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The Gays and Lesbians in Planning (GALIP) Division addresses planning topics and issues that relate to the gay and lesbian community by providing a forum for exchanging ideas and information. GALIP provides a professional network for planners who are division members and a mechanism that allows friends of the division and the gay and lesbian community to support GALIP's mission.

Onward, upward: Pine City, MN, a Welcoming Community, Progresses

By Nathan Johnson

Editor's Note: Johnson is a GALIP member and is City Planner for Pine City.

Pine City, Minn. (pop. 3400) is about an hour's drive north out of both downtowns, St. Paul and Minneapolis. Its unofficial motto is "Where 'up north' begins" and truly, the pine-laden countryside is evident on the outskirts of town.

While the Twin Cities were expanding quickly into Pine Territory leading up to the present recession, things have slowed down a bit in the past few years. Pine City is the county seat of Pine County, whose fastest-growing city - Rock Creek - grew by an estimated third since the last census. However, that city issued just seven permits in 2007 and last year, only three.

But several indicators of growth in Pine City were far better than expected over the past year. For example, we saw a spike in zoning requests made for items such as conditional uses, site plans, variances and land subdivisions. Requests more than doubled from the 10 we had in 2007; in 2008 we had 23, which is the most I'd seen since working for Pine City over the past five years. In many respects, these requests offer a glimmer of hope, as they generally are for development on the horizon.

The city issued 138 residential and commercial building permits in 2008, with the value of new construction at \$6.3 million in 2008, compared to \$3.7 million in 2007 - a 70 percent increase, mostly due to 23 commercial permits.

Since the last census count, it is estimated that Pine City has grown by approximately 400 people. In spite of the present economic conditions, it's unclear why Pine City's growth is holding steady, though I have my theories. I believe people are still attracted to the city's unique charm, its schools and the quality of life experienced here.

But, I questioned, "Are there other factors as to why Pine City hangs on, unlike other parts of Outstate Minnesota?" It has truly been a resilient community in the eyes of some distress.

Where: Midway between three metro areas, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington (6 miles south), Duluth-Superior (80 miles north) and St. Cloud (60 miles east).

Notable: Over 6,000 Pine County residents are considered exurban. Approximately 37% of Pine City residents commute to the Twin Cities for work.

Also Notable: Pine City's zip code, 55063, has an estimated 10,000 residents, compared to the City's population of 3,400. The small city limits do not encompass the area's lake population.

On the Web:

City info: pinecity.govoffice.com
Tourism:

www.pinecitychamber.com

Local blog:

www.pinecity.communityblogs.us

Local News:

www.pinecitymn.com or

www.redrockonair.com

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Thoughts from the GALIP Chair...

Greetings! I hope all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer! I had the luxury of spending most of the summer relaxing and catching up on chores that I have been putting off for ten years! As the fall approaches, I anticipate ARRA funding to start flowing in to our local and state agencies – especially for those of us in transportation. I am looking forward to funding for high speed rail and transit. Those of you in community development should be expecting funds to start flowing from HUD and EPA for various green community initiatives. This coming fall and winter should be exciting times for us.

Your executive committee worked very hard this summer to pull together GALIP activities for next year's American Planning Association National Conference in New Orleans. We have secured a wonderful "upscale" location for our reception. Our dinner will be held at a very fun Mexican restaurant. And our mobile workshop will be led by a professional LGBT tour guide. The best part about all of this – all of the information will be available in the preliminary program!

Speaking of the conference – we do have one challenge – we need speakers for our by-right session. Here are the details:

We are proposing a session which focuses on disaster relief and the LGBT community/non-traditional families. Our session will explore how current emergency management policies and procedures affect various populations, including the LGBT community and other non-traditional



families. Are policies discriminatory, thus prohibiting non-traditional families from receiving equal disaster relief (either in the form of money, housing, or services)? Ranging from federal financial relief to local services, do current policies, laws, and procedures discriminate against LGBT families? Where have local guidelines and policies been adjusted to address the LGBT population? Does the LGBT community – and other non-traditional families – step in where government steps out? Lessons learned and potential solutions will be explored.

Do you, or anyone you know, have experience with this topic (9/11, Katrina, etc.)? We need your help in identifying potential speakers for our session in New Orleans (April 10-13,

2010). We would prefer GALIP members, but welcome any recommendations. Please contact me at linda@galip.org with your recommendations, ideas, or stories (life experiences related to disaster relief).

