

MINUTES
Annual Meeting of
American Planning Association - County Planning Division
and National Association of County Planners
April 29, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Charlie Compton called the Annual Meetings to order at 6:54 a.m. This is the first official Annual Meeting of the APA County Planning Division. Officers and volunteer committee chairs Dennis Sandquist, Robert Hill, Angela Harper, Nicki Van Vonno, Keith Cubic, Mike Harper, Michael Kayes, Joseph Scorcio and NACo Liaison James Davenport were also present.

In accordance with their respective bylaws, the Annual Meetings of both the County Planning Division (CPD) and National Association of County Planners (NACP) are held each year at the APA National Conference. Quorums of each organization were present and duly represented by officers. Twenty eight members in attendance did self-introductions (contact list attached).

Creation of the County Planning Division

Chair Compton recapped the events of the last few years that lead to the formation and approval of the County Planning Division in 2007 at the Philadelphia National Conference. He described final bylaw revisions tied to the relationship between the Division and NACP. APA members in both organizations can benefit from the joint meetings, networking and professional involvement. He provided a summary of the long history of NACP, the relationship with the National Association of Counties, and the relationship with APA and the CPD.

Current Status of the Division

Treasurer Mike Harper presented summary financial reports. The Division is in good financial condition as expenses have been low. He indicated that currently largest expenses are linked to regular banking and APA-related fees. The NACP accounts are smaller but in good shape as the NACP Board opted to not assess new fees during this transition year. Six (6) new members have joined NACP this fiscal year. The final reports were accepted as presented.

Chair Compton presented information about APA; the 43,000+ members have 21 Divisions from which to choose in addition to their APA-assigned Chapter. The County Planning Division is the newest and still growing steadily with 166 Division members as of this meeting. He presented information on issues that APA and the Divisions Council are facing (financial, new web site, support staffing, mergers, etc). There is currently a moratorium on the formation of new divisions. Other members presented some ideas that might be considered.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Chair-Elect Dennis Sandquist presented the list of County sessions at this Conference. Five of the six submitted sessions were accepted in the Las Vegas APA Conference program. The Division has two "by-right" sessions every conference. Today is County

Planning Day at APA with the Annual Meetings, two sessions and tonight's All Divisions Reception. The final two (2) sessions are scheduled for tomorrow. He provided information about a workshop session that NACP will present at the NACo National Conference in Kansas City in July. Dennis will be coordinating sessions for the 2009 APA Conference in Minneapolis.

Angela Harper, NACP representative on NACo Board (as past-president of NACP) presented information about NACo activities (awards, sustainable development, etc). New topics are on pipeline safety and county planning (via Carl Vincent Research Center at GSU).

Mike Harper, NACP representative to Environmental Law Institute on Conservation Planning Initiative presented an update on the initiative. APA is looking for leadership on its new "green" initiative sub-committee to be formed in the months ahead. This may be a great opportunity for CPD to lead this effort. Discussion occurred from members involved in similar activities.

Creation of Awards Program

James Davenport, NACo Liaison provided background on Conservation Program awards and NACP's participation on the jury. Martin County Florida received the 2008 NACP County Leadership in Conservation Award. Nicki VanVonno, presented a quick recap of Martin County's Conservation program (22% of County area is now in conservation status). Ideas for new and additional awards were requested.

Round Table Discussions Topics

CPD and NACP are looking at more frequent web-enabled short communiqué instead of traditional multi-page newsletters with greater emphasis on networking opportunities and outreach (blogs, list-serve, message boards, and topic-focused items). Discussion ensued on using list serve or message board for the time being. As an example, the CPD Chair could lead a blog to garner cyber-group discussion. Potential ideas to work on included, a list-serve for more urgent with weekly or monthly announcement on a message Board. STaR Division does use a message board, including a frequency of notice option. It was suggested that CPD keep it small and effective, and look at merging NACP list serve model with additional Division members.

Other Business

The was no outstanding old business and no new business to discuss,

Adjournment

The Annual Meetings were adjourned at 8:21 a.m.