

February 16, 2024
APA RI Board Meeting

In attendance: Roberta Groch, Stacy Wasserman, MJ Bull, Jane Weidman, Jillian Finkle, Glenn Modica, Ashley Sweet, Herb Durfee

Meeting called to order at 3:31pm.

November 2023 and January 2024 meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Paid \$1,254 for CM credits
- Have SNEAPA check for the website, but have not received our conference share
- Clarified have \$4500 for the awards party, and will bring in around \$2,300. Anticipate losing money on this event.

Work Plan:

- Roberta reviewed a few updates to Professional Development, Events, Legislative, Elections, SNEAPA, Communications, Memberships, and Affiliate Memberships sections.
- Need a program coordinator
- Ashley Sweet moved to approve the work plan, Herb Durfee seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

RIFMA Conference Sponsorship:

- A request was made for APA RI to sponsor this conference. Consideration was given to the benefit we would receive from this sponsorship, and the board did not feel there would be a real return for this expense.
- Ashley Sweet moved to not sponsor the conference; Herb Durfee seconded; and motion passed unanimously.

Awards:

- Have nominations and will work with the committee to select winners.

SNEAPA Update:

- Turnover at the RI Convention Center. They have changed how they are doing things. They prefer larger conferences. Ours is on the smaller side, and they will only allow us to book 13 months ahead. Roberta and Jay looking at locations in Providence and Newport.

Program Committee/Events:

- Awards event - looking at Moniker Brewery - if it does not rain, can use the side garden for \$200/hour. Can bring in caterer, and \$150 for extra bartender to serve wine. Estimating \$1,200 for food. However, if it rains, we would need to have rented a tent (very expensive) or to convert our rental of the beer garden to a rental of the entire facility which would increase the cost to \$1,500. Can only go with this plan if we agree to have a rain date.

- Concerns with having to pay for a tent, but if we can get a sponsorship to cover potential tent expense, will move forward with that location. Ashley to check with Weston & Sampson on a sponsorship. Looking at April 25, 2024.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Update:

- Event with Compass Working Capital (Dwayne Keys) on February 23.

Membership:

- Added East Greenwich and Woonsocket Planning Boards
- Membership has declined since last year. Other chapters are seeing this too. There has been a change from APA National in how people are notified of membership expirations, so that may be behind the decline in membership.

Legislative Committee:

- Met with the League of Cities and Towns recently. Were interested in the ADU bill.
 - Discussed how in the past there was better coordination between Statewide Planning and bills introduced. In recent years there's been less of the request for assistance in what bills means in terms of state planning policies. Jane asked if Roberta/Statewide Planning could set up informal channels to get some of this information out, but may be difficult.
- Groups working on corrective actions to legislation passed last session, but does not know what the outcome of this will be. Meeting with the Speaker's office regularly.
- Working on the ADU Bill. Putting standards on by-right ADUs and minimum rental timeframes.
- Two bills (affiliated with Narragansett) – changing definition of household, and eliminating floor area ratio from the special provision section of the zoning ordinance.
- Discussing setting up a meet and greet with the Legislature.
- Legislative meeting Tuesday, February 20th.
- March 1st - next planner's roundtable, in person at the Foundry or can attend via zoom.

Announcements

- Next meeting March 15, 2024
- Possible social event – watching a short film at DOA and then heading out for happy hour afterwards. Looking at March 8th.

Meeting adjourned 4:37PM.