

PLANNING MATTERS



American Planning Association
Colorado Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association

2018 / Volume 1 / Issue 1

CAREER CHOICE

←
PLANNING

PLANNING - LIKE →

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

This month's issue is dedicated to careers in planning, which is a subject near and dear to my heart. As you may know, one of the topics I'm passionate about is raising the profile of "the planner" inside our organizations, as well as for the general public. I look forward to the day when I (or you) tell someone "I'm an urban (city, regional, county etc.) planner" and they respond with a look of awe instead of a look of confusion. I look forward to the day when I'm not explaining that my job consists of making complex critical decisions that enhance our communities and am instead greeted with a sincere understanding of the vital role planners play in delivering and protecting quality of life. Our roles as innovator, facilitator, decision-maker, policy-maker, advisor, and consensus-builder are often undervalued and it is our job, and the job of this organization, to remind our peers, friends, and neighbors that planners (and planning) make a difference. To that end, I hope you'll enjoy the articles in this quarter's newsletter and look for opportunities to tell others about the meaning and value of a career in planning.

With the festive season behind us, the Colorado APA Board and our Committees are back to work planning this year's State Conference (Keystone October 3-5) and other events to provide you with CM credit and networking opportunities. We are also making the final edits to our first published annual report and preparing for our Town Hall meeting. I hope you can find time in your schedule to attend an upcoming event, contribute an article to the newsletter, or volunteer on one of our awesome committees. You can find upcoming events on our [Chapter Calendar](#) and information about our [committees](#) on our website. Please remember, your participation is necessary for the success of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association!

The beginning of 2018 has been full of events for me, including connecting with the Colorado Smart Cities



Alliance and the Compact of Colorado Communities. Both of these organizations provide valuable resources to cities and counties in Colorado. If you haven't already, please take a moment to check them out and see if there is synergy with your organization.

As always, if you have an idea on how the Chapter can better serve our membership, please drop me a line at president@apacolorado.org.

Take Care,
Michelle Stephens, AICP

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."
- John Muir*



Cover Photo:
<http://outside-in.nus.edu/top-5-tips-to-look-for-job-after-graduation/>

The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of APA-Colorado or its Board of Directors.

THE OLD APPROACH TO TRANSPORTATION ↓

Transportation used to focus on the mobility of cars and trucks. But just as mobility needs and preferences change, so should the plans and infrastructure we provide.

↓

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Ben on the 2012 Little Bear Fire in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Photo Credit: Kari Greer

FROM PULASKI TO PLANNING

Transitioning from response to resilience in the wildland-urban interface.

By Benjamin Yellin, MCP *Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire; wildland firefighter 7 years on Hotshot, Helitack and engine crews for the US Forest Service and National Park Service*

As a former wildland firefighter, the experiences of suppressing fire in the wildland-urban interface motivated Ben to obtain an education and career in planning. An understanding of wildland fire behavior and suppression tactics greatly impacted his planning career and he believes are increasingly important for the Colorado planner to comprehend.

As a former wildland fire fighter for the U.S Forest Service and National Park Service, I was called to many wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires across the country, including some of the largest wildfires in Arizona, New Mexico, and Washington State history. One of my most memorable fires was the 2012 Little Bear fire in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Initially contained to a small area by local units, winds carried embers across containment lines, igniting spot fires and eventually growing to 44,000 acres. When my crew arrived, we immediately found ourselves fighting wildland fire in an urban environment. Not equipped to suppress structure fire, my crew concentrated on building fire line and preventing the transition of wildfire to the structures. Despite enormous suppression efforts, 242 structures were destroyed, many of which burned in the first 24 hours.

While not realizing it at the time, my experience on the Little Bear Fire was a catalyst for me to becoming a planner. As a young fireman for the federal government, our training did not focus on community resilience or mitigation, and for the first time on that fire, I started to think critically about what could and should be done to assist fireman in saving homes and prevent these disasters in the first place.

When I finally made the decision to attend the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Colorado Denver in 2014, I had reservations on how effective my fire experiences and knowledge would be in the planning field. In school, I predictably focused on resiliency planning topics, providing myself with a larger background in natural hazards mitigation, but my desire to focus on wildfire issues remained. I was fortunate enough to find Molly



Above: A Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire Site Visit in Huerfano County, Colorado. Photo Credit: Molly Mowery

Mowery, Owner of Wildfire Planning International (WPI), to serve as an advisor early in my graduate career. WPI was engaged in a national wildfire planning program, Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW). Through my capstone project, I focused on developing a set of CPAW recommendations to the City

of Chelan, Washington, who had just recently experienced devastating effects from the Chelan Complex Fire. This experience solidified my desire to help create wildfire resilient communities and provided an opportunity to utilize my previous skill set.