On another note, Vice Chair McDonald and Membership Chair Dollahon are still looking for regional liaisons. The role of the liaison will be to host local GALIP events (happy hours, brown bags, etc.) and solicit new members. We also hope to have GALIP-sponsored sessions at state conferences.

As we move into the fall and winter I know all of you will start to get very busy....but please, don't forget us! Send us information about your current projects, new jobs, job announcements, or anything else that may be of interest to GALIP members.

See you in New Orleans!

-Linda Amato, GALIP Chair
linda@galip.org

APA 2010 National Conference

Please make plans to join GALIP in **New Orleans** for the American Planning Association's national conference, **April 10-13, 2010**. Watch for details about our reception, dinner, session and mobile workshop in the conference program which will be sent to you by APA.

See you there!

Update your APA profile!

Because *Gayzette* is a digital-only publication, it is very important that we have access to your current email address. To be sure that your contact information is correctly reflected in your APA profile, go to www.planning.org/, enter your APA ID (from *Planning* magazine mailing label or invoice) or your email address as well as your password (click on "create a new password" if you've forgotten it or do not have one) and verify or update your profile. GALIP relies on APA to provide accurate contact information for our membership! Thank you for your help!

Pine City...continued from Page 1

The nation's eyes have been on communities such as Pine City several times over the past year. Pine City was home to one of the five banks that were closed across the nation on a single day last month, the most in a single day in U.S. history. Horizon Bank was closed after soaring real estate losses left it too crippled to operate, becoming the first bank in Minnesota to be shut by State officials since the 1980s, and the second in the state to fail since the advent of the real estate crisis. Also, once home to one of each of the Big Three auto dealerships, Pine City saw General Motors and Chrysler combine under one auto mall. But the auto mall owner's bankruptcy has left Pine City with one remaining Ford dealership.



Thankfully, there have been several private business ventures that have spawned in the area in the last year to help offset some of what's happening due to the economy. Small business owners have been driving business growth in the Pine City area. Yes, everyone feels the economy, but entrepreneurs have been cracking open doors with the belief that there is a market here for their respective businesses. The Chamber's team of ambassadors made 41 calls and welcomed 28 new businesses to Pine City in 2008, up significantly from the previous year.

Ever more, Pine City has a lot to offer its incoming businesses, by way of incentives. Besides a hefty revolving loan fund, JOBZ has allowed for several expansions and new businesses. Under the program, aimed at tax-free development, the city was successful in luring one century-old, out-of-state enterprise - Lake Superior Laundry - from Superior, Wisconsin. It added 42 full-time workers with full benefits and it offers low-energy and water-recycling systems that get rave reviews.

Pine City has taken other green initiatives, too, maybe rightfully so given its name. Scores of volunteers planted 31 rainwater gardens in the Woodpecker Ridge Neighborhood - the largest rainwater garden project in all of Greater Minnesota - which work to treat stormwater runoff before it can enter nearby Cross Lake. Also, the city took part in a first-ever Earth Day event this year. Other initiatives include expanded recycling opportunities, a downtown farmers' market which allows patrons to buy fresh and local, and a newly-created community garden, which gives anyone who wishes to participate equal gardening opportunities.

The community really pulls together when relied upon. A testament to that is there are so many community events and festivals held here annually. Some, like the Czech Booya Festival and the Northwest Company Fur Post's Fall Gathering, explore and celebrate the historical culture of the area. This summer Pine City played host to its fifth-annual East Central Minnesota GLBT Pride festival, which draws over 500 people. For the first four years, it was one of just two rural pride celebrations to be held across America. Following suit, other Outstate Minnesota communities - Brainerd and Willmar - are holding such events.

Our event was started by a group of committed individuals who belonged to the East Central Men's Circle (www.menscircle.org), a local gay and bisexual men's organization. They partnered with the Rural AIDS Action Network (www.raan.org) to put on the first few and the event has grown significantly to include participation and support from a local PFLAG chapter and a newly-formed, local lesbian and bisexual women's group - the Purple Circle (ecpurplecircle.blogspot.com). Broad contributions come from Pine City's businesses as well, who donate everything from water and food to raffle prizes such as gift certificates.

