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TUNCAN & JONES

Northern News

Northern Section, California Chapter, American Planning Association

Update on Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Activities

egional Advisory Committees
were established by the NSCCAPA
Board to better serve the APA membership
in each of the areas that were established.
The intent was to provide more focus to
smaller geographical areas so that activities
could be provided on a more decentralized
basis. In addition, the Board allocated \$500
to each RAC as seed money to encourage
activities. The only condition that was placed
on spending the money was that the RAC
contain the full three member committee
who would agree on how to best spend the
money.

The RACs have been busy. Since the inception of the idea a number of activities have taken place that were attended by planners who may not have been able to travel to an event in San Francisco or Oakland. The RACs have brought a more personalized approach to providing service to the membership of the Northern Section, and in so doing, have increased the participation of planners in section events. The following updates have been prepared by members of each RAC.

Central Bay RAC

Coordinator: Janis Johnson Telephone: (510) 601-6741

An event will take place in June that promises to be both interesting and easy on the pocketbook. On June 8th planners will be treated to a night at the University of California Art Museum to view the current exhibit, "Urban Visions-Current Projects for the Public Realm." This will be an opportunity to see the contemporary city as envisioned by planners, architects and urban

designers. The entrance to the museum is free, the \$5 will go towards providing refreshments for attendees.

The Central Bay RAC has a wealth of resources and planners from which to derive ideas for activities and events. Many of us meet informally on a regular basis to discuss life, careers, and even planning. If have ideas for future events or activities, or may be able to help plan and/or schedule upcoming events, please call Janis at the number listed above.

South Bay RAC

Coordinator: Deborah Ungo-McCormick

Telephone: (408) 452-5700

The South Bay RAC was recently reestablished after being inactive for many months. In addition to Deborah, the committee members include Kathy Kovar Environmental Contracts Manager at Boeing, and Gerri Langtry, Associate Planner at the City of Sunnyvale. The South Bay RAC held its first event in April with about 20 people in attendance from various agencies and private firms. The event included a mixer at Stoddard's Brewhouse in Sunnyvale and a walking tour of historic Murphy Avenue which has become the center of dining and eating activity in Sunnyvale. Additional mixers will be planned in the next year that will focus on activities that will bring together private and public sector professionals of the South Bay. If you would like to be on the mailing list, or if you have ideas for activities, this new RAC would like to hear from you. Contact Gerri Langtry at (408) 730-7591.

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Northern News

DIRECTORS COLUMN

by Steve Noack

As one of my last official duties as Section Director, I was invited by Farnum Kerr, AICP, a long time planner in the Napa area, to present the California Chapter Historic Planning Landmark Award to the Napa County Board of Supervisors for the 1953 Comprehensive Plan and 1968 Agricultural Preserve. Alec Bash, AICP, Regional AICP Representative, presented the APA National Planning Historic Landmark Award. Mr. Kerr, who was one of two planners who worked on the original master plan, went to great lengths to gather past and present dignitaries from the cities of Napa, Calistoga, St. Helena and Napa County for the presentation. I was honored to be a part of this group who obviously took great pride in establishing this precedent setting plan which resulted in the preservation of a national treasure.

The California Chapter Board elections will be held soon. The Northern Section Board urges you to look closely at the candidates from Northern California in order to gain more of a representative balance on the state board.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all of the Northern Section Board members that I have worked with for their efforts in creating a successful voluntary organization which strives to meet the needs of its members and have fun in the process! I look forward to remaining involved in board activities as an active Past Director, and as member of the East Counties RAC. Please join me at the awards banquet on June 16th to say thanks to the Northern Section Board.

The next edition of the Northern News is a combined July/August issue. If you have or know of any events that need publicity, please contact your Northern News editor before June 21.—Editor

Mark Rhoades, Editor 1152 Portland Avenue Albany, CA 94706 Phone: 510/227-3214 Fax: 510/227-3280

Chuck Lerable, Advertising Coordinator: 408/758-7206

Deadline for submitting articles, news, artwork, advertising and other materials for inclusion in the Northern News is the 16th day of the month prior to publication.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

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Membership Department APA National Hotrs. 1313 East 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637 312/955-9100

BULLETIN BOARD

1995 NSCCAPA Awards Banquet

For the past few years approximately eighty planners have gathered to view the ceremonies and learn about some of the exciting planning efforts receiving recognition. Jury panelists and award winners summarize their experiences and give helpful advice. Last year, Northern Section award winners were particularly successful, going on to win awards at both the state and national levels. This evening presents an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the significant professional achievements of our colleagues and recognize programs which have been particularly innovative, effective, or unique. The event will be hosted by Section Director Steve Noack, and Awards Chairman Wayne Goldberg.