Reflecting on my career as a planner, the knowledge and experience I gained as a fireman has been incredibly valuable, including the limitations of suppression capabilities. Communities will always need a well-prepared fire department, but in extreme wildfire conditions, even the most equipped departments can quickly be overwhelmed. In this era of extreme fire events, Colorado communities continue to expand into WUI areas to accommodate the state's growing population. Careful planning, proper land use, and informed building decisions in these areas are the most effective actions communities can take to mitigate against wildfire impacts. Colorado's planning professionals have an opportunity to create wildfire resilient communities by familiarizing themselves with the basics of wildfire behavior and implementing mitigation tactics to properly prepare our communities in a fire prone environment.

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OPTIMISM & A NEW CAREER

By Ben Anderson, Planner - City of Aspen

Yesterday, I received a thank you note from two middle school students who had contacted me to talk about a class project. I met with them this past fall to talk about their ideas in making Aspen more bicycle and pedestrian friendly toward improved environmental sustainability. It was a great conversation. They were very prepared with thoughtful questions. I left the meeting with a lot of optimism. They left the meeting with an understanding of NACTO and Complete Streets, and were impressed with the possibilities offered by streetmix.net.

I have been working as a Planner I within the City of Aspen's Community Development Department for just over 18 months now. For those of you with experience as municipal planners, what this means is clear. I know just enough to be dangerous, but the struggle is real in keeping up with the fluency of my more senior colleagues in applying a complex code to even more complex land use issues. Slowly, slowly, I am becoming more confident in the nuances of development review.

This position in Aspen is my first

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planning job after a long career as a high school social studies teacher. The pull to land use planning started with an experience as a P&Z commissioner and as a member of a citizen's advisory committee for a regional plan. As is all too common, even though I still enjoyed teaching world history to 17 year olds, the whole of the teaching profession was becoming less fun for me. I knew if I stayed on any longer, I would increasingly become the grumpy old guy that we all suffered through at some point in our education. To avoid this fate, I chose the only sensible path. At age 42, I quit my job, enrolled in a Master's in Planning program located a four hour drive away

from my wife and our house, and began life as a student with peers, many of whom were half my age. Three years later, I find myself still happily married, living in a lovely mountain town, surrounded by supportive and fun colleagues, but often feeling totally insecure in this new career.

Sometimes, as I am drafting notices of approval for administrative reviews, or checking to make sure that a project is compliant with our setback requirements, I question whether or not I made the right choice. Am I making as much of an impact now, in this role, as I was in guiding teenagers through questions of philosophy or civics? I don't know if I have yet landed on a complete answer to this question, but the meeting with the middle school students offered a reminder that might be helpful to us all in the planning profession. In the thank you note, the last lines said, "Thanks for all of the information. We plan to use it to re-plan the streets of Aspen." These kids' optimism that good planning makes our communities better is probably what first lured most of us down this path.

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COLORADOMESA.EDU/ENERGY/SYMPOSIUM

TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN ROADWAY:

The Adventures of Transportation Planner and Multimodal Man

By Matthew Downey, EIT - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig

Look! Out on the street! And in a car, on a bus, on a train, on a bike and in a crosswalk... It's Transportation Planner!

Join the adventures of Transportation Planner and her trusty sidekick, Multimodal Man, as they clean up the City of Metropolis by helping craft policies and plan infrastructure improvements that provide safe & convenient travel choices. Learn how you too can become a superhero and save the city from certain disaster! Or at least provide a really good plan to create a comprehensive, safe, and efficient transportation network.



Metropolis was in crisis again, but Superman couldn't help this time. The local transportation system was a wreck; roads were snarled with traffic, bicyclists feared for their lives, and buses were never on time. Patience was running thin, and simmering frustration threatened to boil over into outright chaos. Sounds like



a job for Transportation Planner! Faster than a speeding bullet train, more powerful than Spandex, and able to clear traffic jams with a single plan, Transportation Planner uses her incredible powers of predicting future travel patterns, integrating competing modes, and engaging the public to enhance mobility and invigorate communities.

