

IOWA PLANNING



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association

August 2008



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the rebirth of its
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President's Message

John T. Peterson, AICP
APA Iowa, President

Iowa Planners! 2008 is off to a rough start. I hope each of you keep in your thoughts our friends and colleagues across the state. If your community or the communities you work in are in need of assistance let us know, Leanne Harter, LHarter@storycounty.com is coordinating our list of volunteers and coordinating with the State Emergency Operations Center.

The National Planning Conference was well attended by APA Iowa Chapter Members we had over 75 members in attendance. Congratulations to Iowa Chapter member Jack Leaman for his induction as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and to our Professional Development Officer, Gary Taylor as the recipient of the 2008 Chapter Presidents Council Leadership Award for Professional Development Officers. The leadership meetings focused on a variety of issues. Certification Maintenance continued to occupy the agendas. While the AICP Commission acknowledges there is still work to be done, many positive changes were approved. Check out: www.planning.org/cm/ for the latest information regarding Certification Maintenance.

The National Delegates Assembly worked on amendments to the new Policy Guide on Planning and Climate Change. Check it out at www.planning.org/policyguides/pdf/draftclimatechange.pdf and let me know if you have any interest in working on how this guide might be implemented to serve our membership and communities here in Iowa. The delegates also received a proposal for a Policy Guide on Transportation. Look for more on that later. Elections are complete and Bruce Knight was elected as President-Elect for APA. You might remember Bruce from our Dubuque conference, he has strong Iowa roots and should represent us well. Cynthia Bowen was elected to serve as our APA Board member for Region IV. Check out Cynthia's background and goals at: www.planning.org/elections/2008/bowen.htm. Lee Brown was elected to serve as our Regions AICP Commissioner. Information on Lee and his positions on APA can be found at: www.planning.org/elections/2008/lbrown.htm.

Our 2008 Fall Conference planning is underway. We will be in Sioux City, Iowa on October 29, 30 and 31. Our goals are to include sessions on a variety of topics and create an opportunity to provide at least 16 credit hours for certification maintenance. Please contact Erik Lundy, Tom Treharne or myself if you can help us out with the conference and conference planning. It's another chance for you to get involved. Special thanks again to our 2007 conference sponsors Heartland Brick Council, Vinyl Siding Institute, HNTB, Olsson Associates, DSW, Durrant, JEO, R.A. Smith, RDG Planning and Design, SAA, SEH, Shive-Hattery, CDA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NewCom Technologies, and Ladco Development.

Don't forget to check out the 2008 Upper Midwest Conference information. This year's four state conference is hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter and will be in Madison, WI. September 18-19, 2008. A special thanks to Rich Russell for helping out with that conference planning. Take a look at their website to get details on presenting a session at the conference and to stay informed. www.wisconsinplanners.org/events/events.htm

The new Chapter officers and others met in Sioux City this Spring to share information and lay out plans to update a Five Year Chapter Development Plan and Two Year Strategic Plan. These plans help to guide our efforts and our services related to projects and the membership. I hope to



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present several new initiatives to the Board for their consideration and would also like to hear from you regarding areas where the Chapter can engage in planning efforts in Iowa, as well as expanding and enhancing services to planners throughout the state. Please let your voice be heard. Expect more on that after our next Board meeting.

Stay tuned, we are working on the development of a new web site and hope to introduce that to you in the near future. Thanks to Seana Perkins for all of her help on that effort.

Special thanks to the current Board members and especially to Eric Jensen. This group spends a great deal of time and effort in working on the activities this organization undertakes. In addition, we have a number of volunteers that have assisted planning efforts across the state and region. A common theme at the National conference this year was that planners need to work to elevate the image of our profession and to let our voice be heard.

What are you working on?
What do you need help with?
How can we serve you better?

John Peterson
jpeterson@ankenyiowa.gov

**2008 APA Iowa Chapter Annual
Conference: Explore Planning in
Successful Surprising Sioux City**

Mark your calendar now for the American Planning
Association Iowa Chapter's Fall Conference in Sioux City on
October 29th—31st.

Please check out www.iowa-apa.org and watch your
inbox for more conference information.



Executive Committee

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2008 APA Iowa Conference



American Planning Association Iowa Chapter
Fall Planning Conference
October 29, 30 and 31, 2008 Sioux City, Iowa
Call for Session Proposals

Propose a Session

This is your chance to propose a session for the 2008 APA Iowa Chapter Fall Conference - Explore Planning in Successful Surprising Sioux City

The conference planning committee's goal for conference education tracks include Sustainability, Great Places and Projects, and Planning & Zoning Tools and Techniques. These might include sessions on the following:

- Planning projects and Other Success Stories
- Transportation and Land Use
- Re-use and Redevelopment
- Sustainability
- Planning and Technology
- Planning Management
- Ethics/Law
- Growth Management

Session proposal forms are available at www.iowa-apa.org. Completed forms can be sent to Erik Lundy at emlundy@dm.gov. All session proposal forms should be received by **August 31st**.

