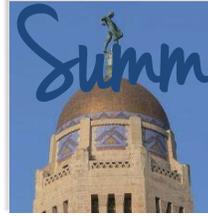


NEBRASKA PLANNING & ZONING ASSOCIATION



Summer Newsletter



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- Fall conference preview pg. 6 and more!



From the President...

Once again this summer has been an active summer for me and the NPZA Board as well. Please take advantage of the excellent upcoming planning and zoning training opportunities for citizen and professional planners alike.



This September NPZA is co-sponsoring a Fall Workshop with the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association. In an ongoing effort to bring together the land use decision makers from multiple levels of government, this fall conference has been geared to appeal to more than those who typically attend our annual conference. We hope that the appeal of this conference will bring together zoning administrators, city administrators/managers, planning commission members, local elected officials, city/county attorneys, and legislators in one location to discuss proper land use planning and zoning at the local level. We believe this conference will be an enlightening look at the land use decision making process and will be useful to all those who attend.

We have also been working hard with the Nebraska APA on planning the 2016 Nebraska Planning conference. This coming year's conference will be held in the Younes Conference Center in Kearney and will cover a list of interesting topics for those attending. At the 2016 conference, NPZA will be celebrating 50 years as an association in support of planning and zoning in Nebraska.

The annual NPZA Executive Board retreat will be held in November. We look forward to this retreat as the resulting strategic plan will provide an effective guide for the future of the association.

--Christopher Solberg
President-NPZA

Mark Your Calendars

September 28- 29, 2015: Fall Conference
Kearney Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE
More information on page 6

November 6, 2015: NPZA Board Retreat
Ord, NE, Calamity Jane's, 10:30 am CST

March 16-18, 2016 Nebraska Planning Conference
Younes Center, Kearney, NE

Implementing an Effective Approach to Walkable Communities in Nebraska

By Brian Coyle, MPH

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program

In the early 1900s planning and public health organizations collaborated to develop healthier communities with an emphasis on better housing, sanitation and to reduce the environmental impacts during the industrial age. That rich partnership began to fade in the mid-1900s when each specialty started heading in different directions. Planning helped to create communities with the automobile in mind. Public health shifted its focus from infectious diseases to more chronic diseases. Today, there is a tremendous need to renew the relationship to focus on creating healthy communities with an emphasis on increasing access for physical activity

See 'Walkable Communities' page 3....





Legislation affecting planning from the 2015 Session

Environmental Quality, Natural Resource Districts, and local government could take over the duties of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Nebraska's oil and gas regulations, water protection, and land owner protection regulations will also be compared to those of neighboring states. The study follows extensive public debate and a contentious public hearing in Sidney this spring on the Sioux County well's approval. The Legislature's Natural Resources Committee will host a hearing at Sidney High School at 9 am on Sept. 22 to discuss the study.

LB 106: Livestock Operation Siting Matrix: A state committee of experts will be appointed to develop an assessment matrix which may be used by county officials to help determine whether to approve or disapprove livestock production operations. As



voluntary guidelines, the bill's sponsor Dan Watermeier said, "[the matrix] will be another tool that is available for counties to use in making local decisions, if they so choose." The bill was passed after provisions that would have required mandatory use of the matrix by county officials were removed.

LB 610: Gas tax increase: Nebraska lawmakers achieved a veto override of LB 610 to raise the gas tax in Nebraska by increments of 1.5 cents a year for a total of 6 cents per gallon by Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The bill distributes 2 cents per gallon to the Department of Roads and 4 cents per gallon to be divided among cities and counties, generating an estimated \$25.4 million for NDOR and \$50.8 million for cities and counties by fiscal year 2019-2020.

Natural Resource Committee to study fate of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission: Following the approval of a Sioux County waste water injection well application by Terex Energy Corp of Bloomfield, the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is under study by the Nebraska Legislature's Natural Resources Committee. The study will assess the whether other entities such as the Nebraska Department of

Task force report calls for replacement of 'obsolete' planning practices, highlights Nebraska planning department

by Daniel Bennett

In April 2015, an APA Task Force released a report identifying current trends facing typical planning agencies and assessing how planning offices of the future might address these changes to become more effective and relevant in shaping communities.

The report outlined four "cross-cutting themes" of external trends that will impact future planning offices and followed with five principles for how planners might respond to these trends.

The *four cross-cutting themes* identified were:

1. Demographic Change
2. Technology as a disruptive force
3. 21st Century problems and 20th Century Planning Practices
4. Economics 101: the value of planning

Faced with rapid technological change, the reported stated future planning offices should promote equitable access to digital information by positioning internet access as public infrastructure and that they should promote transparency, accountability through digital means. Planning offices were encouraged to use 'new

See 'Task Force Report' page 5...