While other superheroes ward off galactic invasions, Transportation Planner focuses on helping communities craft policies and plan infrastructure improvements that provide safe & convenient travel choices. Why bother saving a planet where citizens can't get where they want to go? From proposing bike lanes to developing local transit branding, the strategies Transportation Planner utilizes in her battle against congestion are endlessly diverse. A single day of work might find The Transportation Planner modeling future traffic



Above: <http://www.maia-institute.org/intelligent-multimodal-mobility/>

patterns, assessing conditions for bicyclists with a field visit, or interacting with the public at an open house. No mundane office routines for The Transportation Planner!

Like every great superhero, Transportation Planner has a sidekick to keep her relevant. Multimodal Man recognizes that when it comes to transportation, driving cannot be the sole focus. Different modes are appropriate in different situations and for different people; context and choice are key. Multimodal Man spends his days figuring out how to best integrate roadway, transit, and active use facilities into a seamless, comprehensive network that accommodates all. Recently added to the modal menu are autonomous vehicles, a game-changing newcomer of which Multimodal Man is just beginning to explore the potential ramifications.

Transportation Planner does not have the luxury of conforming to the cliché of a superhero disengaged from public life. Opinions are often strong and divergent regarding transportation, so she must make

frequent use of public engagement techniques to explain proposed changes to the status quo and build consensus. With public meetings, Transportation Planner has an avenue for sharing the work she is passionate about and directly engaging with interested citizens. Realizing that some are unwilling to go out of their way to participate, Transportation Planner also utilizes online tools such as interactive digital maps and social media to provide more convenient opportunities for staying informed and providing input.

Things are looking up in Metropolis. Transportation Planner and Multimodal Man have been channeling their superpowers to bring relief to the strangled transportation system. Meaningful public engagement and careful consideration for all modes have led to a series of recommendations to get everyone moving again. Superman can't do that, but you can! Transportation planning is an exciting, multi-faceted career, and though it might not involve capes and sidekicks, it does have a lasting positive impact on communities and is every bit as super as crimefighting!



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THREE QUESTIONS FOR THREE PLANNERS

By Mark Williams - City of Durango

(Well, One is a Historian)

Kevin Hall, Durango Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development

Where did study planning and what was your first job?

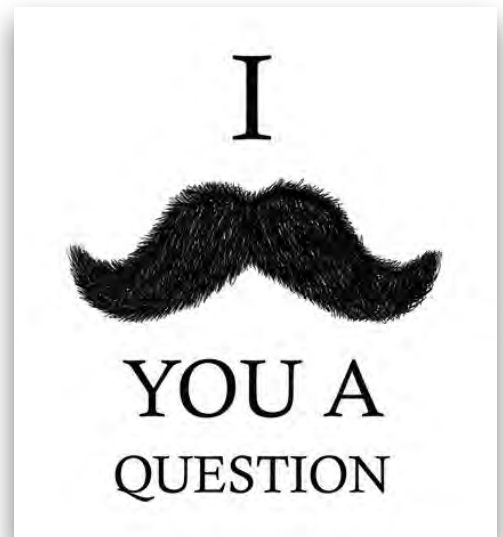
Earned my Masters of Urban Planning from University of Wisconsin. My 1st job was as an economic development planner (6 years) working for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

How has planning changed since you first started in the field?

While the basic tenants of good planning have not changed drastically since first entering the field, innovative planning strategies and new technologies have really raised the bar in the profession. Smart growth strategies, new urbanism (old urbanism), and the redevelopment of urban centers and past-their-prime industrial districts have been a real game changer for communities throughout the country. The planning field, in general, is becoming much more sophisticated and creative. The tools available to planners today provide so many more opportunities than were available in the past.

What advice do you have for young professionals getting started in the field?

Stay abreast of the evolving profession and don't be afraid to try out of the box solutions; strive for excellence in all you do.



Reid Ross— Affordable Housing Developer, Developer for Durango Housing, retired

Where did study planning and what was your first job?

University of Chicago, Masters of Planning in the 1950's. Back then there were only four schools with planning programs—Chicago, MIT, Harvard and I believe UCLA. My first job was in Providence, Rhode Island in 1955. The Federal Housing Act of 1949 created urban renewal programs and a lot of grant money for hiring. In Wisconsin I ran a loan program for rehabilitation of houses for people with low incomes at 80% AMI.

You hired many planners in your 30+ years as director—what qualities did you look for most in people?

Housing is about numbers, so I needed people who knew how to determine eligibility income, people with financial skills in general.

What advice do you have for young professionals getting started in the field?

They should have the Patience of Job. Also, to the extent possible that you can, establish some kind of relationship with the city leaders because you will be better off laying the groundwork for implementing plans. I have seen so many plans sit on a shelf and collect dust forever.



