

APA California Northern Section Board Report

May 2014

Hanson Hom, AICP, Immediate Past Director

- A half-day guided hike was held April 19 covering a segment of the Richmond Marina BayTrail. The hike was co-sponsored by the California Planning Roundtable (CPR) and APA Northern Section, and over \$600 was raised for California Planning Foundation student scholarships. The event was fully sold out with 30 people in attendance. We had perfect weather and was very fortunate to have the hike led by Bruce Beyaart, Chair of the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC). TRAC has been very instrumental in implementing a 12-mile stretch of the San Francisco Bay Trail through the City of Richmond. The hike covered a number of topics including wildlife habitat and shoreline marsh restoration, the proposed U.C. Berkeley research campus currently undergoing environmental review, the history of the area as important ship building and tank assembly plant during World War II, and the formation of Rosie the Riveter Homefront WWII Historical Park. Attendees enjoyed a short National Park Service film based on the oral histories of individuals who worked at the shipyard during the war, which highlighted the role of women and the racial diversity of the workforce. Much thanks to Laura Thompson who suggested the hike and was instrumental in making it a success. (Hope to post pictures of the hike on our website.)
- I am leading the planning for the July 31-August 1 meeting of the California Planning Roundtable that will be held in downtown San Jose at Martin Luther King Jr Library. As has been the tradition of CPR, **the local section board is cordially invited to a CPR networking reception on Thursday, July 31 between 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Il Fornaio Restaurant located in the Sainte Claire Hotel in downtown San Jose.** Let's have a good showing of Northern Section board members at this reception. Planning is also well underway on the following sessions: a presentation and walking tour about urban design, walkability and planning challenges in downtown San Jose; employment and social equity issues in Silicon Valley; land use and transportation plans to retrofit the South Bay suburbs; and an opportunity to highlight the San Jose Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Program. AICP CM credits will be sought for one or several of these sessions.

Administrative Director: Shaveta Sharma

- Prepared the Board Meeting minutes for March 5, 2014.
- Updated the website Board Member section and Events listing.
- Updated the Section's letterhead.
- Prepared the Board Report for March 2014.

Treasurer: Laura Thompson

- The adopted 2014 budget has been posted to the Northern Section's "secret" board information webpage for your reference. When requesting reimbursements, please

remember to fill out a Request for Reimbursement form, located on the board information page, and e-mail the form and receipts to me.

Monterey Bay RAC: Justin Meek, AICP and Aaron Ackerman

- Past Events

March 20, Spring Happy Hour (Mixer/Networking Event) at English Ales (Marina, CA). Co-hosted with AEP Monterey Bay

April 17, Free Workshop: Post Construction Stormwater Requirements. Co-hosted with the Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program

April 22, Workshop: Complete Streets. Co-hosted with Transportation Agency of Monterey County & CSUMB

- Upcoming Events

May 12, AEP/APA Student Chapter Trivia Night/Happy Hour. Co-sponsor with AEP Monterey Bay.

North Bay RAC Report: Kristine Gaspar

- In March we co-hosted a social with AEP in Santa Rosa. We had about a dozen folks attend. The dates for the Healthy Community series that we are sponsoring with Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department have been determined:

Session 1 Healthy Community Design July 16th

Session 2 Planner's contribution to Health-Promoting Public Places July 23rd

Session 3 Active Transportation, July 30rd

Session 4 Codes for Active Design August 6th

Session 5 Health Impact Assessments August 13th

Session 6 Policies and Politics, August 20th

It was originally conceived as a 4-part series but has expanded to 6. All sessions will be held at the County offices. The organizer is still seeking additional sponsorships to cover the lunches.

Redwood Coast Region RAC: Stephen Avis AICP

- The Redwood Coast Region is developing an all day workshop for local transportation and land use planners, engineers and public works staff. The subject will be recent developments that encourage and provide planning tools related to community vitality, active living, and multi-modal transportation opportunities.
- *SB 743* was signed into law in September 2013. It requires OPR to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to LOS for evaluating transportation impacts that promote a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multi-modal

transportation networks and a diversity of land uses. OPR also has discretion to develop alternative criteria for areas that are not served by transit.

