



MAY 2006

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APA Conference opening reception

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New England PLANNING

Massachusetts Chapter & Rhode Island Chapter

Transforming Planning to Save Cities

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Crushing poverty, environmental degradation, and desperate refugees fleeing civil strife and natural disasters increasingly beset many urban centers. For the last several years, APA members and planners in other countries have been working to develop a proactive, integrated planning model that is focused on sustainability, increased economic opportunities, and inclusive decision making.

An outcome of these efforts is "Reinventing Planning: A New Governance Paradigm for Managing Human Settlements," a paper that will be presented and discussed at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in June 2006. APA President David Siegel, AICP, and Executive Director Paul Farmer, AICP, were major contributors to the paper and will lead the U.S. delegation to the forum.

Reinventing Planning: A New Governance Paradigm for Managing Human Settlements - A Position Paper developing themes from the Draft Vancouver Declaration for debate leading into the World Planners Congress in Vancouver, June 17-20, 2006

Purpose

The draft of the Vancouver Declaration commits planning professionals around the world to work together to tackle the challenges of rapid urbanisation, the urbanisation of poverty and the hazards posed by climate change and natural disasters. This paper supplements the draft Declaration. The paper outlines key principles of a new paradigm for managing human settlements that we call New Urban Planning. The purpose of the paper is to provoke and focus debate during the lead-up to the World Planning Congress and the World Urban Forum III in June 2006. The paper reflects the outcome of a series of discussions amongst planners

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Massachusetts Chapter

*Massachusetts Chapter President
Peter Lowitt, AICP*



Instead of stories of the San Antonio, Texas National APA Conference I offer my readers a story of a plan gone awry. I found myself unable to appear at the Planners' Day on the Hill event on Wednesday April 12, because I was on the way to Emerson Hospital for an emergency gall bladder operation. Sixty five of my colleagues and friends did

turn up at the state house and Jim O'Connell, Jeff Lacy, and Ralph Willmer along with Bob Durand and the bill's legislative sponsors helped turn the event into a success as planners pounded the pavement at the state house and brought legislators positive messages about CPA II, The Community Planning Act. CPA, the community preservation act, delivered the funding mechanism to assist communities in controlling their own fate, CPA II is the legislative tool needed to provide a balanced and equitable planning process to replace the existing planning and zoning statutes which the American Planning Association continues to rank as among the most out-dated in the nation. I wish I had been able to attend Bob Mitchell's induction into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. We all wish him well. Unfortunately fatty foods are not on my diet for the near future and my doctor recommended against travel so soon after surgery, so I said adios to my Texas trip and must focus instead on the upcoming Green Rooftops for Healthy Cities conference coming to the Hines Convention Center in Boston on May 11-12.. I hope to see many of my colleagues there. What other medium allows planners to address so many issues through one tool? Stormwater management, urban heat island effect, turning impervious area into pervious area, energy conservation, food production, aesthetic improvement – green roofs are happening and planners owe it to themselves to get educated about them.

Housing remains a huge focus for APA and for Massachusetts. The recent news that Massachusetts continues to lose population because our kids cannot afford to live in the Commonwealth provides fuel for those wishing to curtail home rule and those trying to address excesses (both real and perceived) in the local regulatory process which

have added costs to the housing market. Nationally, APA has made Housing Choice and Affordability a Super Topic for the association. It will be the focus for special sessions at national and chapter conference, video conferences and the focus of research by APA. In fact, on May 24 APA will be hosting an audio/web conference entitled "The Housing Plan". To quote from the write-up on planning.org; "hear about the ways planners are moving to the forefront in the effort to provide housing and choice. Hear how your community can plan to provide housing for all residents, what the appropriate role of regulation is, and how to integrate the need for housing into a balanced plan." The Community Planning Act beefs up the requirements for community housing plans and the consistency requirement between a community's master plan and its zoning gives this requirement teeth. Imagine the usual plan platitudes of wanting a diversity of housing types, styles and tenure for your community. Imagine having no land zoned multi-family and being taken to court because you may have talked the talk, but you didn't walk the walk. Accountability in planning, what a concept.

I want to thank everyone who sent me get well wishes and kept me in your prayers during my sudden illness. I'm recovering and hope to see all of you out and about in the near future.

Peter Lowitt, AICP



APA President David Siegel, AICP

Rhode Island Chapter

*Rhode Island Chapter President
Diane M. Feather, AICP*

State Planning Council Adopts Land Use 2025

On April 13, 2006, the State Planning Council adopted the "Land Use 2025 Rhode Island's State Land Use Policies and Plan". On behalf of the RIAPA Executive Board, congratulations to the Statewide Planning Program on the exceptional effort of preparing the plan and guiding it through the public comment period, ultimately to its adoption by the State Planning Council. The Power of Place Summit on May 12, 2006 (see below), should be a good kick-off for implementation of the Land Use Plan.

Grow Smart Rhode Island's May 12th "Power of Place Summit"

RIAPA is a supporting organization for Grow Smart Rhode Island's May 12th "Power of Place Summit" which will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The summit agenda includes an overview of development trends in Rhode Island, the new State Land Use Plan's proposed responses to these trends, and numerous breakout sessions focusing on existing State polices, trends and issues impacting land use; and implementation strategies and tools to achieve the Plan's vision of sustainable growth in cities, town centers and villages balanced with natural resource preservation with greenways and a healthy Narragansett Bay. RIAPA will not have a chapter luncheon in May and members should instead make every effort to attend this day-long event. A special note to AICP members, you can obtain 5.25 hours of continuing professional development credits by attending this event (don't forget to log the hours on APA's website after completion).

To register, visit Grow Smart Rhode Island's website:
www.growsmartri.com

Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit Coalition

RIAPA joined the coalition mobilized by Grow Smart Rhode Island to safeguard the historic tax credit program, a program that is widely regarded as promoting smart growth and achieving multiple statewide objectives, including: expanding our economy, revitalizing neighborhoods,

cleaning contaminated brownfield sites, and providing greatly needed housing.

Remember to Save the Date: Lobsterbake – June 23rd

Please feel free to call or send an email if you would like to discuss any Chapter activities (401-435-7532; email: dfeather@cityofeastprov.com). Thank you.

Remember to visit the Chapter web site at
www.riapa.org.

Women in Planning

The APA PLANNING AND WOMEN DIVISION is seeking new members and chapter liaison to the division. If you are interested, feel free to view the division web site for indepth information www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw For further information, please contact Division Chair Patsi Petrie at patsi@uiuc.edu

