

IOWA PLANNING



American Planning Association
Iowa Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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For more information on
Dubuque County Smart
Planning, visit
www.dubuquesmartplan.org/

Dubuque County is Awarded Community Planning Assistance Team

Submitted by Anna O'Shea, Zoning Administrator, Dubuque County

Dubuque County has been working on a Regional Smart Plan with 7 cities, including the cities of Dubuque, Asbury, Peosta, Epworth, Farley, Dyersville and Cascade, through a Smart Planning Grant over the last 18 months. As one of the implementation strategies, they had an opportunity to apply for assistance in preparing a plan to upgrade a 26 mile multi-use recreational trail, called Heritage Trail. The American Planning Association (APA) notified Dubuque County that they would be receiving assistance from the Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) in February of this year.



Team members will be visiting the site this summer and meeting with stakeholders, including the Dubuque Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tri-State Trail Vision, Dubuque and Dyersville Chambers of Commerce, Dubuque County Conservation Board and the Smart Planning Consortium. The goals are to increase connectivity and accessibility of the trail, promote the sustainability of the trail and to extend the recreational and economic development opportunities to each of the cities in the consortium.

The timing of this project could not be better. Dubuque County will be connecting the Riverfront Development in the City of Dubuque through a trail system and a pedestrian bridge over Hwy 52 North to the beginning of Heritage Trail just north of the City of Dubuque. The pedestrian bridge should be completed sometime this year. Also, the Field of Dreams, just east of the City of Dyersville, has recently been sold to couple from Chicago who plan to preserve the original baseball diamond and add 24 new baseball and softball fields as well as an indoor training dome for year round use. The facility will be developed to major league standards so they can host tournament level baseball and softball games for participants who are 18 year old and under. Heritage Trail is a major connector to these two development projects.

As the consortium has been working on the Regional Smart Plan, they identified Heritage Trail as a regional resource that is underutilized and outdated. The new trail plan will recommend upgrades that will make Heritage Trail a premier recreational destination in the summer and in the winter and will provide economic development opportunities on a regional context. The Smart Planning Consortium believes that the success of this project will jumpstart other regional collaborative efforts and continue their progress to a more sustainable region.



Dubuque County, Iowa

Source: <http://www.dubuquecounty.org/>

President's Message

Greetings Iowa Planners!

I have just returned from the 2012 APA conference in Los Angeles and want to report a couple of items of interest from that event. One of the focuses of the Chapter Presidents' Council (CPC for you acronym lovers) was a proposal to consolidate elections for a great majority of chapters and divisions of APA with APA's national and regional elections. Elections would take place in the August/September timeframe, with officers taking over January 1st of the following year.



The 2012 National APA Conference took place at the Los Angeles Convention Center (pictured)

This proposal makes sense to me. I will bring this forward for Board discussion once more details are known.

Another issue of interest is APA's recognition that the changing demographics of our country. Specifically, the Divisions Council (DC) and Chapter Presidents' Council Task Force on Collaboration has begun discussion of how we can develop plans and strategies to make our communities more age-friendly.

To that end, I have encouraged AARP Iowa to submit at least one session proposal for our fall APA Iowa conference.

I'd also like to thank all the chapter members who made it to El Cholo for our All Iowa Reception on Sunday evening. I'd also like to thank the University of Iowa Urban and Regional Planning program and the Iowa State University Community and Regional Planning program for their co-sponsorship of the event!

Speaking of future events, we I have four that I'd like to remind you of. The first is COZO is holding their 2012 Spring Conference in Marshalltown from May 9th to May 11th.

APA Iowa's next chapter meeting will be held in Iowa City on May 18th. Please RSVP to Kristopher Ackerson at Kristopher-Ackerson@iowa-city.org. Lunch orders should be sent to Kristopher as soon as possible. The menu and the details on all these events are available on APA Iowa's website: www.iowa-apa.org. Remember, there's an opportunity for networking and CM credits following the business meeting!

The next event is entitled Spatial Exploration of the 2010 Census. This training will be instructed by Iowa State Extension GIS Specialist, Professor Monica Haddad on May 22nd on the Iowa State campus in Ames. The chapter has applied for CM credits for this course.

The last event to discuss this time is our 2012 APA Iowa conference. This event will also be held in Ames. Save the dates of October 31st through November 2nd so that you can attend. Please note that we are still looking for session proposals. It's another way you can be more involved in your chapter. Again, more information on submission of the proposals is available online at www.iowa-apa.org.

In closing, please let me know of any way your chapter can provide more benefits to you as a member. Also, please let me know of any way you'd like to be more involved in the chapter.

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**For more
information on the
quickly-approaching
CoZO Conference
see page 4!**



The Iowa Chapter of APA is on the Web! Visit us at www.iowa-apa.org



“Like” us on Facebook! Search for “Iowa APA Chapter”

Call For Session Proposals: APA Iowa Annual Conference

The Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association announces its call for session proposals for the 2012 APA Iowa Annual Conference, “Emerging Planning Paradigms” being held on October 31-November 2, 2012 at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa. Lodging will also be at Gateway Center, Ames. There will be three tracks for the conference. Sessions with themes such as Regional Planning and Cooperation; Energy Planning; Sustainability; and Politics in Planning are specifically sought. Sessions designed for New Professionals are also encouraged.