NPZA Board Update

The NPZA Board of Directors met Friday, August 7 in Hastings. In addition to usual business, the board discussed updating the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Handbook and made the decision to work incrementally on the update, starting with most pressing necessary changes. The board welcomes input on where areas that need prioritized attention. The next meeting for the board will be the yearly retreat and strategic planning session to be held November 6, 2015 at Calamity Jane's restaurant in Ord, NE at 10:30 am CST.



Members of the design team in Sidney: Jessica Davies, PPHD; Jo Giles, Emspace; Brian Coyle, DHHS; Jeremy Grandstaff, S&G Endeavors.

releasing a 'Call to Action'. This 'Call' will include state and local strategies to increase walkable communities. Nebraska communities will meet this 'Call' through this new walkable community's strategy.

NDHHS in partnership six local public health departments and with S & G Endeavors, a company from Washington D.C. that promotes walkable communities and facilitates other health-based initiatives, has created a community-driven process called the Nebraska Walkable Communities Initiative. This initiative has four components to help create more walkable communities in Nebraska. The first component has been to create a state-based Walkable Communities Steering Committee. This Committee is made up of walkability and bikeability experts from non-profits, health, planning, transportation, real estate, aging organizations, and community-based agencies. This group is tasked with guiding and providing oversight for the project. The second component of the process is the community-driven initiative to develop local leadership, convene and implement a community summit, and to develop an action plan for long term change. This plan is driven by the community and helps to align efforts specific to local comprehensive plans and other planning efforts (i.e. trail plans).

Walkable Communities *(continued from page 1)*

and safe and engaging venues, such as parks and trails, to help improve our health. In Nebraska, planning and public health organizations have worked together in a limited capacity, but things are about to change.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement a strategy that reduces the death and disability in adults who have or may soon have diabetes or cardiovascular disease. One goal of the grant is to enhance access and opportunities for adults through community design efforts through the development and implementation of local community and transportation plans to increase their physical activity. Walking is one of the simplest forms of physical activity and it can be done by everyone. Early this fall, the Surgeon General will reinforce the message of walking by

The third component is a messaging campaign. Creating a branding strategy to get more Nebraskan's walking and aligning that message with the Surgeon General's Call to Action. The final component of the Initiative is to assess local comprehensive plans and identify language specific to providing opportunities and access for physical activity. This data project will begin in the six targeted communities and then branch out to assess comprehensive plans from across the state by 2018.

Six communities: Omaha, Hebron, Superior, Grand Island, Lexington, and Sidney, are taking the first steps, no pun intended, to creating a more walkable, healthy community. This fall, each community will be holding their community summits and planning for the future. We hope that you are interested in participating in this process and helping to support a healthier Nebraska. As we learn and grow in this process, the Initiative will be extended to include additional Nebraska communities statewide.



Photo by Lindsey Yoneda. *The Daily Nebraskan*

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus administration last year proposed a merger of the College of Architecture with the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts to form a new college that was to be named the Hixson-Lied College of the Arts and Architecture. The proposed merger was to be acted upon—approved or not approved—by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents at their June 2015 regular meeting. A number of stakeholders within and outside the University had expressed opposition to the merger in the weeks and months prior to the meeting. A couple of days before the meeting, Hank Bounds, newly installed president of the University of Nebraska system, withdrew the merger proposal from the Regents meeting agenda, stating that his conversations with Board of Regents, campus leadership, faculty, alumni and other private-sector stakeholders that the proposed merger lacked sufficient support to be successful.

Following withdrawal of the merger proposal, a new interim dean for the College of Architecture, Scott Killinger, was selected. Killinger is a native of Hebron, Nebraska, and earned his bachelor of architecture degree from UNL in 1961. He subsequently earned master's degrees in both architecture and city planning at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to being named interim dean in August 2015, Killinger had focused his career on the professional practice of architecture and planning in firms located in Philadelphia and, more recently, in China. He also had taught part-time at the University of Pennsylvania and lectured at other universities.

UNL's College of Architecture (and the Community and Regional Planning program) now enters a new chapter in its history, with continuing commitments to help fulfill UNL's tripartite land-grant university mission of education, research, and service to the State of Nebraska.

UNL's Community and Regional Planning Program Begins a New School Year Following a Year of Participation in an Attempted College Merger Proposal

by Gordon Scholz, AICP, AIA

Students and faculty in the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln returned to the classroom for the 2015-2016 academic year on August 24. Eleven new graduate students joined the two-year MCRP program this fall semester. Overall, the program has about 30 students actively pursuing the degree on a full-time or part-time basis. The four full-time faculty teaching planning courses in the program include Gordon Scholz, Professor; Rodrigo Cantarero, Associate Professor; Yunwoo Nam, Associate Professor; and Zhenghong Tang, Associate Professor.

The MCRP program is one of four academic programs in UNL's College of Architecture. The other three programs include Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture.