- In November 2013, Caltrans updated *Main Street- California, A Guide for Improving Community and Transportation Vitality* stating, "Well-conceived main streets function efficiently as multi-modal transportation facilities and are important civic spaces that support vibrant community life and ecological health. (Caltrans) is committed to working with local communities to improve connections to mass transit and to increase the appeal of walking and bicycling on main streets."
- On April 11, 2014, Caltrans announced that it has endorsed *National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) guidelines* that include innovations such as buffered bike lanes and improved pedestrian walkways in an effort to support the construction of more multimodal local streets and roads.
- The Redwood Coast Region's *Activity Planning Committee* is meeting on April 29th to develop program topics and speakers for the Region's ongoing Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series. Programs beginning in August of this year through January 2015 will be determined and potential guest speakers identified.
- At the meeting, plans for a mid-summer APA party will be discussed. A venue has been offered by a local Caltrans land use planner. Dates and other matters will be discussed on April 29th.

CPF Liason: Darcy Kremin, AICP

- We are 1 day away from our bicycle tour of Davis (Friday, May 2)! Last year, we raised over \$2,000 and we are hoping to have a good turnout since all proceeds benefit CPF. The CPF Board will be meeting this Saturday (May 3) in San Jose to discuss all things CPF-related. Big items are our new year-round fundraising efforts and gearing up for this year's auction at the Anaheim conference. As always we will be seeking items to donate from the Northern Section. This year, the big change is in the auction timing. We will be starting the live auction around 5pm and ending by 6:30, making it a Happy Hour and freeing people to attend evening activities. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we will be able to raise big bucks again (up to \$20,000). We are also changing up the Section challenge to make it more competitive, which will put Northern Section at a disadvantage (we have won many times over the past decade). So, now more than ever, we are looking for fabulous items to donate and drum up donations. I am also helping with the Awards Banquet for the CPF award winners. We hope to have our students and winners attend the event and connect with professionals.

International Co-Directors: Hing Wong and Alex Hinds

- We are in final preparations for our international tour to Eastern Europe that will include stops in Belgrade, Serbia; Budapest, Hungary; Krakow, Poland; Tallinn, Estonia; and St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia. Twenty-seven people will be attending this tour. One half of the group will be going on the pre-tour to Prague, Czech Republic. Meetings are being set up with local planners, architects, and/or elected officials in all locations.

Pilot Collaboration and Exchange Program with São Paulo, Brazil

- The Northern Section will be establishing a Pilot International Planners Collaboration and Exchange Program with São Paulo, Brazil. The proposed program would provide a way for planning professionals and students to participate in activities and shared experiences abroad with collaborating agencies. This effort includes the municipality of São Paulo, SP Urbanismo (a state-owned enterprise, under the Urban Development Agency of São Paulo City Government), and Mackenzie Architecture College, in association with Mackenzie Presbyterian University and Institute. Bruno Borges and Nancy Cole, currently living in São Paulo, will be attending the Board meeting to give an update of the proposed agreement and work plan.

Awards Co-Directors: Eileen Whitty, AICP and John Cook, AICP

- Due Date for Nominations to be submitted to John was March 20th. There were fifteen nomination packages received this year for awards consideration.
- Nomination packages were sent out to the six Jurors on March 26th. The packages will be reviewed and ranked for possible awards.
- Eventbrite site was set up on the norcalapa website on April 2nd for guests to register online to attend the Awards Gala on Friday, May 16th in San Francisco.
- A 1.5 CM credit request was submitted to Tania on April 3rd for Professional Development educational credits for those attend the Awards Gala.
- Both NNews and EBlast are carrying reminders of the Awards Gala. We'll continue to publicize the event right up to the actual day.
- The Awards Jury met on April 18th and selected seven Awards of Excellence and seven Awards of Merit to be presented at the Gala. The norcalapa website was updated to reflect the winners and letters went out to all winners on April 23rd. Jurors selected the awards they will present and have prepared their individual scripts.
- The Awards Committee held a conference call on April 25th to check in on a number of event details, including:
 - Preparation of award certificates and framing
 - Preparation of the PowerPoint for the event
 - Preparation of the script for the event
 - Preparation of the Program
 - CPF winner reminder invitations re-sent
 - Coordination of the volunteers and photographer for the event
- The Directors checked in with the PARC55 Wyndham Hotel regarding AV, Room setup, menu.
- The Awards Committee will hold their next conference call on May 9th to finalize plans.

