Excellence in Planning Award dedicated in memory of Mits Kawamoto

In remembrance of Mitsuo Kawamoto, professional planner and landscape architect, who passed away at the age of 73, NPZA has established the Excellence in Planning Award. Mits, a long time supporter of NPZA came to Omaha in 1951 and eventually set up his own land-use planning business.

He retired in 1990, but continued to act as a consultant to the U.S. Postal Service.

During his years as a planning consultant he worked with many Nebraska communities in shaping their futures. Mits will be missed.

David Ptak, attorney, discusses details of commissioner’s liabilities at APA Institute.

David Ptak, Norfolk and Mike Sullivan, Hastings Awarded “Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning”

Attorneys David Ptak and Mike Sullivan were recognized at the NPZA luncheon for their outstanding achievements in “Professional Service and Participation in the continuance of planning in Nebraska.” Ptak served as a planning commissioner and city attorney for Norfolk. Sullivan serves as Hasting’s city attorney.

Both individuals over the past several years have participated and led workshops and institutes for educating planning commissioners and administrators for NPZA and APA.

Their knowledge of land use law and how government should conduct business has been passed along to hundreds of commissioners, administrators, elected officials, citizens, and professionals.

Planning in Nebraska cannot measure the vast amount of common sense and practical application these two professionals have shared.

NPZA congratulates David Ptak and Mike Sullivan.

Mike Sullivan, attorney, makes a point about zoning board of adjustment responsibilities.
Pat Scheele of Mead Awarded
“Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning”

Pat Scheele, Mead awarded the Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning award. Pat is committed to community economic development in Mead. She served on the planning commission and board. As a community leader and citizen planner she brought recognition to her community and community action. NPZA salutes Pat Scheele for her dedication to her community and Nebraska.

NPZA established the Excellence in Planning Award last year in remembrance of Mitsuo Kawamoto. Mitsuo, a professional planner and landscape architect was a long-time supporter of NPZA. During his years as a planning consultant he worked with many Nebraska communities in shaping their futures.

NPZA Achievement Awards presented to

Nelson Helm, Grand, Island; Bill Podrara, Lexington; and Robert B. Rose, Bellevue

Nelson Helm, Regional Planning Director for Hall County was recognized at the NPZA luncheon for his outstanding achievements in Professional Service and Participation in the continuance of planning in Nebraska.

The Appointed Officials awards was made to two individuals this year. Bill Podraza, City Manager of Lexington and Robert D. Rose, Bellevue Planning Commission. Both dedicated their services to the continuance of community economic development. They provided leadership in citizen participation initiatives and project development over several years.

Robert D. Rose top photo and Bill Podraza bottom photo accept awards.

NPZA Newsletter
August 1996
Loretta Ludemann of Norfolk Awarded 1997 "Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning"

In Appreciation for Outstanding Service in Leadership and Support of Community Planning Efforts and Housing Initiatives as the director of the Norfolk Housing Authority, NPZA President & District Representative, Planning Commissioner and Citizen Planner. In Recognition of Continued Participation Fostering and Supporting Planning through Community Organizations and Citizen Participation in Nebraska.
NPZA wants to list your planning consulting firm in our newsletter.
If you are doing community planning, please submit your company’s name, your name, mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address. NPZA will list you in our planning consultant directory.

SINCLAIR HILLE & Associates Inc

105 North 8th Street
Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68506
Tel: 402-476-7331
Fax: 402-476-8341

Sinclair Hille & Associates
Lincoln, NE

Steve Peregrine & Loretta Ludemann present Bob Selander with the "Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning Award." This was a shared award with Dick Wozniak.

Excerpt from a letter received from Dick Wozniak: "It was a most pleasant surprise when Chad Nabity brought me the Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning Award which was presented at the NPZA conference. This award is very special to me for a number of reasons, first being that my friends and colleagues at NPZA presented me with the esteemed award and secondly that this award carries the name of one of my closest friends with whom I had shared many planning experiences. I am also honored this year to share the award this year with my good friend Bob Selander who so effectively has served our state with his promotion of good planning...."

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thanks for your support

The League of Municipalities held a conference in Kearney on October 9th and allowed NPZA an hour slot. The outcome will follow in an upcoming newsletter.