I was asked by the mayor to address the crowd at Pride, where I told them, "It's good to be a welcoming community for the sake of the economy" and I invited those from around the region to "enjoy our specialty stores, unique shopping and dining opportunities and community events." Several newer gay and lesbian residents in the community have expressed that they felt welcomed to Pine City and that it is a comfortable place to live in comparison to other smaller communities that they moved from.

Pine City is the kind of place that welcomes everyone and maybe that has something to do with the fact that it continues to grow and refine itself. Others have begun to take notice. Our mayor, Jane Robbins, was awarded the C.C. Ludwig Award last year, League of Minnesota Cities' highest honor. And, to top it off, the Initiative Foundation bestowed upon our community the 2009 'Outstanding Community' award.

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GALIP Member Profile

Interview conducted by GALIP member Jon Hoffman (JJR, Madison, Wisconsin)

Manny Muñoz

Member, APA Student Representatives Council for Region VI 2007-2009

Where are you currently living and studying? Are you working/interning?



I'm currently living in Norwalk, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles. I've been interning for the City of Cerritos' Community Development Department: Current Planning Division for the past two years. I also intern for the City of Huntington Park's Business Improvement District. I'm a recent graduate from Cal Poly Pomona's Urban and Regional Planning program.

What drew you into the planning field?

I was born and raised in the construction field. My grandfather and father were both contractors so naturally the built environment was interesting to me. I originally wanted to become an Architect and work with a city. I had applied for Cal Poly Pomona's Architecture program and was not accepted. That turned out to be the best thing ever because I found planning. I continued at Cerritos College and transferred into Cal Poly Pomona's Urban and Regional program in 2006.

Describe Cal Poly Pomona (CPP)'s Urban and Regional Planning Program.

I am interested in community planning and placemaking. CPP's URP program interested me because it is accredited and has a strong design background. Professor Ana Maria Whitaker taught great courses - Diversity in Planning, Urban Design Seminar and Urban Planning and Design in Latin America.

How would your professors and other students describe you?

My professors would probably describe me as ambitious and goal oriented.

What types of planning projects really captivate you personally?

I am personally interested in working with the under privileged communities of Southern California. Affordable housing and public space projects truly captivate my interest. I have a strong notion of incorporating community, pride and culture into the planning process. Community plans must be representative of the community that foster culture, create pride and build a better community.

Tell me about American Planning Student Association (APSA) and your work with it.

APSA is a Planning Student Organization of Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Urban and Regional Planning. It's a club mainly comprised of undergraduate planning students. We bring professionals on campus, host mixers and organize the annual department banquet. My work with APSA started when I transferred into Cal Poly Pomona from Cerritos College (Junior College). My second year at CPP, I became APSA President. It was my personal goal to create a High School Scholarship that would elevate and promote the planning profession at the high school level. I partnered with the APA California Chapter and California Planning Foundation to get funding and launch a pilot program at CPP.

Tell me about the Great Latino Street, Great Latino Neighborhoods program, for which APSA was the first recipient of the APA Student Representatives Council Outstanding Planning Student Organization Award for Best Practices..

Great Latino Streets Great Latino Neighborhoods program was developed in conjunction with the Latino and Planning Division of APA and Urban Latino Forum. The event was part of APA's National Community Planning Month. Hector Solis, James Rojas and I presented three case studies that created a dialogue on Latino issues with students, government officials and community members.

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GALIP Member Profile...Continued from Page 4

When and why did you join GALIP?

I came out of the closet in November 2006 that resulted in enabling me to be proud of myself and planning. I automatically joined GALIP. It was truly comforting to know that a professional organization would care about LGBT issues. The APA National Conference at Philadelphia in 2007 proved to be an eye-opener both professionally and socially. I attended the GALIP reception that truly made me feel at home and gave insight that my sexuality would not be an issue.

In your opinion, what are the most pressing issues of the gay/lesbian community that we as planners can address?

A planner working in a LGBT community must make sure that they fully understand the culture of the LGBT community have planning policies that create a vibrant community. Especially with land use zoning in which LGBT businesses can flourish.

Of which planning projects are you most proud?

My last quarter at CPP. I conducted independent research called Public Spaces culture - community - pride. My research focused on four plazas in Guadalajara, Mexico and three parks in Los Angeles. I developed Design and Development Guidelines for Public Spaces that are sensitive to the communities' cultural and ethnic makeup.