Airport Zones Made Easier

Those struggling to show zoning for airport regulations can follow the lead of Knox County and others around the state who have worked with The Nebraska Department of Aeronautics and GIS service

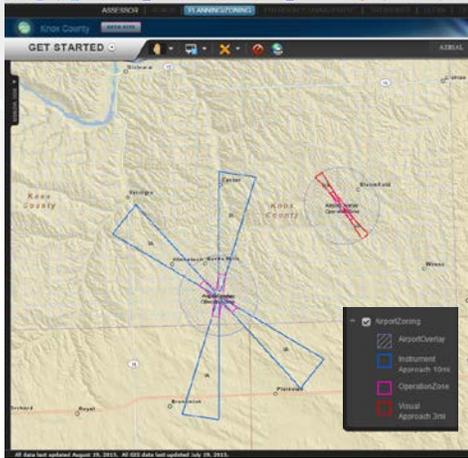


Image courtesy of GISWorkshop/Knox County, NE

providers to get the job done. Neb. Rev. Stat. §3-303 requires every political subdivision having an airport hazard area within its zoning jurisdiction to have delineated operation zones, approach zones, transition zones, and turning zones which restrict built or natural objects to be above an established height even if no prior comprehensive plan or zoning ordinance has been adopted.

Knox County, NE faced a problem of not having the technical capacity in house to delineate airport hazard zones accurately. Liz Doerr contacted the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics who was able to provide airport zoning maps for Creighton and Bloomfield. From there, Knox County's GIS provider, GISWorkshop was able to lay in the line work to the county's map. For Knox County, contacting the Department of Aeronautics got the process started for obtaining their Airport Zoning Maps. Dave Lehnert, with the Department of Aeronautics noted that the department is working towards providing updated maps for all public use airports in Nebraska since the passage of LB 140 in fall of 2013. At last count, 58 out of 80 public-use airports in the state have had geo-referenced maps provided and priority is given to airports that request the maps.

Airports, counties, and communities wishing to receive their local airport zoning maps can do so free of charge in

the form of an AutoCAD drawing file, a PDF, or a printed copy. Printed copies are available in color in 11x17 or full 24x36 sizes and multiple printed copies are provided without charge. Zoning administrators will still have to compute the vertical rise dependent on the distance from the runway but the maps enable administrators to locate the ground level zone boundaries.

Contact Dave Lehnert at 402-471-7921 for more information on receiving your airport zoning map.

Task force report (continued from page 2)

approaches with new techniques in dealing with both the substance and process of planning,' calling out comprehensive plans with standalone elements and using future land use maps as the primary implementation focus as 20th century practices that may be obsolete.

Finally, the report responds to the four themes of change with *five recommended principles*:

1. Thinking Big
2. Exercising Leadership.
3. Changing Culture
4. Implementing Big Ideas
5. Advancing Equity

In these principles planners are encouraged become more skillful in consensus building and public speaking and inspire purpose driven work. It states the planning office of the future will continue to be a voice for equity and fairness through innovative engagement and citizen education. The Lincoln-Lancaster County, Nebraska Planning Department is held up as an example of how communities can advance equity through its work collaborating with their police department to compile crime statistics which counter perceptions that apartments inherently produce more per capita crime than single family homes.

What do you think? Does this assessment reflect the changes you see and the responses you envision? [Read the full report here.](#)



APA Nebraska and NPZA present Fall Workshop in Kearney, Sept 28 and 29

APA Nebraska Chapter and NPZA are co-sponsoring a workshop to bring together land use decision makers for an event focused on sound process and translating information and plans into implemented decisions.

When: September 28th, 12:30pm- 6:00pm CDT,
September 29th, 8:00 am- noon CDT

Where: Kearney Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

Cost: \$50 for one day; \$70 for both days



Workshop Session Schedule

Monday, September 28th

Using the Comprehensive Plan to Make Good Zoning

Decisions (12:30-2:00pm) – The participant will learn

different ways to use the comprehensive plan when reviewing a zoning application. Learn what to look for and how to use the information to make good decisions. In addition, this session will be tied to the Finding of Fact session.

Making Good Findings of Fact and Why it Matters (2:30-

4:00pm) – This session will focus on taking the information discussed in the first session to make good zoning decisions and discuss how to make a solid Finding of Fact. Additionally, this session will discuss why Findings of Fact are so important.

Tuesday, September 29th

The Open Meetings Act/Parliamentary Procedure (8:00-10:00pm) – This session will focus on Nebraska's Open Meetings Act as well as parliamentary procedure and why these are critical to the planning commission, governing body, and/or board of adjustment.

How to Manage the Public Hearing Process (10:00-Noon) –

The participant will learn how to use the previously discussed information in order to run an effective public hearing. This will include what information is relevant to the discussion and pertinent to the application. This session is not intended to eliminate emotions but how to minimize the emotions in the decision making process.

RSVP

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Please submit any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas regarding the newsletter to Daniel Bennett at danielb@nepadd.com