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Spring Bringing New Energy

A warm spring welcome to all of our members. Spring brings new life and new energy to the environment. The same can be said for a fresh start to many planning processes. The Board of Directors is ready to hit the ground running on our goal to create a United Minnesota.

Nearly 100 members from Minnesota are embarking on travel to New York City to celebrate great planning across the country at the 2017 National Planning Conference. This is an exciting time to network and learn best practices from all four corners of the nation.

Spring is also a time to celebrate with our partners helping to build great communities. This year, the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM) is celebrating their 75th Anniversary. Kudos to this profession in helping craft policies and tool to help communities achieve their land use vision.

The Minnesota Building Permit Technician Association (MBTA) is about to complete a multi-year effort to better define the role of Permit Technicians, the value they provide to the development process, and create new opportunities for a broad spectrum of professionals to contribute to and advance within a peer profession.

Help Communicate the Importance of Planning

A number of policies at the State and National level promise to have impacts to land use planning efforts. Some of these efforts will provide improvements and modernization, but a number of proposed policies could have a negative impact of the policies that APA Minnesota supports. APA Minnesota recently testified at the State Legislature looking for additional compromise on regional planning policy and implementation, while lending support to some governance reform. APA Minnesota encourages you to check out the APA Minnesota Policy Platform available at www.planningmn.org/policy. Consider forwarding these policies to your local legislators to help us communicate our core policy platform.

Planners Day at the Capitol Continues to Succeed and Improve

The Legislative and Law Committee recently held another successful Planners Day at the Capitol. This year included an interactive workshop to help continue to keep the Policy Platform fresh, responsive, and focused on current legislation. The Committee is already planning for next years’ event. The group has started to think about workshops focused on how to meet with local legislative delegations, and assistance in scheduling meetings with Legislative Staff.

Spring Workshop Transition to Mobile Workshop a Hit

The Spring Workshop Committee was a huge hit as a mobile workshop along the Green Line. A huge thanks to Patrick Boylan and Leila Bunge in coordinating the event. Another thanks to our speakers Lucy Thompson and Josh Williams of the City of Saint Paul. The Program Committee is considering hosting additional mobile workshops this summer across the State.

Changes to Membership Fees Coming October 1

The National Office of the American Planning Association has set in motion changes to membership rate structures in order to be more responsive to changes in wages and economy. The intent is to better react to fluctuations in employment for Planners while still providing the important services to our members. In addition, this will provide for a more equitable rate structure and help broaden opportunities to build our membership base. All Chapters will now be moving to a membership rate structure based on a percentage of member wages rather than a flat rate.

APA Minnesota to Issue Letters of Intent for a new Executive Director

Following the announcement of retirement of our current Administrators, Peg and Otto Schmid, the Board of Directors is about to issue a Letter of Intent for individuals or firms interested in being the Chapter’s next Executive Director starting January 1, 2018. The LOI will be the first of two steps in the process in order for the Board to better understand options and cost implications. The final selection of an Executive Director will be based on a more detail Request for Proposals to be issues later this summer. Look for more information coming at the end of May.

For more information on any of the topic above, feel free to contact me at 763-238-7946 or tgladhill@planningmn.org.

Tim Gladhill
President, APA-MN
Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners Pilot

Forecast Public Art is partnering with the American Planning Association (APA) to develop and pilot a Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners, made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town program and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners will be a resource for planners serving small and mid-sized American cities. By developing this learning tool, Forecast seeks to fill a void in the current options available to planners, as well as those in allied professions, such as landscape architecture, engineering, and architecture.

Five cities in Minnesota have been selected by Forecast to participate in the pilot project to develop and beta test the tool in 2017 and 2018: Austin, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, and Winona.

"Public art can play a vital role in establishing and building community character," said Jennifer Henaghan, AICP, deputy research director at APA. "Beyond enhancing aesthetics, incorporating public art into planning can enhance economic development, build community engagement, and create communities of lasting value that are both equitable and sustainable."

Forecast Public Art will facilitate the two-year pilot project using its extensive experience in all aspects of public art, community-engaged design and placemaking. Forecast has advanced dozens of strategic, community-based projects and visions across the United States.

"Forecast has long been a leading force nationally for facilitating quality, accessible and meaningful public art and placemaking efforts for cities," said Theresa Sweetland, executive director of Forecast. "This pilot aims to take that work a step further by making those same tools and resources available to planners and cities anywhere."

A focus of the pilot project is improving the health of the five selected cities, which could include the physical health of citizens, economic prosperity, community wellbeing, social cohesion, livability and a healthy environment.

"Healthy cities boast a quality of life that helps attract and retain talent, businesses, industry, as well as cultural vibrancy," said Tim Penny, president and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

"We are thrilled that Forecast Public Art and the American Planning Association have preferred to explore how public art can bring thoughtful, innovative solutions to community planning issues like health and wellness," said Jason Schupbach, director of Design and Creative Placemaking at the NEA. "We are eager to learn alongside the selected cities as their pilot projects unfold."

Forecast Public Art activates people, networks and proven practices to advance the transformational power of arts in public life. For nearly 40 years Forecast has fostered dynamic, inclusive and resilient communities through public art, community-engaged design, and transformative placemaking.

Forecast is respected regionally, nationally, and internationally for a unique combination of responsive consulting services, support for public artists, and abundant resources, including Public Art Review, the world’s leading public art journal. Visit www.forecastpublicart.org to learn more about Forecast Public Art.