What accomplishments have given you the most satisfaction in your life?

Graduating from CPP. I'm the first person in my family to graduate from a university.

Where do you want to be ten years from now?

In ten years, I will have a Master's degree in Public Administration and have a mid-level management position at a city with under represented communities. I would like to be a City Manager later in life and Planning Professor.

If a GALIP member were to visit Los Angeles, what is the one place they must go?

Santa Monica Boulevard in the City of West Hollywood is the pulse for Southern California's LGBT community. The street exemplifies many great urban design and urban planning principles. It's also a great street for many LGBT community programs.

Pine City...continued from Page 3

As we look toward the future, we can point to these achievements. It's an exciting time in Pine City and residents are excited for the future. We are embarking on an update of our decade-old comprehensive plan and people are rolling up their sleeves to get involved. Once the Twin Cities begin to further spill over into the area, which I believe it will, we'll hopefully be ready for it.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ 2009 International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference, December 3 - 6, 2009, San Francisco, California: www.glli.org/files/conference2009/
- ▶ 2010 APA National Planning Conference, April 10 - 13, 2010, New Orleans, Louisiana: www.planning.org/conference
- ▶ GALIP Chair Linda Amato, AICP will be teaching a 5.5-week online course *Project Management for Urban Planning* for Rutgers University's Professional Development Institute beginning on October 21st. Earn 14 CM credits and help support Rutgers' Planning School. For more information visit: policy.rutgers.edu/pdi/
- ▶ Need CM credits? Go to APA's webpage to find free offerings: www.planning.org/cm/free/

APA-New Jersey Forms New Diversity Committee

The American Planning Association-New Jersey Chapter has created a new Planning for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC)

The ECDC was created to provide ongoing education forums and opportunities for planners, students and university faculty of different backgrounds to network, share ideas and bring recognition to unique values and perspectives.

One of the committee's goals is to retain and grow APA-NJ membership and provide effective leadership in advocacy for inclusiveness in planning policies and regulations reflective of a diverse geographic and population within the New Jersey region.

The committee will have a session entitled "Innovations to Community Planning in Ethnic Communities" during the APA-NJ Fall Conference November 5-6 in New Brunswick.

The committee's leaders invite you to join them and take advantage of this great opportunity to bring a different perspective to planning, exchange ideas and best practices, shape the profession, and attract and network with planners with similar interests within New Jersey and the region.

Interested in joining ECDC of New Jersey? Contact ECDC Chair Jeffrey Wilkerson at jeffrey.wilkerson@gmail.com or call (917) 613-3625.

Majority of Workers Still Hide Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity at Work



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN**

A majority - 51 percent - of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers continue to hide their identity from most or all co-workers, according to a new report released by from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation that examines the real-life experiences of LGBT workers. The report, "Degrees of Equality: A National Study Examining Workplace Climate for LGBT Employees," found that, despite significant advances in employment policies at major U.S. corporations, a majority of LGBT workers continue to experience a range of negative consequences because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Younger workers are even more likely to hide their LGBT identity - only 5 percent of LGBT employees ages 18 to 24 say they are totally open at work, compared to more than 20 percent in older age cohorts. The report is available for download at www.DegreesOfEquality.org.

Source: Human Rights Campaign, <http://www.hrc.org/13576.htm>

Join the GALIP Facebook and LinkedIn Groups

Thanks to member Tony LaColla, GALIP now has a group of its own on Facebook. We will continue to update members of our activities via email updates, this newsletter and our website, but this offers yet another way to stay in touch. To join, log into Facebook and search for our group: "Gays and Lesbians in Planning." Then just click on the link to join the group and you will have full access. If you have any difficulties, email brian@galip.org and we will help you out. Look for GALIP to expand onto additional social networking websites in the near future.

Brian Lutenecker has setup a LinkedIn page for GALIP that will be developed over time. Join at www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2174607&trk=hb_side_g

Visions for Broadway: Gary, Indiana

New Report Encourages Equitable Development for Gary

The Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of American Planning Association released on June 29 its technical assistance report for Gary, Indiana.