When: Friday, June 16th, 6:15-7:15 socializing and no-host bar, 7:15-9:30 dinner and awards presentation.

Where: UC Berkeley Faculty Club

Cost: \$25/person

RSVP: Reservation with check (payable to Northern Section CCAPA) must be received by June 9. Mail reservation to Wayne Goldberg, City of Santa Rosa Planning Department, P.O. Box 1678, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

A Night at the University Art Museum

Urban Visions-Current Projects for the Public Realm, now showing at the University Art Museum, presents the contemporary city as envisioned by planners, architects and urban designers. The exhibit includes drawings, models, and video and computer programs that examine the physical and social space of the city. Come join us and share your own thoughts on this topic with your fellow planners. No guest speaker is scheduled for this event. This is an opportunity to see the exhibit before it closes July 16. When: Thursday, June 8th, 5:30-8 network/ refreshments, 5-9 tour the museum. Where: University Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, UC Berkeley Campus at

Bancroft and College Avenues. BART: Berkeley Station

Cost: Museum admission is free, \$5/person will be collected at the door for refreshments.

RSVP: (415) 281-0195

1995 State Conference in Santa Barbara

Start planning now (what a concept) to attend the 1995 California Chapter APA Conference. This year the conference will be held in Santa Barbara at the Fess Parker Red Lion Resort from September 30 through October 3. The theme of the conference is Redefining Paradise: California's Challenge. This year's focus on the 21st century will include innovative, educational multitrack events highlighting California's changing planning environment. Featured speakers will include: Glen Hiemstra, a futurist and consultant to business, government and communities on vision based planning; J. Gary Lawrence, Director for the Center for Sustainable Communities and member of the faculty at the University of Washington, Seattle Department of Urban Design and Planning; and, Jon Clark, Executive Director of the Community Environmental Council. Early registration fees for APA members are \$285 (does not include mobile workshops). Special travel rates for the conference have been arranged with both United Airlines and Amtrak. For more information call the conference hotline at (805) 961-2688. Registration forms are available in the California Planner.

UC Davis Extension — Upcoming Courses

Walkable Communities: An Interactive Workshop to get People Back on Their Feet. June 9, Davis campus. \$195

California Government for Environmental Professionals. June 13-15, Sacramento, \$360

Designing Pedestrian and Transit Oriented Communities. June 22-23, Davis campus. \$295

California Environmental Quality Act: Advanced Seminar. June 30, Davis campus. \$340

For More Info: U.C. Davis Extension, (800) 752-0881

Editor at 510/227-3214.

The Bulletin Board section of

to provide a forum for

individuals to provide the

the Northern News is intended

Update...

(continued from page 1)

North Bay RAC

Coordinator: Malcolm Drummond

Telephone: (707) 575-1933

The North Bay RAC is planning a series of bi-monthly "brown bag" lunches, scheduled to begin in September. The first lunch has already been planned and is set for September 15, at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. Speakers and details will be in the July/August newsletter, so mark your calendar now. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Malcolm at the number listed above.

Monterey Bay RAC

Coordinator: Ernie Franco, AICP

Telephone: (408) 899-6223

There is an abundance of development activity and planning efforts underway in the Monterey Bay RAC area which includes the Cities of Seaside, Marina, Salinas, and Sand City and Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. One of the most exciting events that will take place in the Monterey Bay Area is the opening of the new California State University at Monterey Bay this fall.

The RAC is currently planning a dinner meeting that will include a speaker on the topic of electromagnetic fields (time, date and place to be announced). In addition, a recent RAC brain-storm is the idea of assembling a bunch of planners and going to or having a dance party to stave off the stress of all the current projects and activities. More information will be forthcoming.