Heather Bailey, PhD

Where did you study and what was your first job?

Grad school at Middle Tennessee State in their public history public. My first job was a state and national register historian for Colorado’s Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. (Only the Feds drop the ‘a’, as in archeology, to save resources during World War II, as legend has it (laughs)).

You moved into planning from a different field. What skills did you find were the most transferable?

I came from preservation planning, a specialized field where we reviewed plans to make sure they met Federal standards. I am used to reviewing plans, based on regulations, which is transferable. What is different is that I do a lot less creative writing because I did a lot of stories, as in compelling stories for register nominations. Staff reports are more legalistic and making a case and less about telling a compelling story.

Planners vs. Historians – who wins?

Planners win in the short term, but historians will win in the long run because they control the story.

SO, I HEAR YOU'VE JOINED THE DARK SIDE

By Wesley Dismore, Traffic and Transportation E.I.T., Stantec

It was true- I recently left my position in municipal government to try my hand in the private sector. I gave up a comfortable routine where I knew all the rules, lured by the potential to work on a wider variety of more exciting projects. But the public sector gave me my first job in this industry, and I didn’t really know what was waiting for me on the other side.

It turns out that everything is different, but everything’s still the same.

My average day in the office bears no resemblance to my old life. Now I create new plans and write new reports, rather than mostly reviewing work other people have done. I don’t speak for a city anymore, so my heart doesn’t jump into my throat when I see a contractor doing something dangerous in rush hour traffic. I

feel the familiar joy of making it to Friday afternoon, but also the new and horrifying realization that I have no idea what to put on my timesheet this week.

Some days I miss the feeling of belonging to somewhere, of ownership over a particular piece of ground, and the struggle to improve it any way you can. Consultants are nomadic: we follow the clients, we call no place our own, and we’re always be on the

hunt for more work. I’m still developing some of those instincts. In the public sector, work just piles up on your desk faster than you can do it. As a consultant, I’m learning that if you aren’t marketing while you’re busy you won’t be busy for long.

Life in consulting is definitely different, but this is still the same industry, the same characters, and even the same bad jokes. We’re here to deliver projects, and that still means concrete and asphalt on the ground. And so far, I’ve found myself relying on many of the same skills: technical skills, sure, but interpersonal skills are just as important when dealing with a stubborn client as they were for corralling a wayward consultant. And that makes sense- I didn’t realize until I made the switch, but tons of people have gone from one side to the other, and often back again. I still have more

in common with an engineer in the public sector than with just about anybody else on Earth (like planners, for example).

I’m not sure yet whether I really belong in the private or public sector, and I probably won’t know for a long time. But I’ll never regret giving it a shot. After all, now I know the full power of the dark side.





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The San Miguel County Building and Planning Department will be anticipating an upcoming retirement and seeking a Senior Planner for our county.

San Miguel County, CO (pop. 7,800) A dynamic, resort community with beautiful mountains, ranch lands, and high desert areas. Located in Western Colorado, the built and planning environments includes large, high-end residences, commercial properties, and western ranches. Also, the world class Telluride Ski Resort is located here. Residents enjoy excellent schools, high quality municipal services, and access to extensive public lands. Easily accessible outdoor activities include hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, skiing (both nordic and alpine), snow shoeing, and four-wheel driving. Numerous festivals and social activities are also available.

The Senior Planner will lead, oversee, and participate in the more complex and difficult work of staff responsible for a variety of professional level advance planning duties including acquisition and dissemination of information regarding County demographics, zoning and planning activities, land-use codes, special conservation easements, and master plan administration. An ideal candidate will be expected to have a Bachelor’s degree in Land Use Planning, Engineering, or a related field with coursework in planning along with a minimum of seven years of related experience. Certification required from American Institute of Community Planning. The Senior Planner reports to the Director of Planning and Building and supervises an Associate Planner, Planning Technician, and Plan & Building Site Inspector.



If you are interested in this upcoming vacancy, please contact: Mike Rozycki, Director
SMC Building and Planning Department miker@sanmiuguelcountyco.gov



OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

The Planner's Role and Educational Opportunities

By Glenn Hartmann, Principal Planner - Garfield County
Kirby Wynn, Oil & Gas Liaison- Garfield County

Oil and gas development is a reality across Colorado and offers opportunities for planners to be an important part of the development review process. While each jurisdiction's regulations will set the baseline for process and regulatory authority, common threads are worth noting regarding how planners can prepare for dealing with this interesting and often challenging land use.