Throughout the 20th Century, the City of Gary became known as the “City of the Century due to its advanced design, forward-thinking development plan, ethnic diversity, and miraculous growth. However, forty years of urban disinvestment and flight left hundreds of abandoned buildings and devastated the city’s downtown.

Despite the economic and social challenges, Gary is mounting a comeback, and they are receiving support from the Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association. In 2007, PBCD held its biennial conference in Gary, and they conducted a technical assistance workshop as a service to the community. Since the conclusion of the technical assistance workshop, PBCD has focused on completing a technical assistance report for the City of Gary; the Gary/East Chicago/Hammond (GECH) Empowerment Zone; and the Indiana University Northwest, Historic Midtown Project of the Department of Minority Studies (IUN). The report was submitted to local officials on June 30, 2009.

PBCD was asked to produce a visioning report for enhancing a one-mile span of the Broadway corridor and addressing future growth along the arterial. Citizens in Gary welcome the opportunities that growth will offer, and they have the foresight to know that changes to the landscape from development do not occur in swift, sweeping movements.

Local stakeholders have awaited the release of the report because they entered the process seeking to explore alternative models for economic and community development. Concerned that prolonged disinvestment and neglect may prompt hasty decision making, the community aspired to demonstrate the merits of urban redevelopment while meeting the needs of underserved communities and vulnerable populations through policies, programs, and projects. In response to local leaders, PBCD structured the technical assistance workshop and the recommendations of the report on using equitable development and smart growth strategies for enhancing the Broadway corridor.

Ben Clement, Economic Development and Marketing Administrator of the GECH Empowerment Zone, is a Gary native. He states “the downward spiral of Gary, Indiana, like many other urban centers around the country, did not start overnight, so neither should an economic resurgence be expected immediately.

The revitalization of Gary will be a steady, deliberate, persistent process and that effort begins with intelligent strategic planning. The work done by PBCD to formulate a plan to resurrect downtown and the historic midtown districts is a crucial building block for long-term redevelopment.”

To be clear, Gary’s citizens want future development to accomplish multiple sustainability goals. In addition to urban management, economic prosperity, environmental protection, and resource efficiency, citizens want to protect cultural heritage and cherished institutions; encourage meaningful participation of all citizens; and foster community parity. Despite the signs of physical entropy and deterioration, locals realize Broadway has many distinct cultural treasures that can be leveraged as the city rebounds.

Earl R. Jones, Associate Professor of African American Studies at IUN is encouraged by the visioning report. He shared “one of the important aspects of the PBCB technical assistance report is the focus on youth, and their involvement in the planning process. Youth are applying their knowledge, in math, science, and business, towards improving the community. This is clearly seen in the establishment of Gary’s Youth Empowerment Zone.” Dr. Jones believes this focus on the contributions of youth is significant, and it will help to encourage the “inclusive growth” that represents a guiding principle of President Obama’s Urban Policy program.

PBCD assembled a broad team of practitioners for the City of Gary, and its partners, with expertise in equitable development, smart growth, context sensitive design, place making, urban design/architecture, and vacant property reclamation. According to Carlton Eley of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who assisted PBCD by coordinating the technical assistance effort, “completion of the technical assistance report is a landmark event because it represents the first time a majority African-American consulting team, consisting of planners; architects; community developers; and environmentalists, has assisted a major U.S. city to frame a vision for its future.”

An electronic version of the report is available at the website of the American Planning Association, www.planning.org/divisions/blackcommunity/news.htm.

Source: Planning and the Black Community press release, 7/30/09

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GALIP Website

Check out the GALIP website for the latest news about our division including business meeting reports, financial data, and leadership contact information.

Members can log in to view past newsletter issues and see a roster of other members.

www.planning.org/divisions/galip/

While you are there, check out the completely redesigned American Planning Association national website! The site has a wealth of information including job announcements. You can also log in to your APA member account there to make sure your personal information is current.

Volunteers Wanted!

GALIP is always looking for volunteers to help with our many activities including membership, newsletter, website, national conference, local events, and research. There are volunteer opportunities for every interest and skill!

Interested? Contact any Executive Committee member for more information.



APA National Conference 2010

April 10-13, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

The Gayzette, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Gays and Lesbians in Planning Division of the American Planning Association. We welcome articles, letters, suggestions and information regarding workshops and other educational opportunities of interest to our membership. Please forward your submissions by email to our Editor, Brian Lutenege.