Far North RAC

Coordinator: Lia Sullivan, AICP

Telephone: (707) 822-5955

It seems as though a lot has been going on in Far North planning, although "brown bag" lunches have been few and far between. Energy has been focused on a very successful Planning Commissioner's Workshop that was held in January (first for the North Coast, See last month's Northern News) and a combination RAC and brown bag meeting in March, where we welcomed Section Director Steve Noack. The Livable Communities group is still assimilating information from their November, 1994 conference, while also thinking about the next one.

Getting the RAC going and deciding what to do with \$500 is a bit problematic; Money! ... What's that??? Historically an economically depressed area, we are all used to operating on a shoestring. We are also struggling with completing the RAC because more active planners are not APA members than are. Section only memberships could be a more affordable solution to this dilemma.

The Far North expects to have three brown bag meetings during the remainder of 1995: a Thursday lunch in July; a Saturday breakfast in September; and, a lunch or breakfast in November.





JOBS

Associate Planner

City of Menlo Park \$3,907-\$4,710/mo+benefits/PERS

The City of Menlo Park is seeking a professional planner for a variety of work assignments primarily in the development review process. Duties will include analysis of proposed plans and projects, CEQA documentation, inter-agency coordination, and ordinance administration and analysis. The ideal candidate must be a self starter and teamworker, have design experience and proficiency in continuously refining operations for customer friendly procedures. Requirements include the equivalent of a BA/BS with major work in planning or closely relate field and three years of progres sively responsible experience. A Master's Degree in planning or a related field may be substituted for one year of experience. City application required, inquire at the City of Menlo Park, Personnel Department. 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA, 94025. Phone: (415) 585-3370. File City application forms by June 23, 1995, by 5 pm. (Postmarks not accepted.)

Planner I

City of Campbell \$3,097 - \$3,765/mo



Campbell seeks a planner to assist in the review of current planning projects and to perform professional planning work in the areas of public information, neighborhood preservation, research and analysis, written and oral presentations, and policy development. Also, processing of code enforcement complaints may be an integral component of the duties of this position. Requires a degree in city planning or a closely related field. Internship or para-professional experience in city planning is highly desirable. For information contact the City of Campbell Personnel Department at 70 North First Street, Campbell, CA, 95008, or phone at (408) 866-2122. File City application forms by June 16, 1995. AA/EOE



Ballot for the position of Section Director, Northern Section, California Chapter, American Planning Association.

Director Pro Tem, Michael Bethke has received one petition for the position of Northern Section Director. The following ballot must be completed and returned to Michael Bethke as soon as possible so that the results may be compiled and announced at the Awards Banquet to be held on June 16th.

Petitioner: Wendy Cosin (currently serves on the NSCCAPA Board as Professional Development Officer)

Biographical Information

"I have been working in city planning since I graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Environmental Planning in 1978. Following my early jobs in Oregon and Southern California, I returned to Northern California. I spent 12 years heading the Planning Department in Pacifica, and am now the Deputy Planning Director for the City of Berkeley."

