

May 20, 2022

Rhode Island APA Board Meeting

In attendance: Jeff Davis, Kellie King, Jillian Finkle, Roberta Groch, Ashley Sweet, Sarah Ingle, Glenn Modica, Jay Parker, Pat McKenna, Jane Wideman

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM.

Jeff Davis made a motion to approve the March 2022 board meeting minutes. Glenn Modica seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2022. In June we will discuss the schedule of summer meetings.

SNEAPA:

There will be a committee meeting the first Friday of June. Mike DeLuca has the contract with the Convention Center and the contract with the hotel has been signed. Committee members are currently ranking their preferences for keynote speaker through a survey. There is meeting planned for next week to start planning the reception. The Call for Session Proposals will be sent out before the June meeting. The contract with the registration software has been renewed and we should get the bill in June. Further tasks are being split up among the subcommittees.

Treasurer report:

The financials from SNEAPA 2021 have been finalized and checks to the other chapters have been sent – each chapter netted \$9,312. We accurately assessed the income and expenses for the Awards event.

Website fees have turned out to be \$1500 more than we budgeted because it was not understood that the SNEAPA website requires its own fees. The group discussed the current arrangement with the hosting company Brave River, who is known to be very expensive. We currently pay \$2100/year for hosting, and due to the proprietary software used to create the site we are not able to update our home page without their technical assistance, some of which is included in the fee. Other cheaper options exist (Wix, Wordpress) and while we would need to recreate the entire site if we changed companies, it might be worth the savings (a DIY website would cost more like \$250/year.) The contract may be able to be negotiated. Roberta and Jeff will talk to Nate and determine next steps.

Workplan – Ashley sent out the workplan alongside the agenda. Roberta made a motion for the Board to approve the workplan. Jillian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A vote of the full membership is required. Jeff will set up a Survey Monkey survey and send it out in its own email next week.

Summer Social – Jillian shared Sarah's update on planning for a picnic. The group prefers Lincoln Woods for the location with Colt State Park as a second choice. The preference is also

for the event to be free/pot luck with a very small amount of refreshments provided by the chapter. Jillian (and//or Roberta) will communicate this to Sarah.

Programs/Events:

Jillian shared that the May book club meeting was small but successful (Palaces for the People by Eric Klinenberg.) She will be meeting with Sarah and Joelle about the SNEAPA reception and will likely email the group with top choices for feedback.

Sponsorships:

The group expressed an interest in pursuing sponsorships, noting that when it was tried in the past there was only one choice (flat fee of \$500) and that no follow up had been conducted so we cannot assess if there is interest. Jeff reported that Horsley Witten would be interested. Roberta will discuss with her Division Chief whether as a state employee she is permitted to make follow up phone calls for sponsorships. If she receives permission she is willing to do so.

Jeff and Ashley confirmed that Weston & Sampson's sponsorship of the Awards event was received.

EDI

The first Fair Housing Month event was today, there will be two more.

The Grow Smart RI Power of Place Summit will be held on June 21.

There will be an event celebrating Pride Month on June 18.

Edgar Adams will be attending the June meeting of the DEI Committee as a guest discussion leader.

Membership:

- Stacy and Kellie are cleaning up the MailChimp roster. Everyone needs to resubmit their name and email – this task should be completed by next week and an email will be sent out.

Legislative Update

- Jane reported that housing issues are driving the legislation this session. The Land Use commission's work is currently not coordinated with the legislation, which is all being driven by the Speaker (the Commission has not yet sponsored any bills.)
- Substitute bills have been drafted without sponsors' knowledge. For example, the ADU bill did not incorporate their changes/suggestions.
- Overall, the work of the committee is very tiring – they must act defensively and do not have time to be proactive. The group discussed term limits for the position of Legislative Liaison.
- When the session is over we should convene municipal planners for a briefing so they can be more directly involved. Developers/builders are leading the conversations at the state level which represents planners/municipalities unfairly, although there is room for improvement with planning/zoning boards requiring more knowledge and understanding of laws, goals, their roles, etc. Statewide Planning puts together a summary at the end of

the session. Jordan Day from RI League of Cities and Towns is a good resource, we could work with them again on an event like we've done in the past.

Billboards:

Roberta shared with the group a request from Jonathan Stevens/Scenic Roadways that APA-RI sponsor a bill to outlaw billboards (four other states have them, though the last one was passed in 1977.) Ashley shared that only once in its history has APA-RI sponsored a bill, which was related to timelines for subdivision approvals. Also, the issue of advertising in public space is complicated and difficult to achieve and should not be taken on without time to properly research, prepare, and follow through. The group felt that while a good idea, the chapter could not sponsor a bill on billboards as only our second-ever time doing so. However, we would be willing to support the effort in other ways if the Scenic Roadways group sponsored such a bill.

ADJOURN

- Glenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by Jeff and the meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.