Our Town is the National Endowment for the Arts’ primary creative placemaking grants program, and invests in projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core. Through partnerships on the local, state, and federal levels, the NEA brings the best in creative placemaking to communities of every scale. Visit www.arts.gov to learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), a donor-supported foundation, invests for economic growth in the 20 counties of south central and southeastern Minnesota. The Foundation has provided more than $100 million in grants, loans and programming within the region during the past 30 years. SMIF’s key interests include early childhood, community and economic development. To learn more about our work and mission, visit www.smifoundation.org.

Selected Cities Overview

Austin, Minnesota

The City of Austin has an active arts community, but recognizes the potential for even greater impact. The city recently completed a new comprehensive land use plan that includes specific policies to strengthen support and cooperation between the city and the Austin Area Commission for the Arts, as well as to explore the role of arts within their community. With an increasingly diverse population and 50 languages represented in their school system, Austin is seeking to promote social cohesion in its community through public art that can be universally appreciated. In a recent city survey, improving cross-cultural relationships and ensuring Austin is a destination for art, music and creativity both ranked highly. In response to this demand, Austin is excited to participate
Placemaking (cont.)

in Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners to accelerate progress toward making Austin a healthier and more vibrant place to live. Visit www.ci.austin.mn.us to learn more about the City of Austin.

Mankato
The City of Mankato is dedicated to achieving downtown revitalization, establishing an arts and culture district, and developing a community culture that supports the arts. In line with these goals, Mankato seeks to enhance quality of life through participation in Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners. The city recognizes that investing in the creative economy builds a vibrant community, which helps attract and retain residents, workforce, businesses, and visitors, as well as create a sense of community. The city saw such results from a mural in Mankato that increased foot traffic in the area and generated conversation. A goal of the City of Mankato is community improvement through public art and placemaking.

Red Wing
The City of Red Wing understands that public art reinforces attachment to the community, is a conduit for conversations between artists and citizens, and is accessible to all. The City of Red Wing’s current Comprehensive Community Plan includes objectives to support public art projects and strategies. The city has undertaken partnerships and arts activities in recent years that have put them on the cusp of successfully achieving its objectives. The city is excited to participate in Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners by advancing knowledge and ability to fully implement its public art and placemaking plans. An important theme that Red Wing intends to weave into its public art and placemaking planning process is equity, as the arts can be a great tool to engage under-represented community members.

Rochester
The City of Rochester is in the process of a major update to its comprehensive plan, and is developing design standards and streetscape guidelines for the downtown area, with a recognition of health as a valued consideration. The opportunity to participate in Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners is exciting and timely. The city’s comprehensive plan inspires further transformation of the city’s core and gateway corridors to be a highly desirable, active, vibrant, and attractive places that draw residents, visitors, and talent. The Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners dovetails nicely into these efforts and could be a catalyst to develop strategies to inspire and implement the integration of art in the city in a variety of contexts. Medical professions recognize the benefits of the arts in medicine and in health and healing. A pilot effort in the home of the Mayo Clinic and the Destination Medical Center economic development initiative, would elevate these benefits in the community setting and provide opportunity to millions of visitors and residents to experience the positive influences of the arts. Accessing existing interdisciplinary efforts to support healthy, vibrant, and livable communities will expand the city’s opportunity to test the effectiveness of these efforts and develop best practices transferrable to mid-sized communities across the United States.

Winona
The City of Winona recognizes the power of art in maintaining and enhancing community vitality and is excited to participate in the Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners. The city currently supports art on a variety of levels through its Fine Arts Commission and support of events such as the Shakespeare Festival, Midwest Music Festival, Frozen River Film Festival, Beethoven Festival, and many others. The city also partners with individual artists and local institutions such as Winona State and St. Mary’s University. The city hired a full time arts coordinator in January 2017 to further enhance the development of Winona’s art initiatives, create a community-wide arts/culture strategic plan, and collaborate with other arts organizations. The city sees participation in Public Art and Placemaking Tool for City Planners as an opportunity to advance planning for arts, produce a demonstration project that showcases the numerous benefits of public art, and help take public art in Winona to the next level. This is an especially important moment because the city is creating new downtown design codes and standards, and intends to include public art as part of future streetscape designs.
Spotlight Community: St. Joseph, Minn.

This edition’s APA Minnesota Spotlight Community is St. Joseph. We asked Therese Haffner, the community development director for the City of St. Joseph and a 10-year planning veteran, to describe her community, its unique aspects, and its planning issues.

Describe the community

St. Joseph is located in scenic central Minnesota eight miles west of St. Cloud so residents enjoy the amenities of a metro area while retaining its small town character. There are nearly 7,000 residents in St. Joseph and it is also home to the College of St. Benedict (CSB) so they play a big role in the community. St. Joseph is known for its community events and arts, and in fact, Joetown Rocks Parish Festival is considered one of Central Minnesota’s biggest and best family-friendly 4th of July celebrations. The festival is a two-day event, featuring a free concert and fireworks on July 3 and a parade, musical entertainment, water ball contest, quilt auction, and raffle drawing on July 4th. Joetown Rocks draws both residents and out of towners. An estimated 18,000 to 20,000 attended the celebration in 2016. The Mill Stream Arts Festival is held in September in downtown St. Joseph. This festival draws a big crowd and features a wide variety of visual arts, literature and poetry, music, art activities for children, food and more.

What is the greatest part of your job?

I love working on development projects and assisting property owners and developers in the process. Being that resource for both the community and developer is fulfilling. I want the community to thrive and the development to be a success.

What is a unique about your community?