One of the primary actions planners can take is to learn as much as possible about the oil and gas industry as it relates to land use. Obtaining education regarding oil and gas operations helps planners significantly as they address land use change permitting for this technically complex industry. Some of the education and information resources available to planners statewide include: energy symposiums or conferences, citizen advisory boards, private consulting firm reports, private consulting firm staff (industry professionals are a great educational resource), local and state referral agencies; university

faculty and researcher assistants, local oil and gas liaisons, and other dedicated municipal or county oil and gas staff.

Accessing a variety of information resources and being prepared to ask the tough questions of a particular expert or an applicant is essential to navigating oil and gas permit applications. The willingness of industry representatives and others, including academic professionals, to dig a bit deeper for meaningful answers and explanations has been our experience in a wide range of development reviews. Every planner in our office has worked on oil and gas applications and the combined institutional knowledge is a huge benefit both for the reviewing planner and our applicants.

Garfield County Community Development proactively engages oil and gas operators via periodic meetings to discuss shorter and longer-term development plans and county permit regulations. We have found this effort goes a long way toward keeping planning staff well versed in the workings of this rapidly evolving industry and helps operators submit higher quality permit applications that





views on energy and climate issues, a field trip to an active drilling and fracking site, air quality impacts of oil and gas extraction and production, and executive director updates from COGCC, DOLA, CDPHE, APCD, and DNR. Several full scholarships are available for local governments. For additional information, Garfield County's Oil & Gas Liaison, Kirby Wynn may be contacted at 970-625-5905 or kwynn@garfield-county.com or visit the [Energy & Environment Symposium](#) website

In summary, we strongly recommend planners proactively provide oil and gas operators with information on navigating your processes and dive into learning details of oil and gas operations by taking advantage of educational resources and expertise. This knowledge will make you a more effective and marketable planner not only regarding oil and gas permitting, but will develop research skills that are very transferable to other types of applications and reviews. What better way to demonstrate your planning skills than including on your resume work in a challenging and complex field such as oil and gas permitting and regulation. We look forward to seeing you at the Symposium in Rifle this April!

require less effort for our planners to navigate through the review process. Additionally, Garfield County produces an online [Oil and Gas Navigation Guide](#) to provide applicants with information they need to navigate applicable regulations.

One of the best oil and gas educational resources for local government planners is the annual [Energy & Environment Symposium](#) which this year Garfield County and Colorado Mesa University will host April 18-19 in Rifle, Colo. This event is tailored to the needs of planners and local officials tasked with navigating planning, social, fiscal, legal, and environmental issues related to oil and gas development.

Oil and gas topics at the Energy & Environment Symposium include: Best mitigation practices local governments may require to minimize nuisance impacts, county and state mineral revenue projections, legal landscape for local versus state control of oil and gas, regulatory controls at state and local levels, anatomy of citizen activism, Pew Research Center analysis of public



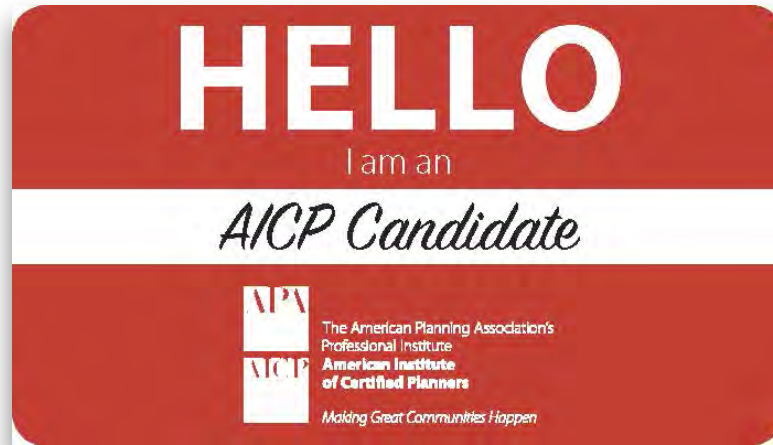
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<http://www.apacolorado.org/article/6th-annual-energy-environment-symposium>

AICP CANDIDATE PROGRAM



A Jumpstart to Your AICP Planning Career

By: Felicia Braunstein, APA Director of Professional Practice

If you are in or have recently graduated from a program accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB), you can join the AICP Candidate Pilot Program, starting in November 2017.

