



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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**December 8, 2023**

**Google Meet  
9:00 - 9:30 AM**

Attendance: Maureen Paz de Araujo, Joni Marsh, Erin Fosdick, Shaida Libhart, Josh Olhava, Alex Bergeron, Julia Puester, Susan Wood, Emily Pasi, Shelia Booth

1. Opening Remarks - Maureen Paz de Araujo, President
2. Targeted campaign for housing and zoning reform - Shaida Libhart and Emily Pasi
  - a. Emily Pasi, Senior Public Affairs Manager at APA National, told the Executive Committee she wants to partner with APA Colorado in early 2024 to extend and build upon the voice of planners and influence the profession through the “It Takes A Planner” initiative. This would provide message training and education to planners through flyers and activation events.
  - b. APA Colorado would be involved in the activation event side of things including hosting one of three events in Colorado, tying that event to the work that the Legislative Committee is doing. The goal would be to raise awareness with legislators and policymakers about what planners do. APA National would be the decision makers and cover all of the costs but would look to the chapter as a resource.
  - c. Shaida added that she wants to make sure the chapter is on board with the housing reform initiative. Alex said that overall this sounds good, but would look to have specific details on what this looks like.
  - d. Emily responded that she would start planning soon with a small group from Colorado and a media partner. The media partner would make sure we’re getting to the right audience to put planners and policymakers on the same stage at the same time. There would be training and education to planners so they can confidently speak to policymakers.
  - e. Erin mentioned this would be a good opportunity to elevate the Legislative Committee’s work, making sure it’s valuable to all members, including local government workers who can have a hard time balancing their planning opinions and town/Board opinions. Additionally, she asked if CM would be incorporated.
  - f. Josh added that we have heard from communities across the state that there is a separation between what the state is trying to do, and what local areas are trying to do.
  - g. Emily clarified that the message is pro-housing and pro-reform.
  - h. Shaida added that CML lost almost all of their staff, putting them in an interesting position. We can build relationships with new people and fresh perspectives. Additionally, we are working to get the CML Section Chair

integrated into the Legislative Committee. Overall, it sounds like there is interest and no hard disagreements on the positions that would be taken.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Abbey presented the minutes from the November 17, 2023 Board Meeting.
- b. Alex pointed out there is one typo (Utah and communities instead of committees).

*Discussion: none*

*Josh Olhava moved to approve the budget.*

*Alex Bergeron seconded the motion.*

*Vote: unanimous all in favor.*

4. APA Proposed Bylaw Amendments - Susan Wood

- a. Susan presented the proposed bylaw amendments from APA National. The biggest concerns are that the new bylaws eliminate electoral regions and un-contested candidates. Voter turnout has not been large historically, so whatever gets on the slate would get in. Additionally, these remove the development plan and put nothing in its place. This moves the organization from a member-driven to a staff/executive-level driven organization. The major request we want to propose is to slow down this process, as this is moving quickly.
- b. Shaída added that there is a desire to have a better continuous pipeline of leadership in APA, including under-represented areas and people. But, she is unclear on how these changes would lead to this outcome. The control aspect these amendments would lead to is most concerning.
- c. Alex agreed there seems to be a consolidation of power at the national level. He added that it is also concerning that there are no clear guidelines for the expulsion of a member.
- d. Shelia added that it seems to be getting “clique-y” which narrows the scope of getting in and making a difference if you want to.
- e. Joni added that she attended the webinar, and there were mentions of the same comments, including that it felt unwelcoming.
- f. Susan added that members and the board the members elect should be the driving factor and then the staff moves these things forward.
- g. Abbey is going to send out a proposed letter and once approved, send it to APA National from the chapter.

5. Treasurer Position - Abbey Aguirre

- a. Abbey explained that Josh was willing to sit in both seats, but would like to have someone shadow who is interested in running for the treasurer seat.
- b. Shaída mentioned she would be interested but the Legislative seat also keeps her busy.

6. Award Category Changes for 2024 - Julia Puester, VP External Affairs and Awards Committee Co-Chair, and Daniel Murray, Awards Committee Co-Chair

- a. Julia presented the changes including altering our awards categories to the national awards categories. This is a total of eight categories.
- b. Alex likes the change and mentioned this could potentially make the awards more competitive.
- c. Josh agreed and added there could be ranges within the categories (such as small community vs large community) to provide more balance.
- d. Julia responded that we typically do recognize both, but we could split it up in the application process and add this to the application descriptions.
- e. Maureen agreed that she likes this approach.

*Discussion: none*

*Maureen Paz de Araujo moved to approve the budget.*

*Josh Olhava seconded the motion.*

*Vote: unanimous all in favor.*

## 7. Other Business

- a. Alex mentioned that NPC is in Denver in 2025 and we should get these plans on our radar.
- b. Shaída responded that we would have a booth at NPC 2024 to promote 2025 and to start thinking about what we want to have there .

## 8. Adjourn

*Discussion: none*

*Shaída Libart moved to approve the budget.*

*Alex Bergeron seconded the motion.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.*

## **Future Agenda Items:**

### **Action Items:**

- Abbey to provide an email to ask for collective thoughts on Emily's proposal
- Abbey to send Susan's draft out for feedback
- Abbey to send ask for members interested in Treasurer seat

Emily Pasi

9:17 AM

Additional background on this effort:

<https://planning.org/blog/9267967/it-takes-a-planner-communicating-your-value-to-policymakers/>

Joni Marsh

9:30 AM

That is why we have a section chair at CML- let's get that linked up!

Erin Fosdick

9:32 AM

@Alex, I think this is the type of conversation we would want to have as part of our retreat.

Alex Bergeron

9:32 AM

I agree.

Susan wood

9:58 AM

If you haven't seen it, look at Denver and the West in last Sunday's Post. There is an article on Silverton's planning process/comp plan that really compliments planning and those who led the comp plan process. APA Colorado gave this effort an award in the last cycle. I think this is very cool.

Erin Fosdick

9:59 AM

I have to drop for another call. have a great day everyone.

Josh Olhava

10:03 AM

I have to jump off. Abbey, let's chat offline on the Treasurer next steps for 2024.