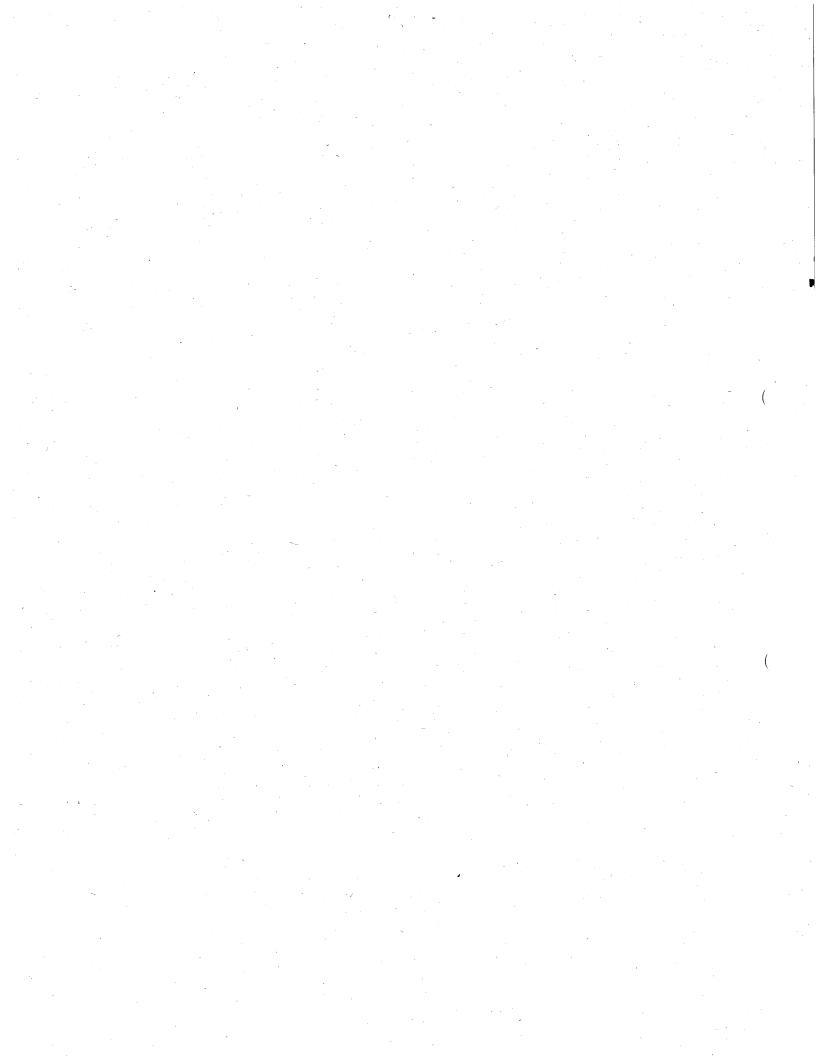
Candidate Statement

"I became involved in the Northern Section Board in 1992 when I was appointed as the Professional Development Officer. In the Board's survey of what services are most important to members, section events were listed as the most important activity.

I have organized numerous events over the past three years providing opportunities for professional development, networking and socializing. Many of the events have been coordinated with other planning related organizations including AIA, ASLA, AEP and SPUR. Last year's (NSCCAPA) reorganization to create Regional Advisory Committees has increased participation around the Bay Area. I was also actively involved in the San Francisco National Conference.

I am interested in becoming Section Director because I see it as an opportunity to broaden my involvement with APA. I would like to explore more areas where the organization might serve its members. Some possibilities include offering services to members between jobs, sponsoring low-cost training sessions taught by members, and making Internet connections between city and county planning departments.

I have enjoyed my involvement with APA. Although I understand the reluctance of many members to get involved with APA due to concerns about how much time many of us already spend at work, I hope to encourage increased involvement in APA."



COMMENTARY

From the Pews

he following excerpts were taken from letters written to the Northern News editorial office in response to the April 1995 Northern News article by Peter Katz. Katz was asked to write an article that might generate some controversy regarding planners' roles in shaping communities. The article, which was entitled *Beyond the Priesthood*, called to question the role of traditional planners. Katz's criticism of traditional planners as being bogged down by process and paperwork is in sharp contrast to what he views as the "planners who draw." The "planners who draw," and in the opinion of Katz actually are successful in helping shape today's communities, are architects.

Letter #1

... Aside from its condescending tone, the piece reflects a simplistic notion of how cities get built and harkens back to largely discredited approaches of "city builders" like Robert Moses. This dated architectonic approach to urban design strikes me as analogous to the recent "libertarian" movement of the political right and represents the latest round of journalistic planner bashing...

...The power of an idea—or a design—vigorously espoused and rigorously pursued is not to be belittled. But to imply that professional planners are devoid of ideas is absurd. Katz is attributing what comes out the end of a circuitous procedural pipeline to planners. Whether planners be "priests" or lackeys...they must continue to convey information and insights to enhance the decision process by showing what is possible. Planners do not make immutable proposals... Moreover, planners do not make final decisions; their job is to assist those who do. Indeed, one of the planner's most difficult challenges is to reconcile the needs of the community with the independently conceived designs prepared by architects. This builds an important bridge to rectify the abundant mistakes of much of modern architecture which fails to relate the design of individual structures to neighboring areas and the larger community.