The new AICP Candidate Pilot Program provides a path to start the process to earn the prestigious AICP Certification earlier. Join the program and sit for the AICP Certification Exam after you graduate, when you're still in the test-taking mindset. The criteria to become AICP remain the same, but the order of the steps changes. Exam First - Professional Experience Second.

After passing the Certification Exam, participants can use

the "AICP Candidate" designation on their resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and anywhere else. While in the program, participants will have the opportunity to be paired with an AICP mentor. Matches are based on geography and areas of interest in planning, and mentors provide career guidance and advice throughout the duration of the program.

Once you've earned your requisite professional planning experience, you'll complete the certification process and earn the full AICP credential.

The program spreads out the costs associated with becoming AICP. Enrolling in

the program is only \$20, followed by a \$100 exam fee. Pay the remaining fees after you earn your professional planning experience. You may even be able to get your employer to pay for some or all of it! (*Note: Total costs are the same as the traditional route to AICP.*)

Enrollment is now open!

If you're a graduate, you can register for the May 2018 exam in December 2017.

The AICP Candidate Pilot Program webpage provides additional details, including timelines for you to see how the program can work best for you.

NEVER BE SCARED TO "DABBLE"

By Kara Swanson, Environmental Manager - David Evans and Associates Inc.



At a small party recently, I found myself in the following discussion:

Me: "What do you do for a living?"

Other person: "I'm a pediatrician. What do you do?"

Me: "Oh that's great! I'm an environmental planner".

Other person: "What does that mean?"

I don't know about you, but conversations like this are pretty frequent for me when the topic of careers arises. I find myself having to explain in detail what "environmental planning" is... or my version of it. I started to realize that this was kind of a unique opportunity though; what does my job mean to me? What does it actually entail? And the bigger question, how did I even get here? I work as a consultant in the world of engineering. Most people (engineers) have had a pretty straight career trajectory. When they tell someone their profession, it doesn't leave much to question.

It turns out for me, being an environmental planner means I'm a dabbler. My career is never one I expected to have; the 22-year old version of me with an environmental science degree thought I'd be in overalls and tromping around wetlands all day, every day. Turns out my extroverted self didn't really enjoy being alone (save for angry red-wing blackbirds). Politics spurred me into getting a master's degree in environmental policy; I was determined to move to D.C. and fight the good fight at a non-profit. Somehow

I ended up in Colorado, working for a corporation navigating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on transportation projects. It was yet another 90 degree turn in my career trajectory. I knew nothing about transportation, and had taken one class on NEPA, but was given the "sink or swim" indoctrination into roadway and transit projects. It was at this point I started to realize that while technical skills are great, the ability to communicate and see the bigger picture can help you immensely in the world of transportation engineering (or any industry).

The relationships I built at that company lead me to drag my family kicking and screaming (ha) to Hawaii for two years to take on a new role - environmental compliance during construction. Again, something

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totally new and somewhat uncomfortable. The best advice I've heard is that you should always be pushed a little outside your comfort zone- always be a little scared. It's pushed me to take risks and to step up and try and learn more. Now that I'm back in Colorado and at a new company, I've finally become comfortable in my role as a "dabbler". Knowing who to ask for technical expertise is part of the job; I will never know everything that fits under the massive umbrella of environmental, nor do I want to. So many

other environmental planners I've talked to have similar stories- they started in hazardous materials or wildlife or some other specialty and found themselves in an industry they never expected to be in, let alone be passionate about. For me, that is transportation and the environmental work that accompanies it. For others, it's working for a regulatory agency, oil and gas, or mining. Unlike some professions that can define you, I think to think of environmental planning as one that you define and make your own.

PLANNER TO MANAGER

A Next Step in a Planner's Career?

By Russ Forrest, AICP - Manager for the City of Gunnison



Are you a planning/community development director that has considered becoming a City/County manager?

Is this simply a logical professional next step or a bridge too far?

No one else can answer this question for you but for me it has been a very fulfilling next step in my career that has built upon my skill set as a planner. I think I am also a better planner for being a City Manager. I have found that planners have many of the critical skill sets to be good managers such as: thinking about the big picture while also able to focus on the details, thinking holistically, leading public conversations, and respecting community values while also being advocates for responsible change. We also find ourselves as planners facilitating complex conversations with many different types of stakeholders in our community and also with different departments. Its often the planner that is attempting to navigate win/win solutions which require a high level of understanding of an applicant's goals and other Departmental policies and practices. As a manager I have enjoyed refining my planning skills by working closely with public works and transportation departments that are often operationalizing our plans in that they plow snow, drive heavy equipment, operate bus systems, and maintain the infrastructure that we help

envision. Working closely with public safety and understanding a police officer's perspective on transportation conflicts can be invaluable in finding workable solutions in creating safe downtowns.

