

February 18, 2022
APA RI Board Meeting

In attendance: Ashley Sweet, Stacy Wasserman, Glenn Modica, Maria Mack, Jillian Finkle, Annette Bourne, Roberta Groch, Jane Weidman, Patrick McKenna, Sarah Ingle

Brief discussion around SNEAPA, including whether we want to move forward with in-person, and if so, require vaccination and having as much outdoor activity as possible. Will continue discussion at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

\$4,000 in savings, \$40,000 in checking

Recent purchases - \$160 annual subscription for Zoom, \$1254 to maintain AICP credits; upcoming expenditures include award plaques and awards party.

Programs and events

Held January book club - Friday at noon time worked well. Connecting with DEI committee to organize a black history walking tour and hoping to support other programming they are working on. Working with someone local, may do something virtual in short term (February or March) and then in person at a later date.

Starting to plan SNEAPA reception.

Letters of support

Lincoln request to support RI Infrastructure Bank grant application. We will provide this, approved under the motion passed at the last meeting. Grow Smart has also asked for a letter of support to serve as RI's Mainstreet Coordinating Program. Hoping to start with a 3 year pilot - have put in a proposal for \$1M in ARPA funds of which \$300,000 would be for subgrants. Bringing in speakers, training for organizations interested in the mainstreet approach to revitalization.

Roberta made a motion, Glenn seconded, no opposition to providing Grow Smart a letter of support. Motion passed.

DEI Committee

Committee met on Wednesday, February 16th. Full slate of events coming up, including working on a black history tour; potentially a women's history event; Earth Day related event in April; something Pride related in June – consider having a presence or table at existing event. Interest in putting a session together for SNEAPA and potentially a walking tour again with Charrette High School students or another black history tour.

Discussion around "Commitment to Change" letter to be sent to Planning Directors regarding racial justice and equity within planning, and whether we want to send this to planning directors, or put on the website and allow directors to come to the website and sign the pledge. Decided to

proceed by creating a page on the APA RI website for this letter, and then announcing in the newsletter. The EDI Committee will have multiple updates for the EDI webpage and we can do a feature in the newsletter on the new EDI page, which includes the letter. Ashley to follow up via email to the board on next steps.

Membership

Renewal information going out to municipalities next week

Renewal information to expiring members has also gone out

Legislative

Quorum bill passed out of committee; anticipates the education bill will pass (2 year training for board members).

Land Use Commission – Extension submitted today through June 2023; joint meeting with Low Mod Commission on March 1st. Meeting in mid-March to discuss housing development process. Speaker is developing a housing package and staff will ask Commission for top 3 items they want moved forward for legislation- the Chair and Maria said these requests should be simple since the commission has not finished its job yet. Chair is also interested in setting up subcommittees. Discussion around whether Kevin Flynn might be interested in doing some lobbying for APA RI around land use commission issues.

Discussion around whether we should send a form letter to planning directors, for them to adapt to their needs, to address some of the issues with the land use commission.

Meeting adjourned 5:32PM.