on Dr. Raja, she is faculty liaison to WNY section.

Public Relations Officer – Diane Carlton

Discussed issues related to newsletter already. George Homsy gave draft to Diane on Friday and asked for edits by Monday.

Committee (Diane, Dan, Judy) will follow up on newsletter issue soon.

Newsletter supposedly went to printer 3 weeks ago, nothing received yet by members.

Member at Large – Mark Castiglione

Nothing new, issues related to state government already discussed.

Young Planners: will follow up with conference call. Roll out idea at student roundtable at conference. Possible Wed night social event.

Planning Official Development Officer – Mike Kayes

NYPF conference is Sept 13-15 in Lake Placid.

Town of Canandaigua appears to be trying to remove a Planning Board member without just cause. NYPF submitted amicus brief on this issue for public information meeting.

Judy Breselor: this was a long term planning board member and the removal is politically-based

Jason Haremza: very glad the NYPF is doing this. Wishes that APA would do this for professional planners who face political interference in their jobs.

Rich Guarino: WNY APA section did this for a planner who was threatened with dismissal

Jason Haremza: in terms of the organization adding value, I would consider this key

Judy Breselor: something we should think about, tends to help if there is an attorney on the board

Mike Kayes: the attorney for the Canandaigua planning board member would welcome additional support if the issue goes to court

County Planning Director's Liaison – Elaine Jardine

Still have not met. Next meeting scheduled for August

Canadian Officer – Leigh Whyte

OPPI conference in Sept. No major changes. CM credits available, there will be mobile workshops in WNY.

Provincial energy legislation: green energy projects no longer require rezoning or official plan amendments.

Danielle Rovillo: some UB students interested in OPPI conference, any Canadian schools interested in student get together?

Leigh: not sure, contact me

Section Directors' Reports

Capital District – Steve Iachetta

Continuing monthly luncheon program in the Fall

Kudos to Sandy Misiewicz and Jackie Hakes as conference co-chairs

30% of all expired members on roster update are Capital District members

Mark Castiglione: APA offers 'unemployment rate' for members

Judy Breselor: we will highlight this in the next newsletter

CNY – Janet Marsden (absent)

GFL – Dan O’Hanlon

Bylaw revision. Will be submitting to Chapter for review.

Working on field trips and sessions, tentative one in August, maybe another one in the fall

Discussed idea for conferences: sections deal with venues, Chapter as a whole assist with sessions

Judy Breselor: will follow up and discuss further

Gary Palumbo: what we need is a standing Chapter committee on conferences

Sandy Misiewicz: Capital may theoretically have the capacity to host the conference since it is a “large” section, but that doesn’t mean people step up to volunteer or makes “burn-out” less likely

Andy Raus: 2004 and 2005 was joint conference with ASLA, are we looking for these opportunities? Mike Long,

Eve Holberg: ASLA was not all that helpful in providing labor to help organize

Southern Tier – Frank Evangelisti (absent)

WNY – Richard Guarino

Rich: re-elected as Section President

Basket raffle raised \$600 for Krasner scholarship

Building link between UB students and planning professionals, planning student mixers

Student Representatives

Cornell – Danielle Bergstrom (absent)

SUNY Albany: Patrick Noonan (absent)

SUNY-Buffalo – Danielle Rovillo, Kirk McLean

Kirk: UB sending delegation to Upstate APA conf. Also sending delegation to OPPI conf.

Sandy Misiewicz: will contact re: student roundtable at conf.

Judy Breselor: any questions for us? If you have any questions or concerns, first contact would be Andy Raus

SUNY ESF – Kelsey Haigh (absent)

Other Business

Gary Palumbo: committees will meet prior to next Board meeting

Ellen Parker: congratulate Mark Castiglione on passing AICP

Adjournment

Motion: adjourn: Mike Long moves, Dan O’Hanlon 2nds, passed unanimously

Adjourned at 12:04 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
July 21, 2009*

Jason Haremza, Secretary

Next meeting: September 30, 2009, time to be determined, Albany