



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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My summer vacation involved hiking and kayaking in remote areas of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Stunningly beautiful, and almost completely internet and cell-phone free. I love my technology, and it was odd to be out of touch electronically. It was, however, a reminder of how to see the surrounding environment and communicate with others by something other than a Blackberry! Now it feels like summer is over, the flip-flops are in the closet, and we're back to the full press of meetings, hearings, and events. We were pleased so many of you attended the one-day conference in July. A big round of applause to the impressive session presenters, the Chapter Board members who pulled this off, particularly Shannon Yadsko, and to Catholic University.

There is so much going on at the federal level that may have a direct, and we hope, positive impact on the planning work that we do here in the region. I know many of you are following the upcoming transportation bill reauthorization closely. We're planning a late October chapter event around this topic, so stay tuned. So many of the leaders at key federal agencies are developing projects and programs very much in sync with the kind of work that's been going on locally. And, there seems to be much more emphasis on working across agencies and across topics to address issues: for example, for the first time, HUD, EPA and DOT are looking at housing, transportation and environmental issues together through their Sustainable Communities Initiative. At the local level, we're also seeing great regional collaboration and leadership, from the recent regional transit proposal submitted for TIGER funding to MWCOG's Greater Washington 2050 Initiative.

There's an exciting, receptive atmosphere right now towards transit options, walkable, mixed use, healthy communities, sustainability, affordable housing... all those topics that we care about, but make no mistake, this is just the starting point. Funding and resources are scarce, and while everyone loves the concept of partnerships and working together, it really is work – hard work – to collaborate and find common ground with people that have different interests, and to try new approaches. Having written that sentence, I realize it's pretty much what we planners are supposed to be bringing to the table, and it's what I see chapter members doing around the region every day. The opportunities are there, so let's continue to bring our energy and expertise and provide leadership in the work that we're doing.

Cheers,

Julia

Julia Koster, AICP

UPCOMING NCAC-APA CHAPTER EVENTS

Stay informed about **local** events, Certification Maintenance (**CM**) and **employment** opportunities in the region by visiting the Chapter website at <http://www.ncac-apa.org/index.php>

Did you know? Attending a **CM** event does not automatically register the credits for that session. You must go to <http://www.planning.org/cm/log/> to log your credits after attending a CM event.

National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association

presents

Meet the Directors!

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Café Salsa, 2nd Floor

1712 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Have you ever wondered what a general day is like in the life of your local planning director? Or perhaps thought to ask how their career in planning developed. What about something personal, like how they spend their weekends or what they do in their spare time? If so, take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet and mingle with some of this region's most distinguished planning leaders. Invited guests include:

Harriet Tregoning, District of Columbia, Office of Planning

Marcel Acosta, National Capitol Planning Commission

Dave Robertson, Metropolitan Washington Council of Government

Rose Krasnow, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County

Fern Piret and Al Dobbins, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County

No registration will be required -- Just show up and be prepared to have a delightful evening of good conversation with planning professionals in the Washington area. We'll have plenty of ice breaking activities to help with the flow. Light appetizers will be served, and Happy Hour specials will be provided at the upstairs bar.

For more information about the event, contact Malaika Abernathy at Malaika.abernathy@dc.gov or 202 442-7617.

CAPITAL NEWS

A Publication of the NCAC Chapter of
the American Planning Association

autumn
2009

CONNECT BARRACKS ROW

Connect Barracks Row: A Future Vision for a Washington, DC Community

By Alex Chen

In fall 2008, the Graduate Planning Studio of the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of Maryland, College Park embarked on a semester long project to assess the future of Barracks Row, located between Capitol Hill and the "Riverfront District." With support from the Barracks Row Main Street Association and the DC Office of Planning, a team of twelve graduate planning students engaged in an intensive three month community study including surveys and interviews, a demographic and market analysis, computer simulations, and a community forum.

These efforts resulted in recommendations as to how the area could best respond to the changing neighborhood climate and evolve to help its current residents, businesses and surrounding communities. The recommendations were based on a critical assessment of four different visions or scenarios for the future. Though the scenarios varied, a common theme was that a successful future would be dependent upon renewing the link between Lower Barracks Row and its neighbors and developing strategies that will strengthen the connection between Lower and Upper Barracks Row.

In December 2008 the team made a public presentation of their results to community stakeholders, which summarized four possible scenarios for the area. These scenarios recommended that the "Urban Village" scenario provide a context for future development. This model would create a more seamless transition from Upper to Lower Barracks Row; maintain the historic character of Capitol Hill and the 8th street corridor; provide significantly more housing choices and price points; and include several amenities important for residents and office workers.