St. Joseph is a strong arts community and keeping it local is also important to folks. It is a community that offers a high quality of life and amenities for all ages. The downtown has a great vibe with the people and businesses. The Local Blend, which opened in 2006, is a locally owned, homemade, organic coffee shop located in an historic building in downtown. Their products are sourced locally and they have a reputation for being a great coffee shop. The wood in their booths is from local trees and their food is served in pottery created by local artists. For several years running they were voted first prize for Best Coffeehouse in the Best of Central Minnesota St. Cloud Times Readers Poll. They have entertainment with open mic night and
live music performances from local and traveling musicians. Minnesota Street Market, a cooperatively owned store, sells local food and local art in an historic building in downtown St. Joseph. The College of St. Benedict has an excellent fine arts program and hosts hundreds of events annually, such as art exhibitions, concerts, plays, and various performances bringing visitors to St. Joseph.

Are there any new projects on the horizon?

Earlier this year we launched an update to our Comprehensive Plan. The new Comprehensive Plan will be user friendly and easy to understand. We have also put a lot of emphasis in engaging the public.

The City in partnership with the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) is completing the CSAH 75 Pedestrian Crossing Study. The study is looking at existing conditions and evaluating the feasibility of various ways to improve safe pedestrian and bicyclist crossing of CSAH 75. CSAH 75 divides the north and south sides of the community and although this major roadway serves as a key connection for commerce, it is also a barrier.

Two residential development projects under construction are Fortitude Senior and Woodcrest of Country Manor. Fortitude Senior is a 47 unit senior age in place complex that offers independent to assisted living apartments with an anticipated opening in June 2017. Woodcrest of Country Manor is a phased mixed use senior development featuring patio homes, and independent living, memory care and assisted living apartments. The senior campus sits on approximately 124 acres with walking trails and oak woodlands that will be preserved. Related on-site services and commercial amenities will include a chapel, salon, rehab center, convenience store, coffee shop and restaurant.

The City is also planning for a future community center. Currently, community programming and space needs are being reviewed.
By Jason Zimmerman

After many years of admirably serving as Treasurer for our Chapter, Adam Fulton has stepped down and turned the reigns over to me. Thankfully, his attention to detail and fiscal discipline has left the organization in great shape financially. In each of the past three years, the Chapter has ended the year in the black. This cushion is well appreciated now as a handful of changes are looming on the horizon.

Our long-time Administrators, Peggy and Otto Schmidt, have announced that they are ready to retire at the end of 2017. This gives the Chapter ample time to explore what type of role a replacement might play for the organization going forward, and what it might cost to hire someone to fulfill that role. The Board will be looking at a wide range of options in 2017 – from another Administrator with a similar job description to an Executive Director with expanded responsibilities – with the hope of having someone hired in time to learn on the job at the Fall Conference in September.

Peggy and Otto have selflessly worked to support the Chapter for many years; replacing them will be difficult and will likely take a greater financial commitment than what has been carved out of the budget annually in the past.

Another adjustment that will be made in 2018 is a shift to percentage based dues for our local Chapter. For a number of years, APA has encouraged all state Chapters to make this switch and has the goal of accomplishing this by the end of 2017. Analysis of the current membership and range of salaries shows that setting the Chapter dues at 20% of the respective National dues would be roughly equivalent to the flat $50 level currently in place. Of the 559 individuals who were Chapter members in 2016, 180 would see their dues rise above $54 under this policy while the remainder would see their dues lowered. Tying the Chapter dues to those of National would allow this portion of Chapter revenue to remain flexible and to adjust automatically to inflation without requiring repeated actions by the Board. In addition, dues pegged to the actual salaries of Minnesota planners are a more equitable way to collect revenue.

Finally, with new leadership this year, the Board is working to develop a Strategic Plan that is consistent with new Mission and Vision Statements to help guide the investment of resources and prioritize spending in the years to come. Watch for this to be rolled out over the remainder of 2017.

Aside from a one-time $60,000 Planners4Health grant awarded to the Chapter to help build local capacity for integrating planning and public health, the 2017 budget remains very similar to the budgets of recent years. Like my predecessor, I am available and happy to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to reach out via phone (763-593-8099) or via email (jzimmerman@goldenvalleymn.gov).
Innovative Housing Project

As a requirement for the Masters of Urban Planning program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, students must complete a capstone project. Students Jane Adade, Luke Sims, Abdullahi Abdulle, and Maryam Moeinian, worked tirelessly to create an innovative housing solution over the course of the semester. Their project, which recommends a new housing district, managed grandfathered uses, annexation, and outdated zoning. The site for the project was a 44-acre piece of land located in South Bend Township in Blue Earth County, about 3.5 miles from Mankato. The property is currently home to 19 tiny homes which are considered a non-conforming, grandfathered use. The homes have been on the property for almost 40 years. The property is currently zoned as light industrial under the Blue Earth County zoning code and forbids any non-agricultural use within the area, except it is annexed. There is currently an ongoing orderly annexation process between the City of Mankato and South Bend Township. This project was aimed at designing a unique, comfortable, and convenient housing district like no other in the area. The district needed to maintain current residents, providing them with community facilities and municipal services, currently absent, while also providing options for new residents. The proposed design included 100 lots for tiny homes specifically targeted at low to middle-income class residents within Blue Earth County, a two-story apartment building, parking facilities, a community building with a community meeting rooms, a laundry room, and a storm shelter. The design also sought to connect residents to nature with a park and playground overlooking the beautiful Minnesota River view.

The project has been well-received by students, faculty, staff, and professional planners. Congratulations to Jane, Luke, Abdullahi, and Maryam on an excellent project.