APA Nebraska Award Jury

*Submitted by Naomi Hamlett, AICP, Planner,
City of West Des Moines*

Five APA-Iowa members answered a call for jury members this past February. For the last few years, the Nebraska and Iowa Chapters of APA have served as each other’s juries for their respective awards programs. **Christopher Albrecht** from Iowa State University – InTrans, **Jerry Anthony** from the University of Iowa, **Christine Butterfield** from the City of Cedar Rapids, **Karen Howard** from the City of Iowa City, and **Jill Wanderscheid** from the City of Sioux City served as the jury, reviewing and making recommendations on the Nebraska award submittals. APA-Nebraska presented the awards at their annual conference at the end of March. Thanks to these five Iowa chapter members for their time in reviewing these planning projects and offering their valuable feedback!



ASK THE PLANNER

What are Breakaway Signs and why should public roadways have them?

According to the FHWA “Breakaway devices are designed and constructed to break or yield when struck by a vehicle. The term “breakaway” refers to crash-tested devices that break or bend upon impact.

Roadside signs, utility poles, lighting structures, traffic signals, railroad warning devices, motorist-aid callboxes, mailboxes, and other rigid objects can become deadly roadside hazards if placed where run-off-the-road vehicles can strike them. While it is preferable to maintain obstacle-free roadside clear zones, this is not always a practical option. When rigid objects cannot be removed or relocated, potential crash impacts can be mitigated by specifying breakaway features, or by shielding the object with a longitudinal barrier or crash cushion.”

For more information on breakaway signs and federal requirements relating to such, visit the [FHWA Website](http://www.fhwa.gov).

Source: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/policy_guide/road_hardware/ctrmeasures/breakaway/

Do you have a planning-related question for other Iowa Planners? Send your question to cmiller@midascog.net and we’ll include feedback in the July edition of Iowa Planning!



THE ZONER'S CORNER

County Zoning Officials of Iowa (CoZO)

Submitted by Les Beck, Director, Linn County Planning & Development

The Iowa County Zoning Officials – Iowa CoZO – has been around for a long time but may be relatively unknown to many APA Iowa members. In the early 1980s the organization was known as the Iowa State Association of County Zoning Administrators (ISACZA). Of the 83 counties in Iowa that have adopted zoning, nearly all are members of CoZO. The organization is an affiliate of the Iowa State Association of Counties. As an affiliate, CoZO gets a seat on the ISAC Board of Directors, has specific conference tracks dedicated to CoZO members at the ISAC annual Fall School of Instruction, and has a powerful voice for planning and zoning issues in the Iowa legislature through ISAC's Public Policy staff.

You also may not know that the duties of the "typical" Iowa county zoning administrator are widely varied, and the role of Zoning Administrator may be just one of several hats worn over the course of a day. Zoning is often a secondary (or even tertiary) duty to their primary role as Building Official, or Environmental Health Specialist, or Office Manager, or Emergency Management Director, or GIS Specialist, or... the list goes on.

Hopefully you know, and have a positive working relationship with, your county's Zoning Administrator. Just like APA Iowa members, we are involved with smart planning, fringe area development, resource protection, and the ins-and-outs of zoning. What is also common between CoZO and APAIA is the value of its members to the organization. Our list serve is a vital tool for discussing day-to-day issues; our conferences are opportunities to learn from each other and from outside experts about relevant planning and zoning issues; and we all love to convene after conference sessions to a local watering hole to share war stories over a tall cool one!



County Zoning Officials of Iowa

It's still not too late to register for next week's 2012 CoZO Spring Conference!

May 9, 2012 - May 11, 2012 -- Marshalltown Best Western Regency Inn -- Featuring sessions on:

- Ag Exemption
- AICP Exam Discussion/Workshop
- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management
- Legal Ins & Outs of Conditional Uses/Conditional Zoning
- Zoning 101
- And many others!

For more APA Iowa news and upcoming events visit:

<http://www.iowa-apa.org/events>

For registration information and packet visit www.iowa-apa.org/

"The Zoner's Corner" is an ongoing column that consists of zoning articles and correspondence. The column presents issues, initiatives, suggestions, questions or comments specific to zoning. If you have a piece of writing or question which relates to zoning that you would like to share with Iowa Planners, feel free to contact Carissa Miller at cmiller@midascog.net.

Thank you to Robyn Fennig and Congratulations to Jeremy Endsley and Perry Shoemaker on their regional and national representation in the APA SRC!

APA Student Representative Council Leadership

Robyn Fennig, graduate student at the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning, has stepped down from the Region IV APA Student Representative Council (SRC), but will be replaced by Jeremy Endsley, a first year student in the same Urban and Regional Planning Program. In addition, Perry Shoemaker of the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning, will be beginning his term as the newly elected SRC Chair, the nationally elected student American Planning Association president!

