



# NEBRASKA

Planning and Zoning Association

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## NPZA CELEBRATES 35 YEARS!



In 1965, an advisory committee was formed and meetings were held to prepare for the organization of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA).

On March 18, 1966, NPZA was officially organized. A Tentative Program of the First Meeting of NPZA was held at the Hotel Yancey in Grand Island. Howard Peterson was the Mayor of Grand Island. The topics that were discussed were: Purposes and Goals of Association, Local Planning Agency and Its Responsibilities, Functions, and Duties, Plant Location and Planning, and Recreational Planning and Comprehensive Community Planning. The registration was \$2.50 which included lunch. There were 114 attendees represented by 41 Nebraska communities and one Kansas community.

On May 21, 1966, the First Annual Meeting of NPZA was held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. Bill V. Dawson of Nebraska City was the President of NPZA. The agenda included the following topics: The Care & Feeding of the Professional Planner, The Mobile Home and the Community Plan, Downtown Development, Renovation, and City Planning. Purposes set forth:

1. To encourage and assist in the formation of village, city, county, metropolitan, regional, and state planning commissions.
2. To promote a high standard of physical welfare through sound planning and zoning.
3. To provide a fellowship for exchanging ideas and disseminating information among persons interested in planning and zoning.
4. To foster a complete educational program on village, city, county, metropolitan, and regional planning and zoning as it applies to Nebraska.
5. To encourage and assist in the passage of necessary legislation to carry out comprehensive city, county, metropolitan, regional and state planning and zoning.

The early registration fee was \$3.50.

Annual meetings were held in Lincoln, Norfolk, and Grand Island from 1967 through 1972. In 1969 the membership included 18 towns under 5,000 population; 13 towns over 5,000; 3 county agencies; 7 private firms; individuals; and state agencies. On March 19, 1971, a district meeting was held in Grand Island in conjunction with the Nebraska League of Municipalities.

From 1973 through 1978, as quoted by Bettie Merrill, "the organization fizzled out." In 1979, past presidents of NPZA met for the purpose of reorganizing the Association. Ted Wright agreed to serve as Interim President. NPZA continued to grow over the years. In 1989, the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) joined the NPZA conference.

At the 2001 conference we had representatives from 52 counties, 56 cities/villages, and 29 individuals. We had over 300 attendees for the entire conference. A contract has been signed with the Holiday Inn in Kearney until 2005, so we will look forward to seeing the familiar faces as well as all the new faces as we continue to grow.