Kmart Superblock 2.0

Joe Polacek, a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning student at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, dedicated a semester to studying the contentious Kmart site in Minneapolis. Working with Dr. Tom Fisher in his Theories and Principles of Urban Design course, Joe was able to create a new design for the Kmart site that benefits the residents in the area, while improving connectivity that has been lost. Joe’s project is presented digitally here: https://issuu.com/jpe.polacek/docs/april2017

Joe’s project brings together community engagement, site design, and a keen understanding of the importance of the Kmart site. He designed a healthy neighborhood, with housing options, walkable streets, and a focus on family. His innovative solution to opening up Nicollet Avenue allows the Kmart, a neighborhood amenity, to remain onsite, while improving connections. Joe’s visual recommendations make his suggestions easy to understand and visualize the changes.

Planning for Lasting Relationships: PSO Wins National Award

The Planning Student Organization (PSO) at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs recently won the Outstanding PSO Award in the category of Involvement with State Chapter or Division. Their submission focused on numerous events planned throughout the year with students and professionals present - including career panels, happy hours, brown bag lunches, and the annual conference. Their award submission can be found here: https://www.planning.org/media/document/9120950/

Four PSO members will attend the national conference to accept the award - Chloe McGuire Brigl, Jared Staley, Aimee Fritsch, and Alex Kleppin. PSO would like to thank APA - Minnesota Chapter members for their continued dedication to students.

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs highlighted this prestigious award in the following article: https://www.hhh.umn.edu/news/murp-students-build-community-within-program
The American Planning Association recently announced changes to its student membership program starting in July 2017. The updates strive to engage and support the next generation of planning practitioners. I have had the pleasure of interacting the APA student membership program from a couple of different perspectives. First, as a planning faculty member and former director of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Minnesota, I connected with students to explore the benefits of membership, including opportunities to connect with APA Minnesota. I also administered the membership program requirements, which currently offers a free year of membership for incoming students in schools that are full members of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. The program worked well for our students, but it was clear that many students did not renew their membership during the second year of the graduate program, even with a reduced membership fee.

Second, as a member of the APA/AICP Student and New Planner Task Force, I had the opportunity to explore with academic, practitioner, and student colleagues, potential changes to the student membership program. The Task Force discussed a wide range of issues related to student membership with a focus on engaging more students and more effectively transitioning students into APA membership and the profession. The group discussed a wide range of factors that were important to determining how to update the program in a way that met the needs of students and APA. Over multiple meetings, issues of cost, administrative efficiency, impacts on state chapters, and connections to APA divisions were discussed.

While administrative and financial issues were considered, these procedural issues were coupled with more substantive discussions about how APA can be more relevant to students and early career practitioners. One of the issues that I and others highlighted was the assumption by students and recent graduates that APA is not relevant to them because, as many state “I am not really working as a planner” or “I’m not a real planner.” The Task Force discussed the strong orientation that APA has had toward land use and public sector planning. While the public sector is a strong area of employment for our graduates and land use remains a key interest, I see much greater diversity in topical focus and employment among our students at the Humphrey School. Conversations with faculty colleagues at other schools have revealed similar trends. Responding to these discussions, the Student and New Planner Task Force highlighted the importance coupling changes in the membership program to broader changes in how APA frames and discusses what planning is and what planners do. As someone who believes that any graduate of a planning program is always a “planner in their heart,” I am encouraged by the direction of the profession that I have been a part of for now 20 years.

The changes in the membership program foster greater inclusion of students who come to planning from different pathways. Under the new membership program, students at any level (undergraduate, graduate, and PhD) can be members of APA and their state chapter at no cost while they are enrolled in any academic program. Students do not have to be enrolled in planning-related programs, thus making it easier for example for students in undergraduate geography and urban studies program who are interested in planning, to get connected to APA even before they pursue a graduate degree. The program also encourages students to get involved in APA by offering free membership in up to five divisions. As an incentive to transition to full APA membership, student members receive two years of reduced membership fees after they graduate.

As the updated membership program goes into effect this summer, I look forward to working with APA Minnesota colleagues, including faculty at other planning-related programs, to explore ways to not only get more students involved, but also meaningfully engage them with our impactful (and changing) profession. I also look forward to exploring opportunities to be even more inclusive of the range of work that planners do as we plan our conferences and other programs, share awards, invite collaborations, and communicate about the important work that we all do every day. Please feel free to contact me at schiv005@umn.edu.
Hard to believe, but it's time again for chapter elections. National APA has sent out information regarding the election for national officers and leaders, but as a chapter, we also need to fill some Board positions. This year, the open positions are for the eight District Directors. To fill these positions, we are appealing to members who would like to be more involved in chapter activities, who have some time for volunteer service, and who have creative ideas for furthering the cause of good planning in all areas of the state, both rural and urban.

The application process for the eight District Director positions is open, and all nominations must be received by the end of the day May 15. Each application must include the nominee's name and the position for which the applicant is being nominated. The application must include a bio/position statement and a picture. All of this information will be sent on to national, as they will again be facilitating the election. Those running for the District Directors' positions must either live or be employed in the represented area and must be a member of APA. The actual voting will take place in August, and the new directors will be announced in September. Each position is a two-year term, and the new directors will begin their terms on January 1, 2018.

The success of the chapter as a whole is dependent on having qualified leadership, so the current Executive Committee would like to encourage all members to consider running for a position. The Board would also remind interested candidates to receive their employer's support before committing to a two-year term. The Board meets 6 times a year, and each Director is expected also to attend some of the other events of the chapter as well.

Attached to this notice is a statement of the responsibilities of the District Directors, as well as a map of the service area for each district. A sample bio/position statement guideline is also attached. These statements will be posted on the website, in the newsletter, and on the national website.

Please submit your nomination and accompanying statement and picture to the APA Minnesota chapter office at mnapa@buffleheadweb.net by May 15, 2017. If you would like to know more about running for the position, feel free to contact Tim Gladhill, President, at tgladhill@cityoframsey.com.