You can learn more about our State's APA SRC leaders at: <http://www.planning.org/leadership/students/opportunities.htm>

The new structure retains three existing departments—architecture, community and regional planning, and landscape architecture—and creates four new ones—graphic design, industrial design, interior design and integrated studio arts—from programs that were housed in the former Department of Art and Design.

The College of Design sought this change to better capitalize on its strengths as a truly comprehensive design college, said Design Dean Luis Rico-Gutierrez.

"Ours is one of the very few comprehensive design colleges in the nation, and the world," he said. "The future is about bringing these disciplines together to help solve some of the most important social, economic and environmental problems we face today."

The goal of the reorganization is to make every discipline more visible while creating opportunities for increased collaboration among students and faculty across departments, he said. The reorganization also will help foster interdisciplinary programs such as the new Bachelor of Design, Rico-Gutierrez said.

Under the plan, each department will be directed by a chair who will report to the dean. A central business office will offer academic and administrative support for all seven departments. This support unit, which has been in place for two years during the college's reorganization, will continue to provide support. *Continued on following page*

Congratulations to the University of Iowa's School of Urban and Regional Planning Student Association on their 2012 Honorable Mention!

University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning Student Association Recognized

The University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning Student Association is being recognized with 2012 Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Planning Student Organization (PSO) Awards. The University's Student Organization was recognized for their organization of two events to raise student awareness of ideological attacks on planning. For more information on the events visit the APA honors website at: <http://www.planning.org/awards/pso/index.htm>

The above articles were submitted by Robyn Fennig, University of Iowa, School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Congratulations to Iowa State University College of Design on their approved Reorganization Plan!

Regents approve ISU College of Design Reorganization Plan

The Iowa State University College of Design will encompass seven departments under a reorganization plan approved by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, at its meeting April 25-26 in Cedar Falls.



MEET THE PLANNER - Myrtle Nelson, AICP



Occupation: Senior Planner at NIACOG

Family: Growing up in rural Iowa, I attended the Dysart-Geneseo Consolidated Schools. After UNI educated me in math and economics, MIDAS

launched my planning career and offered a lot of support as I developed some basic knowledge about the planning field. Then, I took a position as Fort Dodge's senior planner, followed by a position as Mason City's Community Development Director. Having stayed at each past positions for about 5 or 6 years, I am now closing in on 5 years with NIACOG. Joe Myhre was kind enough to hire me as a part-time senior planner at NIACOG, which has allowed me to spend more time at home with my little girls, who will both be in school as of this coming Fall. My husband Lonny is a farmer, who also works for 3M as a warehouse operator. In March we celebrated 10 years of marriage by taking a trip together to the Water Park of America; I would highly recommend it.

What planning tasks do you enjoy? My favorite tasks involve projects where I get to see some physical result/difference. I am also especially fond of working with Excel, taking on things that are a bit ground breaking, and working with others to tackle difficult issues.

What are some challenges you see in planning? Politics can be a big challenge, especially as those elected to serve are vulnerable to a constituency that may vote them out for making good decisions and vice versa.

What do you like to do in your free time? I like to spend time with my family, read, travel, watch old movies, and solve puzzles.

What's the best vacation you've ever taken? When I was about 12, my mom loaded our family up in the station wagon and rented a camper. We toured the west half of the country for a few weeks visiting relatives in Oregon, going to Disneyland, fishing in the Pacific, admiring the Grand Canyon, and having a grand time. Vacations in Cancun and Jamaica a few years back would be a close second though – warmth, waves, good food, husband...

If you had a day and could do anything you wanted to do, what would it be? Travel to Europe with my family. It would take more than a day as the question limits, but if we're dreaming, why not dream a little bigger.

If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be? I have no inclination to trade places with anyone. My life is good just as it is.

Regents approve ISU College of Design Reorganization Plan *(continued)*

ess, has helped the College of Design to save money while functioning more effectively, Rico-Gutierrez said.

"Centralizing services that are common to all departments allows the departments to focus fully on creating an amazing academic experience for students and on nurturing faculty to become leaders in their disciplines and professions," Rico-Gutierrez said.

The college is updating its internal governance document to reflect the new departmental structure and administrative changes. Faculty are expected to approve the revised document before the end of the academic year, and the reorganization plan should be in effect by July 1.

"This was such a collective, collaborative effort by everyone in the College of Design," said Susan Bradbury, who chaired the college council that led the restructuring process.

"All the faculty and staff members who participated in retreats, meetings, surveys and discussions—that's what made this work. We deeply appreciated everyone's continuous engagement throughout the process," she said.

"This plan will provide us with a structure to build on the college's strengths and enhance our teaching, service, outreach and research activities," Bradbury said.

- Luis Rico-Gutierrez, Design Administration, (515) 294-7428, lrico@iastate.edu
- Susan Bradbury, Community & Regional Planning, (515) 294-8720, bradbury@iastate.edu
- Heather Sauer, College of Design communications, (515) 294-9289, hsauer@iastate.edu

Article previously published by the ISU College of Design at:
<http://www.design.iastate.edu/news.php?ARTICLEID=507>



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