The Fall Conference will be held at the Sioux City Convention and Visitors Center with a block of rooms being reserved at the adjacent Clarion Hotel
For more information, visit the APA Iowa web site at www.iowa-apa.org.

The Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Iowa Awards for Planning.

Awards are being accepted in fifteen planning related categories, including Planning Excellence, Public Education, Distinguished Leadership, Distinguished Service, Outstanding Students and a Journalism award. These categories are revised from past years and match the newly released 2009 National APA Planning Award categories, so nominees applying for the Iowa APA Awards can easily apply for the same award through National APA.

The deadline for submission of the awards is **August 29, 2008**, with presentation of the awards at the 2008 APA Iowa Conference which will be held in Sioux City, Iowa from October 29th -31st, 2008. The Awards Packet and Application Form is attached to this email and is also available at the APA Iowa website at www.iowa-apa.org.

For additional information, please contact:

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What's Next, Downtown?

Submitted by Erin Olson-Douglas, AIA

Downtown Des Moines has been the recipient of unprecedented investment in the past decade. Nearly \$2.8 billion dollars have been spent on a broad range of downtown projects since the turn of the millennium in this metropolitan area with a population of about half million people. Visionary ambitions outlined by several significant planning efforts in the 1980-1990's, including the Des Moines Vision Plan and the Major Projects Task Force findings, inspired a wave of investment in civic, commercial, residential, infrastructure and recreational projects, and spurred a sense of collaboration among the business community, the City of Des Moines, and Polk County. This collaborative spirit, paired with the momentum of recent successes, has produced a shared desire to understand the implications of this recent downtown activity, capitalize on the investments, and plan for new opportunities.



2007 Aerial of Downtown Study Area

What's Next, Downtown? is a co-sponsored study by the City of Des Moines, Polk County, and Downtown Community Alliance. These groups collectively recognized the accomplishments that have been made as well as the potential of our downtown. This project comes at a juncture where people from across the city, metropolitan, state and region are beginning to look at this thriving urban area for much more than its traditional role as an employment center. In addition to providing approximately 70,000 jobs, downtown Des Moines is now home to several thousand

residents and, with such venues as the Iowa Events Center, Principal Park, the Brenton Skating Plaza, Court Avenue, the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines and Gateway Park, it also serves as a regional entertainment center and visitor destination.



What's Next, Downtown

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Utilizing the foundations of Des Moines' earliest planning, this planning project builds on the unique and exemplary 20th Century urban structure with Locust Street's view to the State Capitol, Court Avenue's focus on the Polk County Courthouse and our civic Des Moines Riverfront. The downtown plan supports existing downtown amenities, aiming to bolster their utilization, while proposing initiatives in two categories: movement and development.

Movement initiatives generally address the ways which people get around downtown and move between places in the city. Typically, these proposals are associated with public sector investment or public-private collaboration. *Movement* proposals include:

Walnut Street Transformation. This proposal provides a segue into greater transportation options in downtown. Walnut Street spans the east-west dimension of downtown; for eight of its approximately thirty blocks, it is currently dedicated to a metropolitan bus transit mall. *Walnut Street Transformation* proposes relocating the transit mall to a downtown transit center and returning Walnut Street to a conventional urban street that becomes a "movement spine" through the downtown and includes active mixed use ground floor development, a downtown tram, bike lanes, 2-way traffic, on-street parking, a renewed landscape, and vertical skywalk access points.

Skywalks & Sidewalks. The 3-mile downtown skywalk system is approaching its thirtieth anniversary. This section of the plan proposes a thorough modernization plan, extensions of the system, and a network of public vertical access points that clearly connect the skywalk and sidewalk levels. This section also proposes priority streets for pedestrian improvements.

Greening Downtown. This proposal includes initiatives to link nearby neighborhoods and the vast Central Iowa Trails network to a new system of downtown bike lanes, to create a network of parks that provide active and passive uses, and to expand the ambitious Riverwalk that is currently under construction.

Development initiatives are more speculative in nature. They generally address private sector response to a number of conditions, including recent investments in the downtown as well as those proposed in the *Movement* section. *Development* initiatives include:

Chapter Sponsors

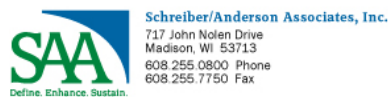
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If your business or organization is interested in advertising in Iowa Planning, please contact the Communications Chair.