We hope each of you will give consideration to running for a position, either at the national level or for a District Director position with the chapter.
University of Minnesota to partner with City of Ramsey through Resilient Communities Project

The RCP-Ramsey partnership will engage hundreds of students at the University of Minnesota’s Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is pleased to announce that the City of Ramsey, located in Anoka County, has been selected as its partner community for the 2017–2018 academic year. Starting in September 2017, Ramsey and the University will begin collaborating on 20 multidisciplinary projects that advance community from Ramsey’s Strategic Plan focused on a stable tax base, a connected community, smart citizen-focused government, and an efficient organization.

Ramsey Mayor Sarah Strommen stated that “This partnership builds on Ramsey’s history of being a leader in planning and citizen engagement strategies. Ramsey demonstrated its commitment to engaging residents in a collaborative way during our last Comprehensive Plan Update through the assistance of the McKnight Foundation and a citizen group known as Ramsey3. The launching of our next Comprehensive Plan Update represents an opportunity to partner with the University of Minnesota to develop more new and innovative strategies.”

Ramsey’s proposal to RCP identified nearly 20 potential projects, including small business incubation, community engagement, U.S. Highway 10 corridor planning, environmental and floodplain communication, asset management, greenway planning, housing for all, organics recycling, retail market analysis, water conservation, and a community volunteer program.

City Administrator Kurt Ulrich believes the City will benefit from the broad range of expertise that can be provided by University staff and students. “Innovative solutions to today’s problems will help Ramsey be better prepared to provide efficient municipal service, and to realize a productive, safe, and healthy community for many generations to come,” he stated.

Now in its fifth year, RCP seeks to connect students’ innovation, ingenuity, and fresh perspectives to local governments and agencies seeking a more sustainable and resilient future. The program matches students from the University of Minnesota with a single Minnesota city or county for an entire academic year. This will be the first year that RCP is partnering with a community in Anoka County.

“We’re truly excited about our upcoming partnership with the City of Ramsey,” said RCP’s Director Mike Greco. “As a growing city, Ramsey has identified a very diverse slate of projects. Working with Ramsey staff, residents, and community partners will provide students with great experiential learning opportunities, while increasing the City’s capacity to build a more resilient community in response to economic, social, and environmental changes.”

An RCP partnership provides the community with access to students from a wide range of programs and disciplines—from architecture, planning and engineering, to business, environmental sciences and the humanities. Through work with RCP, the community is able to enhance its own capacity to deal with a variety of community issues. Students who participate in RCP projects benefit from real-world opportunities to apply their knowledge and training.

Over the next few months, staff from RCP and Ramsey will define the scope and purpose of the individual projects, and begin matching them with courses offered at the University in fall 2017 and spring 2018. RCP Director Mike Greco will administer the partnership on behalf of the University, and Ramsey Community Development Director Tim Gladhill will coordinate the City’s participation in the program.

RCP is a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota.
Events and Information

Upcoming Webinars

Register for these upcoming free webinars for CM credit:

The Next Disruptive Technology: Autonomous Vehicles
Sponsored by the Ohio Chapter of the APA
May 12, 2017 12:00-1:30 PM CDT

Women in Planning: Leadership & Empowerment
Sponsored by the Women and Planning Division
Jun 2, 2017 12:00-1:30 PM CDT

Join the APA Women and Planning Division for an exciting and inspiring conversation focused on leadership and empowerment within the workplace. This webinar will provide an opportunity for female planning professionals to learn more about the fundamentals of becoming an effective leader, strategies for advancement within your career and how to create a culture of supporting and empowering other female leaders. A panel of experienced female professionals will discuss a wide range of important topics including career growth and development, how to gain a valuable planning network, and share their own experiences and stories. Students, emerging and mid-career professionals, and seasoned planners alike will enjoy this collaborative and supportive webinar.

A Road Map for Age-Friendly Communities
Sponsored by the Private Practice Division
Jun 16, 2017 12:00-1:30 PM CDT

America is aging: The most dramatic change is in the 65-74 year old age category with the age wave of the Baby Boomer generation with far-reaching economic and socio-political consequences. Population aging is viewed as a challenge and burden, especially, for communities unprepared for this demographic change. Real progress will occur when challenge is transformed to opportunity. APA’s Aging in Community Policy Guide can help frame planning solutions that foster new conversations, new coalitions, and new shared strategies that link the generations successfully to build livable communities for all. In this session, planners will explore a community’s capacity to foster aging-in-community in transportation, housing and community supports and connections: three of the six Guiding Policies in the Policy Guide.

Making the Most of Main Street Webinar

The National Complete Streets Coalition is excited to continue our monthly webinar series designed to help professionals from a variety of disciplines put Complete Streets into action. Join us for our next webinar, Making the Most of Main Street: Complete Streets & Walkable Communities, taking place
on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 1:00-2:00 PM EDT. Speakers from the City of Langley, Washington and Langley Main Street Association will join the Coalition and our co-host America Walks in answering questions such as: How do Complete Streets help communities achieve walkable main streets? What steps can advocates and practitioners take to revitalize their downtowns? The speakers will discuss their experiences developing and implementing Complete Streets, the intersection of public health and rural economic development, how to get community members involved, and how to find funding.

Smart Growth in Rural Areas

In rural places, a smart growth approach can mean putting a new post office near the elementary school, creating more affordable homes near jobs, or analyzing the long-term financial impact of development decisions.

Smart Growth America has released three new toolkits designed specifically for leaders in rural areas show how to create and implement public policies that use this approach to development.

The Community Facilities Location toolkit helps communities make the most of new facilities like hospitals or post offices. The Well-Placed Affordable Housing toolkit looks at creating centrally located housing infrastructure. And the Fiscal Impact Analysis toolkit looks at how local government can better understand the long-term financial implications of decisions about new development.