Architects and planners must continue to work together –in a complementary manner- to achieve improved urban design. But to suggest that either profession is better equipped to fulfill that role is naive at best and divisive and worst...

by Paul H. Sedway, AICP Sedway Cooke Associates

Letter #2

I read with considerable interest Peter Katz's article *Beyond the Priesthood* in the April issue of Northern News. I agree with Mr. Katz's underlying premise that it is time for a reassessment of the methods we employ in planning our cities. However, I disagree with two of the fundamental observations he makes in his article. I believe his comments largely reflect the latest version of architectural hero worship. They are, as well, an uninformed assessment of the planning profession.

As those of us who are engaged in planning all know, it is a diverse field, springing from a wide variety of disciplines, including physical planners and urban designers, economic specialists, environmental specialists, transportation specialists, community involvement advocates. People in each of these disciplines have their own unique vision of how to improve or sustain our communities. All of this expertise is essential to the planning (and ongoing maintenance) of a healthy urban environment. To assume that physical planners (specifically architects) are the most important component of the equation is egocentric at best and arrogant at worst...

... Many of the physical planning principles of the New Urbanism have great merit. But I fear that many of the solutions are applicable to a narrow spectrum of urban development that does not relate to the broad arena of contemporary society. It therefore cannot be applied at large enough scale to make a difference.

Furthermore, I believe it is revisionist history to claim that our current urban problems are a result of "planners who talk" rather than "planners who draw." Past planners who draw did a lot to get us here. I for one am reluctant to roll over and accept all that the current generation of planners who draw have to say without careful scrutiny. This is where the legitimate role of planners who talk comes in...evaluating (sometimes denying) projects, processing permits, holding meetings, and mediating between conflicting goals. Fortunately we have people who believe in such work. Cities are much too important to be left to physical designers alone.

by Michael Smiley

Land Planning and Urban Design

(Michael also teaches courses in the Urban

Studies Program at Stanford.)

The Commentary section of the newsletter is intended to provide a forum for members to express their views relative to planning related topics, or to express an opinion relative to articles printed in this newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, contact the Newsletter Editor at 510/227-3214.

Planners are "Optimasochists"

uring one of my recent trying moments in this profession, I had a psychological catharsis of monumental proportion. I have now come to realize why I entered the urban planning field, and I believe that this personality trait is common among all my brethren. I am an "optimasochist," a word which is of course derived from its two roots: 1) optimist, a person who puts a positive slant on everything and who possesses a particularly positive attitude toward future conditions; and, 2) masochist, a person who enjoys being abused to the point of getting hurt either physically or mentally, and preferably both.

My psychological profile is verified by means of a typical example of the mess we oftentimes get into. Here's the scenario: Developer "A" comes into town to construct a high quality residential development on land that is appropriately zoned and that is adjacent to an existing and equally attractive residential development. The proposed building site is a beautiful field of wildflowers, none of which are endangered. In addition, the development is to contain up to 15% low and moderate income units that will be indiscernible from the rest of the housing stock, a standard requirement of the city. This requirement assists the city in meeting its "fair share" state mandate, and its redevelopment agency inclusionary requirement.

During the course of planning department review the developer gets considerably annoyed at the planner for recommending public and private amenities that are adding to the cost of the development and squeezing into Developer A's profit margin. The next door homeowner's association, during the interim, has hired an environmental/land use attorney to annoy the planner, and the association uses pejorative terms when discussing the planner's alleged ulterior motives such as being a sell-out, and being in the developer's back pocket. On occasion the planner bumps into these neighbors at church, PTA meetings, and in the supermarket, where the planner is continually treated with various forms of social ostracism on those occasions. The only reason why the planner puts up with the job is that in his/her heart, he/she knows that it will get better tomorrow. God we are sick.

Note: Stay tuned. Steve may offer a therapy session at the State APA Conference later this year in Santa Barbara.

Steve is the Director of Community Development for the City of Sand City.





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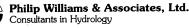
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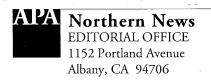
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8 University Art Museum Event					1	2	3		
9 UC Davis Extension: Walkable Communities	4	5	6 13	7	(8)	(2)	10		
13 - 15 UC Davis Extension: California Government for Environmental Professionals	11 18 25	19	20 27	14 21 28	22 29	23 (30)	24		
16 NSCCAPA Awards Program									
22 - 23 UC Davis Extension: Designing Pedestrian and Transit Oriented			JULY						
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30 UC Davis Extension: CEQA, Advanced Seminar	2	3	4	5/	6	7 -	8		
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