YPG Board Report: Shannon Fiala and Jason Su

- Feb 12 -- Shannon and Jason met with the former YPG coordinator and have been trying to get up to speed on our new positions!
- Feb 19 – Shannon met with YPT about co-hosting an event regarding land use and transportation planning with a happy hour at San Pedro Market in San Jose in April
- Feb 20 – Shannon met with SF RAC about coordinating a walking tour about the Better Market Street project in May
- Feb 21 – Shannon met with UC Berkeley Reps about tabling for APA at a UC Berkeley career fair in March, as well as other potential collaborations between YPG and the university
- Mid-March – Shannon will meet with ULI about coordinating an event in June. We have been working on organizing joint events with all of these organizations/partners. Additionally, Jason is making and hosting a volunteer form on the APA YPG site for us. We will draft an email to be sent to our YPG email list. We will update our webpage to keep YPG archived events on a separate sub-page.
Tentative YPG Event calendar:
February - getting up to speed!
March
14th | YPG presence at the APA Mentorship program event
18th | APA / YPG table at the UC Berkeley Career Fair
April
17th | Joint event with YPT at SPUR San Jose: Panel discussion about linking transportation and land use, followed by networking happy hour at San Pedro Market
TBD | Panel discussion on AICP Certification
May
TBD | Joint event with SF RAC: Walking tour of the Better Market Street project
June
TBD | SF Beautiful event in SF
July
TBD | Urban farming volunteer event (Oakland or SJ)
August
September
October
November
December

Newsletter Editor: Naphtali Knox, FAICP

Board members, you probably saw the interesting graph (“Shuttle bus attributes”) on page 16 of the May issue, at the end of Norcal roundup. The graph pulled together in one readable chart much of the information gleaned from the Bay Area Council’s March 2014 survey of San Franciscans’ attitudes toward the tech buses. In order to use that graphic along with excerpts from the parent Next City article by Nancy Scola, I emailed Diana Lind, editor-in-chief at Next City. I explained our newsletter and the context, and asked permission to republish. In response, she proposed that our publications establish a deeper relationship whereby Northern News could publish substantially longer portions of articles, or entire articles, that initially appear in Next City; and in return for the use of some of Next City’s content we would publish an advertisement in the newsletter through which Next City would offer APA California readers a 15 percent discount on their subscription-only, long-form series, Forefront.

I discussed this by email with Scott Davidson, and he had no objection to the no-cost advertising as part of an exchange. On March 31, I polled Northern Section's Executive Committee, as follows: "As part of my responsibility to 'oversee the preparation, editing, and publishing of the section's newsletter,' I'd like to arrange to republish major parts or all of a Next City article in Northern News, as may be appropriate and timely. "Next City is a nonprofit that began as a quarterly in 2003. It 'provides daily online coverage of the leaders, policies, and innovations driving progress in metropolitan regions across the world. In addition to daily blog content, each week we publish a deeply reported long-form story. Current funders are the Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Surdna Foundation, and The Knight Foundation.' Next City has excellent writers and great content. I borrowed from them three times in the April issue alone. (See pp. 8, 18, and 23, top right corner in each case.)" "I propose to accept a trade proposed by Next City's editor-in-chief. Northern News is a monthly. Much of what we do now — by way of excerpts — is a bit stale by the time we publish. To get a relevant and timely article just before we publish, Northern News would get to use some of Next City's fresh content. In return, and in the same issue, Next City would advertise (at no cost to them) to offer APA California readers a 15 percent discount on their subscription-only long-form series, Forefront. Normally a one-year online subscription is \$20, so our California APA members would pay \$17/yr. with the discount."