CPTED Training


This course covers the general principles of CPTED, including crime prevention and security strategies, a thorough analysis of proper design and development applications and ways to develop community partnerships to apply CPTED to all types of city and county developments. Interactive work is included in the training to help participants diagnose problems and formulate effective responses.

The course includes:
- Introduction to CPTED
- Applying the Design Out Crime Program
- CPTED and the design process
- Planning, zoning and CPTED
- Community enrichment using design strategies
- Introduction to lighting
- Report writing
- For more information contact Investigator Faue.

APA is Looking for Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces

DEADLINE FOR 2017 CONSIDERATION: WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

APA needs your help in suggesting places that are great and merit such designation! We want you to suggest your favorite streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces across America, whether they are in your own city or town, in a place you’ve visited, or in a place you otherwise know about.

Places selected for designation as a Great Neighborhood,
Great Street, or Great Public Space are recognized by APA during National Community Planning Month each October.

More information is available on the APA website.

Land Use Training and Education Program

From basic to advanced core content, to special and emerging topics, the Land Use Training and Education Program is designed to provide opportunities for elected and appointed officials, land use planning and zoning staff, the business community, community-based organizations, and concerned citizens from cities, suburbs, towns, and rural areas to engage in conversations and collaborative learning that will drive toward equitable and sustainable land use outcomes.

Workshops are held throughout the year in various locations. Presenters have extensive backgrounds in their discipline areas, and workshops include practical content, opportunities for in-depth study and hands-on application as well as handouts and reference materials. The purpose of the Program is to ensure economic vitality, and environmental and public health for all communities by engaging and informing a diverse group of public, private and civic stakeholders regarding ongoing and emerging land use issues.

Land Use Training & Education Programs:

Basics of Planning & Zoning:
Thursday, June 8, 2017 - Owatonna, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 - St. Paul, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 22, 2017 - Little Falls, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Beyond the Basics of Planning & Zoning: Variances and More!
Thursday, July 6, 2017 - St. Paul, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday, July 17, 2017 - Owatonna, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 20, 2017 - Little Falls, Minnesota - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Workshop Venues:

St. Paul
League of MN Cities
145 University Ave W.

Owatonna
Public Utilities Building
208 S. Walnut Ave.

Little Falls
Initiative Foundation
405 1st St. SE
Job Opportunities and RFPs

Job Title: Zoning Assistant
Hiring Agency: Goodhue County
Web Link: https://www.co.goodhue.mn.us
Deadline: May 12, 2017
Salary Range: $44,948-$47,153

Job Description
Goodhue County is actively recruiting qualified applicants for the Zoning Assistant position in the Land Use Management office.

The Zoning Assistant is responsible for interpretation, enforcement and updating of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Controls Ordinance. The Zoning Assistant has considerable interaction with Land Use Management staff members, other departments, advisory boards, commissioners, outside agencies and the general public.

The primary responsibilities of the Zoning Assistant include, but are not limited to:

- Initial review of all zoning permits applications for compliance with county zoning and subdivision ordinances.
- Performs site visits for zoning meetings, ordinance violations and noxious weed complaints.
- Determines correct zoning designation and if property and/or land use requires a conditional use permit, variance or appeal.
- Writes amendments to zoning ordinance and subdivision control ordinance.
- Utilizes the County’s GIS software to analyze, create, and maintain land use datasets, along with map creation for meetings.
- Prepares public hearing notices.
- Prepares agenda reports and packets for Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings as well as taking detailed minutes for publication.

The ideal candidate:

- has exceptional written and verbal communication skills;
- demonstrates an impeccable attention to detail;
- has knowledge of land use concepts, principles and practices;
- is comfortable presenting complex information to large groups in public meetings;
- can correctly read and interpret complex maps;
- has the ability to think on their feet to respectfully respond to controversial or sensitive issues; and,
- is computer savvy and able to quickly learn new software programs.

Minimum Qualifications:
This position requires a four year degree in a related land management discipline.

Salary & Benefits:
County employees receive competitive pay and a generous benefit offering. The starting salary for this position is $21.61-22.67 per hour. This is a non-exempt, union position.

The County’s comprehensive benefit package includes medical and dental insurance, health savings account, employer paid life insurance, short and long term disability insurance, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, generous vacation and sick leave and 12 paid holidays per year. County employees are eligible for the Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

Application Instructions
Applications will be accepted online through Friday, May 12, 2017. Goodhue County Jobs postings: https://mn-goodhuecounty.civicplus.com/jobs.aspx. Please follow the link within the job posting to complete your application.

Job Title: Senior Planner
Hiring Agency: City of Plymouth
Web Link: http://www.plymouthmn.gov
Deadline: May 15, 2017 8:00am
Salary Range: $66,913.60 - $91,353.60 Annually, DOQ

Job Description
The purpose of this position is to play a major role in the review process for development plans and related matters; to assist in development and implementation of land use plans, regulations and policies; and to ensure positive and effective enforcement of city plans, policies and ordinances.
Essential Functions:

- Play a major role in the coordination, review and evaluation of proposed development plans.
- Assist Supervisor in Planning Commission and City Council matters, attend Planning Commission and City Council meetings and represents division as assigned.
- Respond in a positive and courteous manner to public inquiries concerning city land use plans, policies, and ordinances and development applications and development review procedures.
- Conduct research projects of a complex nature.
- Manage administration of site improvement performance agreements (SIPAs) and where appropriate, assist engineering with the administration of development contract provisions for all assigned and affected applications to ensure timely implementation of ordinance requirements.
- Maintain knowledge of comprehensive plan materials and advise supervisor of necessary changes and recommended modifications.
- Keep abreast of and inform supervisor of developments and trends in subjects related to areas of responsibilities.
- Perform other duties and responsibilities as apparent or assigned.