If you enjoy leadership, creating future vision with community leaders, and then implementation results to achieve that vision - being a manager may be for you. However, it comes with both its risk and rewards. Where do you start if you are interested in taking the next step? First, talk to your manager and express interest in working on cross departmental projects or working on an interesting organizational management/leadership issue. Pursue opportunities to learn about and practice leadership and management (they are two different but related areas of knowledge). Volunteer to lead interdepartmental projects. Also the **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)** and the **Colorado City County Management Association (CCCMA)** both have inexpensive membership options for emerging leaders and department directors. As a manager you have the opportunity to foster an environment of excellence for an entire organization and help both individual team member and departments realize their full potential. Your days are diverse, challenging, sometimes frustrating, and also incredibly rewarding.

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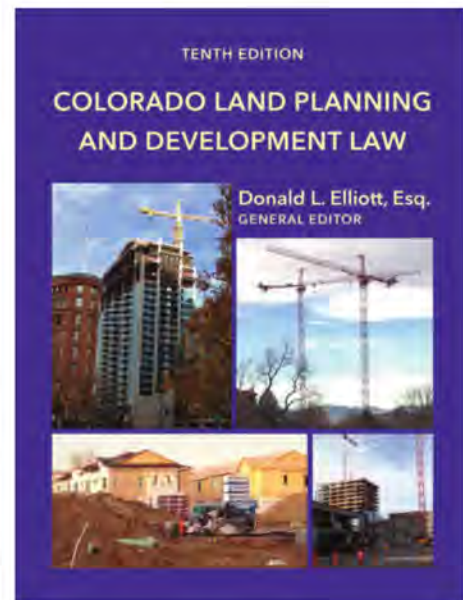
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BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Chapter Administrator Update

by: Shelia Booth, AICP

The APA Colorado Board held its first ever Town Hall meeting on February 9th in Denver. It was great seeing new faces and having an honest dialouge with those who took their time to come have lunch with us. Not only did the Board review the 2017 Annual Report, but they sought



input on topics of interest, Chapter involvement in issues and other items. It's not too late to share your thoughts and concerns. Email me or the Michelle Stephens, Chapter President with your ideas, thoughts, concerns and critixims. We can only do better if we know what the problems are.

Our next big endeavor will be the Chapter Membership Survey heading to your inbox later this month. We had hoped to get it to you in December but things don't always go as planned. Although we all dread surveys, this one is really important. We need your input to help us guide our Chapter over the next few years. We need to know what types of events and educational offereing you're interestd

in. We want to know how you like to hear from us - email, website, social media. We also need to know what more we can do for you. This is your organization, so we want to ensure we are doing what is best for its members.

Planning has started on the 2018 conference in Keyston, Colorado. This year's committee is very excited to bring you to their neck of the woods and showcase thier home towns. The Call for Sessions is out and closes March 2nd. Be sure to submit yours and include those things that will make you stand out from the crowd. Bring in an allied professional or a citizen with a passion. Submit and ethics session. If you're funny and passionate about something, consider a Fast & Funny submission. There are many ways for you to participate this year.

Lastly, consider running for office this year. We have four positions open and are always looking for members who want to be more involved and help guide this Chapter. Term limits are two years and board meetings can be attended in person or via video conference. Think about it. Do it!

Sincerely,

Shelia Booth, AICP

Legislative Committee Update

by: Eric Heil, AICP, Esq. and Susan Wood, AICP - Committee Co-Chairs

The APA CO Legislative Committee entered the "busy season" on January 10th with the beginning of the 2018 Legislative Session. During the



course of the session, which will continue through May 9th, hundreds of bills will be introduced. The Legislative Committee, assisted by Sol Malick (Peak Government Affairs), our Legislative Liaison will review those bills that are relative to planners and planning. These bills will be reviewed for consistency with APA policies; principles of good planning; and the APA CO Legislative Agenda. This Agenda is based on the results of a membership survey that was sent to get feedback on the issues considered by members to be the most important ones facing planners in 2018.

From the more than 250 responses received, two issues, Affordable Housing (#1) and Transportation (#2) were clear top choices, with Water Conservation (#3) and Regional Cooperative Planning (#4) following behind. These issues are included in a draft Legislative Agenda that will be submitted to the APA CO Board for approval in early February. A 5th item, Climate Change, is also recommended for inclusion this year due to the high number of respondents that ranked it #1. Following approval by the APA CO Board, the Agenda will be posted on the APA CO website under Legislative Updates where

information on legislation, committee meetings, and other pertinent legislative data is posted.