A copy of the final report, "Connect Barracks Row: A Future Vision for a Washington, DC Community" is available online at:
<http://www.arch.umd.edu/images/student-work/documents/Connect%20Barracks%20Row%20>

Connect Barracks Row:

A Future Vision for a Washington, DC
Community

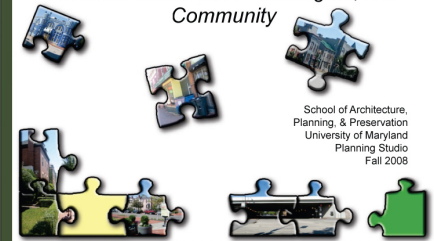


Figure 11: Simulation of the Urban Village scenario



Did you know you can receive **free** sample copies of printed planning publications such as **JAPA, PEL, The Commissioner, or Zoning Practice?**

Find out more at www.planning.org/publications/

32 Credits

If you are a member of **AICP**, you need to log 32 credits **by the end of 2009** to maintain your certification. For a calendar of DC-area CM events, visit <http://www.ncac-apa.org/education.php>.

SUCCESSFUL CM CONFERENCE

NCAC Hosts Successful One Day CM Conference

On July 18, 2009, NCAC held one of its first one day conferences at The Catholic University of America. This event – co-sponsored by the School of Architecture and Planning – brought CM opportunities to capital area planners who were unable to attend the national conference in Minneapolis. The one-day conference took in over 160 registrants and was organized similarly to the National Conference. Two conference tracks were offered and attendees had their choice between sessions, earning up to seven CM credits.

Common requests for credits have been ethics and law and the NCAC provided both. More than half of those who registered attended an adaptation of the Delaware Chapter/ APA's ethics screenplay. Through interactive role play, Sharon Suarez, AICP, led the discussion and ultimate debate of the role of ethics in our profession and attendees learned what AICP adds to the profession and how it differs from other professional licenses (AIA, PE, RLA).

The CM event was well-received by NCAC and other nearby APA chapter members. The most popular sessions were Rollin Stanley's lunch keynote address, "Design in the Suburbs," and Susan Spain and Shane Dettman's session on "Planning for the

National Mall and Monumental Core." Other topics included "Adaptive Reuse in Lorton," "Green Infrastructure and Green Zoning," the "Anacostia Waterfront Initiative," and comprehensive zoning revisions. Feedback from all sessions was very positive—one attendee commented, "The National Capital Area Chapter did a great job in arranging this all day program of presentations on a variety of topics, all very useful in providing stimulating information on some current activities and trends."

Most participants stayed for all five sessions to earn seven CM credits, including the mandatory ethics and law credits. One participant later said, "Offering affordable sessions for those mandatory credits that are hard to find does a wonderful service for NCAC-APA members."

Nearly all surveyed participants would attend another conference like this in the future. NCAC-APA board members envision two CM conferences per year, in the spring and fall. The Board is currently planning one other fall event: AICP examination training on October 17, 2009, at Catholic University, co-sponsored with the Maryland APA chapter and the Master of City and Regional Planning Program.



SUCCESSFUL CM

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For more CM credit opportunities, check out <http://www.ncac-apa.org/education.php>. NCAC-APA keeps this site updated with free and low-cost CM opportunities in the area. Also, don't forget to log your CM credits at <http://www.planning.org/cm/log/>.

-Shannon Yadsco, AICP
-Renée M. Miller, AICP

NCAC-APA THANKS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

NCAC APA would like to express its sincere thanks to The Catholic University of America Department of Planning for their generous assistance with our One-Day CM event. With approximately 160 attendees, this inaugural event was an outstanding success and it would not have been possible without the efforts of Dr. Hazel Edwards and her staff.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Articles, announcements, letters, and advertising from readers are welcome. Material should be submitted via email, in an MS Word or rich text format. The submittal must include a name and telephone number. Materials submitted may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Submit the newsletter material to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes to APA, Member Services Coordinator, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60603; fax (312) 431-9985; or visit www.planning.org

Send email addresses or corrections to Alan Hachey at alan.hachey@hdrinc.com

CONGRATULATIONS

**to our chapter members who passed
the AICP exam in May!**

Michael Brown
Meg Cederoth
Shane Dettman
Roberto Duke
Erin Grayson
Samantha Hudson
Kurt Andrew Kaiser
David Levy
John Mataya
Elena Romero Paba
Dominic Quattrocchi
Caroline Sanders
Christopher Warren
Derek Winogradoff
Christopher Ziemann