Business Card sized ads are available for \$30 per issue or \$100 per year (4-issues)

For More Information Please Contact:

Richard Brown, AICP
rrbrown@dmgov.org
515-248-6356



Events Calendar

Smart Growth CM | 6.00

Thursday, 08/21/2008 8:30AM to 4:15PM
HalfMoon LLC, Wheaton, IL
 This program will cover creating successful downtowns, mixed-use walkable neighborhoods, economic and environmental benefits of smart growth, and development strategies and incentives for smart growth.

Development Incentives in a Challenged Marketplace II CM | 1.00

Wednesday, 08/27/2008 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Lorman Education Services, Chicago, IL

Development Incentives in a Challenged Marketplace I CM | 5.50

Wednesday, 08/27/2008 8:30AM to 4:30AM
Lorman Education Services, Chicago, IL

Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2008 Conference CM | 48.50

Tuesday, 09/02/2008 9:00AM
 to 09/05/2008 3:00PM
National Center for Bicycling & Walking, Seattle, WA

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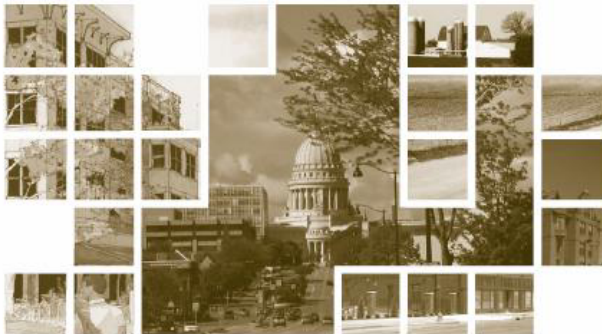
2008 Upper Midwest Planning Conference

Illinois-Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin

Planning for Sustainability

September 18-19, 2008

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
 Madison, Wisconsin



Strategies for Successful Mixed-Use Dev:

Teleconference CM | 1.50
 Thursday, 09/11/2008 1:00PM to 2:30PM
Lorman Education Services, Teleconference, WI

2008 Upper Midwest Planning Conference Thursday, 09/18/2008 to 09/19/2008
APA Wisconsin Chapter, Madison, WI
 The 2008 Upper Midwest Planning Conference will be held on September 18-19 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. This regional conference is co-sponsored by the APA Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters.

APA Minnesota Chapter Conference CM | 60.00
 Monday, 09/22/2008 9:00AM
 to 09/24/2008 2:00PM
APA Minnesota Chapter, Duluth, MN

The conference title, "Transitions in Planning," reflects the changing nature of planning issues: every day, planners are confronting dynamic policy issues such as housing, the environment, and transportation, and finding they need cross-disciplinary skills to do their jobs well.

What's Next, Downtown?

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Downtown as a Business Hub. Various areas and investments in downtown create a spectrum of business development opportunities. This section discusses the strengths and potential for commercial business development in four distinct areas of downtown.

Living Downtown. Downtown Des Moines has doubled its residential population in recent years. With this critical mass, *living downtown* identifies downtown neighborhoods where it is possible to develop unique identity through existing and future development. This section discusses the need for urban amenities such as education, transportation options, retail and services, and parks to foster further residential development.

Cultural Development. This section recognizes the significant recent investments in cultural places in downtown and recommends focusing future cultural amenities along strategic routes in an effort to better connect the network of cultural places. This infill strategy is intended to enhance the experience of moving through downtown and effectively draw scattered places closer together.

A *District Development* section begins the exploration of deploying these initiatives in the various areas of downtown and offers planning and design guidelines particular to conditions in downtown Des Moines. The plan concludes with an outline of priorities, aiming to inform the future agenda of downtown organizations and their leaders.

The contribution of the downtown plan ideas is the way that they will significantly alter how people use our downtown area and the many opportunities it offers. These initiatives will enhance our downtown and prepare Des Moines for economic, social, environmental, and cultural advances that will benefit future generations. Much progress has been made in downtown Des Moines; much is left to do. *What's Next, Downtown?* imagines how current and future generations will use our downtown with the proposed initiatives.

What's Next, Downtown? was approved by the Des Moines City Council and the Polk County Board of Supervisors in mid-March, 2008. It was authored by Erin Olson-Douglas, AIA, with Agrest + Gandelsonas of New York City collaborating on the plan's content.

The full plan report can be found at: <http://www.dmgov.org/dtPlan08.htm>.

If you are interested is submitting a planning related article in Planning Iowa, please contact the newsletter editor for more information.

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