I received five positive responses from the executive committee (no objections) to work out an agreement with Next City and go ahead with a trial run. The results are on pages 9 and 10 of the May issue. The ad appears on page 9, along with the test article, which continues onto page 10. Now it's time to put the trial results before the Board and see if we should continue with the partnership. Below is a condensed version of the proposal I sent to Next City, noting, "From our perspective, we can keep the arrangement informal, just so long as it's clear what we expect from each other." Ms. Lind, the editor, responded, "This looks good to me! What is the size of the ad and by when do you need it?"

(Parenthetically, I should note that I follow Next City on Twitter, and last month I also subscribed to the online publication so I could access Forefront. I found that some Forefront articles would be short enough for us to republish. For example, I read an article of 2,315 words that would have been of interest to our readers. An article of that length would run to five or six pages in our newsletter. It's somewhat above the maximum length we set for our authors, but we can handle it. But most of the long-form Forefront articles run to 4,000 to 6,000 words or more — way out of proportion for our 11,000-word monthly. I concluded that it's unlikely we'll find a Forefront article to republish each month. That said, I felt it would be beneficial to be able to publish a complete, but shorter Next City article each month, and to be able to republish their original photos and graphics. On that basis, I went ahead and prepared the following proposal, which Next City has accepted.)

A proposal for the mutual benefit of Next City and Northern News

Northern News now excerpts articles from other publications and republishes quoted sections of those articles — with full credit to the author and the publication, and a link to the original work. You proposed that our publications establish a deeper relationship whereby Northern News could publish substantially longer portions of articles, or entire articles, that initially appear in Next City; and in return for the use of some of Next City's content, we would publish an advertisement in the newsletter through which Next City

would offer APA California readers a 15 percent discount on your subscription-only, long-form series, Forefront.

We would place Next City's ad in a sidebar (left column), or in a box within the article, or at the end — pretty much depending on the length or size of the ad.

I will continue to follow your tweets to scan or read your articles, and occasionally I will want to excerpt one for Northern News, quote it, credit it, and link it — as I do now. If I find an article short enough to republish in its entirety in Northern News, I will alert you so that we can run a Next City ad, either along with that article or elsewhere in the same issue. If I see a Forefront article — or if you alert me in advance to one that's coming up that is short enough to republish — I will run that along with a Next City ad in the same issue.

Sustainability Committee: Co-Directors Katja Irvin, Dave Javid

- We had two committee leadership meetings where we outlined our annual strategy, reviewed our mission statement, discussed ideas to update/refine/simplify the Sustainability Committee webpage, and highlighted our outreach strategy and event series targets.
- Scott Edmonson advanced the Committee's event series on sustainability planning innovation by conceiving and co-hosting two events:

EcoDistricts For Practitioners — Bay Area Workshop (half-day) | OAKLAND (June 2nd)
(<http://norcalapa.org/sustainability-blog/ecodistricts-practitioners-bay-area/#sthash.4qohj4Qp.dpuf>)

APA/UCB General Plan Sustainability Assessment of Bay Area Cities (May 1, 6, 8)
(<http://norcalapa.org/sustainability-blog/#sthash.KU1fxJ55.dpuf>)

Dave was able to secure an APA membership discount for the EcoD workshop. He and Professor Acey may develop the sustainability general plan topic into a more formal workshop later in the summer or fall.

- Columns in the Northern News:

April, Kate Howe wrote the Plan-it Sustainably column on LIZs (Living Innovation Zones) — Art and innovation in San Francisco.

May, Scott Edmonson wrote two columns. One on EcoDistricts and another on Assessing the Sustainability of Bay Area General Plans.

AICP Director: Dr. Don Bradley, AICP

- AICP exam prep workshop sessions have just completed. 15 students completed and expected to sit the exam in May. Now recruiting for the Fall AICP Exam Prep Fall candidates. Some can start this summer to get a head start for November. Special thanks to Amanda Becker from SJSU for arranging for rooms to hold our 5 sessions this past Spring. Also my appreciation to all the guest speakers: Russ Leavitt, Kimberly Brousseau, Bob Pittman, Dave Barry, and Al Savay. I look forward to assisting more of our APA members becoming new AICP members in the future.

