

March 18, 2022

Rhode Island APA Board Meeting

In attendance: Jeff Davis, Krista Moravec, Kellie King, Jillian Finkle, Annette Bourne, Roberta Groch, Ashley Sweet, Jim Riordan, Sarah Ingle, Glenn Modica, Jane Wideman, Maria Mack, Mike DeLuca

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

Glenn Modica made a motion to approve the February 2022 board meeting minutes. Jillian Finkle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2022.

SNEAPA:

There will be a committee meeting the first week of April. Subcommittees have been set up.

Because attendance will have such a large impact on plans and budget, the committee has distributed to assess likely attendance. The group discussed the limitations of the survey service to view only 40 responses. Ashley will follow up with the other chapter presidents to make sure they have distributed it. Most of the responses indicate a likeliness to attend an in person conference. The other chapters appear to be on the fence about in-person vs. virtual.

Treasurer report:

Checking: approx. \$41,000

Saving: approx. \$4,000

Received two sponsorship checks and one that was damaged and needed to be resent. We are still waiting for two other checks, one from RKG and one from Nelson Nygard. Sarah will follow up with Amy.

Workplan – Roberta, Jeff, and Ashley still need to meet and finish it, though no substantial changes are expected. The documents have been uploaded to the Google Drive and we will vote to approve it at the next meeting.

Awards and Party – Roberta will bring a portable sound system and microphone. Authorize.net and Eventbrite have been set up for registration. Josh will remind the awardees. Roberta will include it in the newsletter and send an email to every planner in the state. We are still waiting to see if Weston & Sampson will sponsor.

Summer Social – the picnic at Colt State Park last year seemed to be successful, and unless other ideas are offered we will likely repeat it for the summer event this year.

Sponsorships – The chapter has long discussed the idea of soliciting annual nonprofit sponsors (as opposed to event sponsorships.) This is something other APA chapters and other professional associations in RI all do successfully. The group discussed the benefits to the

sponsor (links/logos on the website and in weekly newsletter), whether we would have criteria that sponsors align with our values, and how much to charge. Jeff shared the flyer he had emailed out the last time this was discussed and noted that he had received no response – sponsors would need to be actively recruited. Roberta will keep pursuing the idea.

National and Regional (things to note):

- Ashley will be traveling to national leadership events next year.
- Could do a better job coordinating with ASLA, AIA, etc. Will likely pick up after the pandemic.

Treasurer:

- Glenn presented the budget.
- Roberta made a motion to approve the budget. Jillian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Programs - Jillian deferred to the EDI committee as she has been working with them on upcoming programs.

EDI

- Committee met this morning.
- Black History virtual walking tour will be on Monday led by historian Traci Picard. Bob Azar will join to provide modern context.
- There is so much to discuss for Fair Housing Month that the committee might conduct a series of events. The group discussed whether charging for this event was appropriate considering the equity-related content, so the event may be free to APA-RI members only with a fee for any other attendees.
- There is a page for the DEI committee on the website, Annette will send content to Roberta to post.

Membership:

- Renewal reminders have been sent out.
- Kellie will conduct exit interviews with those who do not renew – she would like to use Survey Monkey.
- Kellie has not received updates from National since November, but Glenn receives information about membership when they send him financials. He will forward what he gets from National to Kellie.
- East Providence has renewed for their whole planning board. Lincoln and Providence have indicated they intend to do so. North Smithfield might be a little behind because they only have an assistant planner right now.

Legislative Update

- Jane and Maria provided an overview of the MANY bills that affect our work that are currently being considered, including housing, ADUs, Continuing Education, and others.

- The Legislative Committee will determine which of these are priority for the chapter and what types of testimony is desired for each
- Annette uses a tiered system to track bills – 1) testimony and/or letters, 2) watch and 3) track only.
- They will provide a summary of their plans for the chapter to approve.
- Land Use Commission
  - had presentations from Christine West (KITE architects) and Joe Casali (Casali Engineering.)
  - Will have presentation from Grow Smart RI on 4/12
  - Convinced them to limit presentations to 1 hour to leave 1 hour for Q&A and discussion.
  - At the end of April and into May they will be discussing the environment and climate change. Let Maria know if you have ideas for speakers.
  - There will be a roundtable for planners to discuss the Commission on 4/1 at noon. This is a good opportunity to bring up topics that haven't been discussed by the Commission yet or that need more time/attention.
  - There has been some success in explaining the complexity of issues, as a group we could help the members understand how much time things take, the costs to municipalities, etc.
  - The group also discussed the idea of subcommittees within the Commission.
  - There is a general concern that the presentations have over emphasized the concerns of developers.
  - The extension of the Commission timeline is expected to pass.

#### ADJOURN

- Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by Annette and the meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.