During the Legislative Session, the Committee meets from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on a bi-weekly basis primarily by conference call. Our first meeting of the 2018 session was held on Thursday, January 25th and the second meeting is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, February 8th, at 6:00 PM. This year, the Committee is still considering meeting dates so that a day that will work for the most committee members is selected. Please check the APA CO website for posted meeting dates and times.

Scheduled during this session is the Annual Planners Day on the Hill, which is an event for members that provides an overview of the 2018 Legislative Session; the Legislative process; the current political landscape

in Colorado; and legislation proposed or anticipated. It is typically held near the Capitol and includes a tour of the Capitol and an opportunity to meet with legislators to provide them with the planning perspective and be the voice of APA CO on the hill. Lunch is included, and CM credit is offered. Mark your calendars now for April 5th. There will be more details to come.

We encourage and solicit participation in the Legislative Committee from membership statewide so that we have a representative and unified voice at the Capitol. If you would like to participate in the Committee and/or get APA Colorado Legislative Committee updates to find out the status of legislation during the 2018 Legislative Session, please send an email to the address below and ask to be put on the APA CO Legislative List Serve.



We appreciate your interest and invite your participation!

Contact:

Legislative@apacolorado.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Next Legislative Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 22nd, 6:00 PM (check APA CO website to confirm)
- Planners Day on the Hill: Thursday, April 5th, (details available soon)

Professional Development Committee Update

by: Allison Crump, AICP - Professional Development Officer & Committee



We will be holding our first AICP Exam Prep Session on March 17th. Look for more information on the chapter website. Best of luck to all May 2018 exam takers! The exam was updated in May 2017 - The update maintains the basic core knowledge structure of previous exams, but places greater emphasis on emerging trends and current practices.

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) will be beginning

reviewing all the conference session submittals in March. We hope to find an interesting and diverse selection of sessions that align with the conference theme - "Defining the Keystone of Planning" What do you think the keystone should be. Share your stories and submit before the window closes.



that participate in the Planning Webcast series. As part of our participation, we are required to provide two webinars each year. We need willing participants who are interested in sharing their story and reaching a nationwide audience. Start

thinking today about this opportunity.

IN closing, if you have ideas for trainings or educational events, feel free to reach out.

We are always

looking to provide more educational and CM opportunities for our membership. Additionally, throughout the year, APA has offered dozens of CM credits for various planning events throughout the state. Thank you to Shelia, Scott Bressler, and Summer Frederick for the help in making these possible. Keep up the good work and feel free to reach out if you have an event that you feel would qualify for CM credits.

Allison Crump, AICP
Professional Development Officer
PDO@APAColorado.org



Sustainability Committee Update

by: Conor Merrigan, Committee Chair



The APA CO Sustainability Committee had our strategic planning

meeting in January and identified preliminary and potential topics for quarterly events throughout the upcoming year. We will be focusing on Sustainability in Comprehensive Plans in Q1, a Mobility topic in Q2, and then choosing from a number of other topics we're monitoring for Q3 and Q4 including green roofs, water planning, wetlands issues, the state of sustainability in the region, and climate planning. The committee is continuing to build partnerships, including working with ASCE, the EPA, student groups, APA branches,

and others to co-brand and support each other's efforts and encourages all members to sign up to receive notifications at a minimum and participate on the committee as time and interest allow. Please see the Sustainability Committee page on the APA CO website for more information.

Sincerely,

Conor Merrigan

Healthy Communities Committee Update

by: Michele Scanze, Committee Chair

The Healthy Communities Committee is continuing to meet on a monthly basis (last Friday of the month), and meets both in person in Denver, with a call-in option. The Committee has finalized their Committee Bylaws and developed content for the Healthy Communities webpage. The Committee has identified priority projects, and is currently creating an inventory of healthy community resources for

Colorado. This list will include healthy community funding opportunities, other collaborations and tools that might benefit those Colorado planners (and other professionals) who are looking to get engaged in this work. The Healthy Communities Committee is interested in working with the Plan4Health Task Force, especially with helping the Task Force host a symposium in the Spring. The Healthy Communities



Committee will begin planning 2018 social hours, which may include guest speakers or panels.

join a committee!!

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For information on any of these, contact:

Info@apacolorado.org

<http://www.apacolorado.org/committee-home>

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