Communications Director: James Castaneda

eNews

- Four eNews set out since March 5, 2014 (3/18/2014, 4/1/2014, 4/15/2014, and 4/29/2014)
- Two Northern News eblasts sent out since March 5, 2014
- NEXT eNews is on 5/13/2014)

LinkedIn

- Up to 1,074 members as of April 25, 2014

Facebook

- Up to 214 likes as for April 25, 2014

Twitter

- Up to 148 followers

2015 California Planning Conference Local Host Committee: Erik Basley, Darcy Kremin, Hanson Hom

- The LHC held a meeting on **Saturday April 5th** from 10AM – Noon at the MetroCenter, 101 Eighth St, Oakland. A simplified schedule for the conference, highlighting major efforts that each committee will undertake, was presented to allow LHC members to see how their work fits into the overall timeline for the conference.
- The main item discussed was the ongoing competition to design the conference logo that will close tomorrow on May 2, 2014. Then each committee presented a brief update of its work as many had met between the February and April meetings. The committee chairs are:

Diversity - Miroo Desai
Fundraising - Jennifer Piozet
Hospitality - Florentina Craciun
Merchandise - Jonathan Schuppert
Mobile Workshops - Mika Miyasato
Planner's Guide - Jackie Yang
Programs/Sessions - Juan Borrelli
Publicity - Erika Sawyer and Brian Soland
Volunteers - Jean Long and Syd Wayman

The committees are now meeting outside the LHC meetings to continue their work. They will report back on their progress and activities at the next meeting in June.

- **Logo**

Submitted logos will be reviewed and a preferred logo selected. The logo competition team will then work with the winner to make any changes to it. The winner will be notified on June 9 after the LHC is presented the winning logo.

- **Chapter Coordination**

The Co-Chairs will have a conference call on May 9th with Kurt Christensen, VP of Conferences, to discuss preliminary budgets and other chapter items. Prior to the call the LHC chairs will prepare a preliminary budget.

- **Anaheim Conference**

We will be ordering give-aways for the Anaheim Conference (9/13-16) once the logo is selected. We need volunteers to staff the 2015 Oakland conference table. Let Jean Long and Syd Wayman know if you are planning to attend the conference and sign up for a shift.

- **Next LHC Meetings (10 am to noon):**

6/7 – MetroCenter, 101 Eighth St, Oakland

8/9 – URS, 1333 Broadway, Ste 800, Oakland

10/11 – TBD

12/13 – TBD

Nor Cal APA Legislative Update: Alexandra Barnhill

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

HR 29 (Gomez) - Outsourcing Public Services - The California State Assembly adopted House Resolution No. 29, which resolved the following: (1) the Assembly opposes outsourcing of public services and assets, which harms transparency, accountability, shared prosperity, and competition, and supports processes that give public service workers the opportunity to develop their own plan on how to deliver cost-effective, high-quality services; (2) the Assembly urges local officials to become familiar with the provisions of the Taxpayer Empowerment Agenda; and (3) the Assembly intends to introduce and advocate for responsible outsourcing legislation. Any contractors who provide service to public agencies should be aware of this resolution and look for related legislation next year.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB 1439 (Leno) / AB 2405 (Ammiano) – The Ellis act allows a rental property owner to empty the property and evict tenants by removing it from the rental market. SB 1439 would apply only to the City and County of San Francisco. It would allow the City's Supervisors to block an owner who has held a property less than five years from use of the Ellis Act. It would also restrict use of the Ellis Act at a building whose purchaser previously used the Ellis Act at another building. AB 2405 would allow any county with a housing shortage to suspend evictions under the Ellis Act "until the county or city and county meets its portion of the regional housing need."