Application Instructions

The application deadline is Monday, May 15, 2017 at 8:00am.
For more information and to apply online, please visit our website, [http://www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov).

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**Job Title: Planner/Senior Planner**

**Hiring Agency: St. Louis County**

**Web Link:** [http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs)

**Deadline:** May 19, 2017

**Salary Range:** $22.63-$29.20 / hr

**Job Description**

Professional Planning work involving the administration of the county's zoning and subdivision ordinances, permitting and environmental review, preparing and presenting reports to commissions and boards and conducting research for short and long term planning.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (Pass/Fail):** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning, land resources management, geography, or closely related field. Possession of a valid driver's license.

Note: If the successful candidate possesses the following qualifications, they may be considered, at the discretion of the hiring authority, for appointment at the Senior Planner level. This would be determined at the time a job offer is extended: A Bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning, land resources management, geography, or closely related field; AND four (4) years full-time paid verifiable professional experience in the assigned area of specialty; OR, a Master's degree as noted below; AND two (2) years full-time paid verifiable professional experience in the assigned area of specialty.

Application Instructions

For more information and to apply online please visit us at: [http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs).

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**Job Title: Civil Engineer: Project Lead, CAD tech., Designer**

**Hiring Agency: Landform Professional Services, LLC**

**Web Link:** [http://landform.net/careers.html](http://landform.net/careers.html)

**Deadline:** open until filled

**Salary Range:** DOQ

**Job Description**

We are looking for Civil Engineers/Technicians to join our Retail & Commercial Design Studio. The responsibilities will encompass a full range of design services for major projects and clients.

Duties include all aspects of site design including, preparation of site plans, grading, drainage, erosion control plans, utility plans and coordination with other disciplines. You will be expected to work directly with clients, consultants and contractors.

In all positions, you must be proficient in using AutoCAD, and experience in Civil3D is preferred.

Design Responsibilities:

- Site Analysis, Selection & Feasibility Studies
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont.)

- Site Design & Theming
- Building Siting & Parking Design
- Stormwater Management
- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Grading Design, Utility/Infrastructure Design
- Earthwork Analysis
- Sustainable Design
- Traffic Circulation Analysis
- EAW, AUAR, EIS, ISP Review/Preparation
- Site Illumination Analysis
- Construction Observation
- Any similar tasks which would typically be performed at a site design firm

Project Management:
- Manage production, permitting & construction of an entire project
- Project accounting
- Opinions of Probable Construction Cost
- Bid Solicitation
- Contract Administration
- Effective management of staff
- Maintain & expand client relationships
- Qualifications/Requirements:
  - Four years of experience in production for Project Lead / CAD Technician
  - Requires a BS or BA degree for Project Lead/ Associates for CAD Technician
  - Ability to follow instructions & take initiative/self-motivated
  - Good verbal and written communication skills
  - Positive and professional attitude
  - Consistent and accurate work product
  - Strong work ethic
  - Strong Interpersonal, leadership and motivational skills.
  - Full-Time/Part-Time/Hours: Full-Time with a flexible work environment (work life balance).
  
Benefits: Health, dental, life, disability, PTO, 401K Employer contribution, transportation allowance, Fun and relaxing atmosphere

Number of Openings: 1-2

Advancement Potential:
Promotions are based on your proven ability to master tasks.

Training Available: Our focus on developing strong teams through hands on training in real world situations contributes to our successful growth.

Application Instructions
Please send resume to:
Contact: Michelle Chapman
Company Address: 105 South 5th Avenue Ste. 513 Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: 612-252-9070
Fax: 612-252-9077
E-mail: careers@landform.net
Website: www.landform.net

Job Title: Senior Community Development Specialist

Hiring Agency: Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission
Web Link: http://www.umvrdc.org
Deadline: open until filled
Salary Range: $57,000-$77,000 DOE

Job Description
Do you have a pioneering spirit? Are you curious about small town living? Anxious to apply what you know in new ways? Interested in doing something you are passionate about and seeing that work through to completion? If so, we want YOU to join a small, creative, professional team with great comradery whose work makes a difference in rural Minnesota!

The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) is looking for an energetic experienced community development planner who would develop and manage diverse programs and projects with cities, counties and other organizations in the five-county UMVRDC region of Big Stone, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine Counties.
Candidates that are passionate about their work, who are curious to find options and solutions for locally identified issues, and who relish in the idea of working on a diverse portfolio of work are ideal for this position. Employees who demonstrate strong initiative and character will have opportunities for growth!

Join an office culture that has great flexibility to achieve your ideal work/life balance. Join the office wellness committee to plan monthly office health challenges. Want to work from home? Use our office technology to stay connected. Desire to share what you learn or are working on? Help plan the next lunch and learn for employees. Join the fun committee to propose the next employee team building event. Be a part of a team who is pioneering rural practices and tactics inside our office and in the work we do every day.

Want to learn more about our area? Check out our Western Minnesota Prairie Waters website or search for Get Rural MN on Facebook for a glimpse of all our region offers.

Preferred education includes a degree in planning, urban studies, public administration, geography, environmental studies, economics, political science or a related field.

Occasional night meetings and regular travel is required.

Valid Class D Minnesota Driver’s License.

Fluency in English language sufficient to communicate effectively with internal/external stakeholders and public both verbally and in writing.

2 years of relevant work required, 5 preferred.

Salary $57,000-$77,000 depending on experience.

$1,000 signing incentive! PLUS cash retention incentives.