SB 1262 (Correa) – Medical Marijuana Regulations – This bill, sponsored by the California Police Chiefs Association and the League of California Cities, provides implementation

measures for the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. It would require the State Department of Public Health to license dispensaries and cultivation sites and establish safety standards for operations, advertising restrictions for physicians, and quality standards for medical marijuana. The bill was amended on April 20th and is set for hearing on April 30th before the Senate Health Committee. Note that statewide marijuana legalization initiatives (14-0002, 14-0008) are also gathering signatures this year in an effort to qualify for the ballot.

SB 674 (Corbett) - CEQA exemptions - This bill would have exempted from CEQA review as "residential" a use consisting of residential units and primarily neighborhood-serving goods, services, or retail uses that do not exceed 25% of the total building square footage of the project. The bill has been held and will not advance.

BALLOT MEASURES

SCA 3 (Leno/Steinberg, 2013) – Constitutional Amendment. In June 2014, the voters will have a chance to decide if they support the Legislature's proposal to make local agencies' compliance with the California Public Records Act and Brown Act a constitutional mandate. As a result, local agencies would no longer be able to seek reimbursement for compliance with these laws and the state would not need to suspend compliance when it faces a revenue shortfall.

Jobs and Education Development Initiative (13-0065) - Redevelopment Agency Reestablishment. Proponents of a measure that would reestablish RDAs and resume diversion of local property taxes to redevelopment projects, as well as expand some aspects of former RDA law, have until July 21, 2014 to submit the more than half-million signatures needed to qualify this measure for the ballot. .

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY

City of San Jose v. Superior Court (6th District 2014)

In this case, a citizen had sought "voicemails, emails or text messages sent or received on private electronic devices" used by certain City officials under the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"). The City disclosed the responsive, nonexempt records sent from private devices using City accounts, but not records sent using personal accounts, on the grounds that records sent using personal accounts were not public records. The citizen sued the City to compel disclosure of the records sent from private electronic devices using personal accounts. The issue before the Court of Appeal was "whether those private communications, which are not stored on City servers and are not directly accessible by the City, are nonetheless 'public records' within the meaning of the California Public Records Act." The Court held that "the language of the CPRA does not afford a construction that imposes on the City an affirmative duty to produce messages stored on personal electronic devices and accounts that are inaccessible to the agency, or to search those devices and accounts of its employees and officials upon a CPRA request for messages relating to City business." In short, this means that the CPRA does not require public access to communications between public officials using exclusively private cell phones or e-mail accounts. An appeal to the Supreme Court is likely.

California Clean Energy Committee v. City of Woodland (Petrovich Development Company, LLC) (3rd District 2014)

Urban decay mitigation measures, set out in EIR for planned development of a regional shopping center on agricultural land on city's periphery, were inadequate under CEQA where those measures included market studies to be conducted by the developer, rather than directly by, or under contract to, the city as required by CEQA and failed to commit the city to any feasible or enforceable mitigation measures to ameliorate the adverse effects of the project on urban decay elsewhere in the city. City violated CEQA by rejecting conclusions of its consultants regarding feasibility of project alternative and substituting its own conclusions when it approved the project. EIR failed to properly identify and analyze potentially significant energy impacts, in that it did not assess or consider mitigation for transportation energy impacts, and reduction of size of project was not an adequate substitute for such assessment; city acknowledged that it did not study the construction or operational energy impacts of a large portion of the construction; and there was no investigation into renewable energy options that might be available or appropriate for the project.

No Board Report

Section Historian: Juan Borrelli, AICP

Membership Co-Directors: Geoff Bradley, AICP and Sandra Hamlat

Planning Commissioner Representative: Janet Palma, AICP

Planning Diversity Co-Directors: Miroo Desai, AICP and Cindy Ma

University Liaison: Justin Meek, AICP

Student Representative: Amanda Becker

Ethics Review Director: Colette Meunier, AICP

Professional Development Director: Tania Sheyner, AICP

Advertising Director: Scott Davidson, AICP

Mentorship Chair: Thalia Leng

East Bay Regional Activity Coordinators: Florentina Craciun and Dahlia Chazan, AICP

San Francisco Regional Activity Coordinator: Brian Soland, AICP

South Bay RAC: Jonathon Schuppert, AICP

Webmaster: Ronny Kraft, AICP