GREAT BENEFIT PACKAGE! Benefits include employer paid health insurance (50% family coverage), dental, significant health savings account employer contributions, pre-tax flexible spending account, tax deferred retirement savings programs, PERA, 10 paid holidays, generous paid vacation, sick, parental leave and more.

Application Instructions

Review full job description and complete the application found at [www.umvrdc.org](http://www.umvrdc.org).

Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont).

Send application and cover letter to:
UMVRDC Executive Director
323 West Schlieman Ave.
Appleton MN 56208
320-289-1981
dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org

Job Title: Community Development Director

Hiring Agency: City of Isanti

Web Link: [http://www.cityofisanti.us](http://www.cityofisanti.us)

Deadline: Open Until Filled

Salary Range: $67,407-$83,223

Job Description

The City of Isanti is seeking a qualified individual to serve as Community Development Director. The Community Development Director manages the Community Development Department which consists of code enforcement, planning and zoning administration. The individual in this position performs professional planning and zoning work for the City through application of planning principles and zoning/code enforcement activities. In addition, the Community Development Director performs subdivision and zoning administration, coordinates updates to the Comprehensive Plan and City Ordinances, oversees city code enforcement activities, and organizes Planning Commission.

A minimum of 2 years’ professional experience in local government planning or economic development is required. A Bachelor’s Degree in Planning/Urban Regional Studies or closely related field is required; a Master’s Degree is preferred. AICP accreditation is preferred, or ability to obtain within one year of employment. Good public relations skills are a must. Annual salary range is: $67,407 - $83,223 plus full city benefit package. Starting salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

Application Instructions

To be considered for this position a complete city job application packet must be received no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday, March 15th, 2017. Complete application packet consists of
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont).

the application, supplemental questionnaire and resume. Applications available from: City of Isanti Human Resources, 110 1st Avenue NW, P.O. Box 428, Isanti, MN 55040, 763-444-5512, and also available at www.cityofisanti.us. Position open until filled. EOE

Job Title: Assistant Planner
Hiring Agency: Hometown Planning
Web Link: http://www.hometownplanning.com/
Deadline: January 15, 2017 or until filled
Salary Range: $18-20/hour or higher depending on experience

Job Description
Hometown Planning, a private company providing contract land use planning and zoning administration services throughout Central Minnesota, is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant Planner (minimum 32-40 hours/week). Responsibilities include assisting in the development of comprehensive plans and ordinance updates, reviewing permit applications, preparing monthly staff reports for Planning Commission and other meetings, responding to public inquiries, assisting in ordinance enforcement, conducting site inspections and other duties as assigned. Some work may be conducted remotely, upon approval. A complete job description can be found at www.hometownplanning.com.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree or significant coursework in community planning, urban studies, public administration, geography or related field and demonstrated oral and written communication skills. Preferred candidates will have a Master’s degree/coursework and/or AICP certification.

Application Instructions
Please send resume/job history and cover letter explaining interest and qualifications to: Hometown Planning, 324 Broadway Street, Suite 101, Alexandria, MN 56308. Interviews will begin after January 15, 2017 and continue until filled.

Job Title: Part-Time Planner
Hiring Agency: Sambatek, Inc.
Web Link: http://www.sambatek.com
Deadline: NA

Salary Range: DOQ

Job Description
Position Description Sambatek, Inc. is an Award Winning Twin Cities-based professional services firm that specializes in engineering, planning, surveying, and environmental services. Since 1966, we have served public and private clients throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and across the country. Sambatek, Inc. was recently named to the prestigious 2014 ZweigWhite Hot Firm list. Sambatek ranks 48th on the list recognizing the top 100 fastest-growing architecture, engineering, planning and environmental consulting firms in the United States and Canada. Sambatek supports a dynamic, collaborative work environment and we embrace challenging projects and work hard to help our clients find success. We are a vibrant organization that believes integrity, value, and outstanding service are the foundations of a great company.

We are seeking one or more part-time Planners to support community planning and land use studies. These individuals will serve on a team of planner consultants for Sambatek’s municipal client cities by providing application reviews, zoning code interpretation, city code updates, staff reports and public presentations with Commissions or Councils. Experienced candidates will also be given the opportunity to lead land use studies and comprehensive planning efforts that fit their background and time availability.

Specific Requirements:
• College graduate with degree in planning, urban studies, geography or related coursework
• 2+ years of experience with city planning or relevant work/education
• 2+ experience
• Knowledge of city planning process related to zoning codes and comprehensive plans plus experience administering planning applications such as variances, conditional use permits and site plan reviews

Excellent communication skills - both verbal and in writing - an absolute must!

Application Instructions
Job Opportunities and RFPs (cont.)

**Job Title: Transportation/Community Development Planner**

Hiring Agency: Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission  
Web Link: [http://www.umvrdc.org/](http://www.umvrdc.org/)  
Deadline: open until filled  
Salary Range: MA  
Job Description  
The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission in Appleton, MN is looking for a planner to develop and manage projects for local governments in the five-county area. Background in community development, transportation planning, urban studies, GIS, public administration or related field required.  
Primary responsibilities will be in transportation planning and working with MnDOT, cities, and counties with road, bridge, rail, trail planning and funding. Other work areas will be assigned and may include the following areas:  
- Community strategic planning  
- Capital improvement planning  
- GIS  
- Safe Routes to School Plans  
- Active transportation initiatives  
- Park and trail planning and development  
- Grant writing  
- Comprehensive planning and plan updates  
- Zoning ordinance development  
- Telecommunication/broadband planning  
Application Instructions  
Job description, agency profile, application, and instructions for applying can be found online at [www.umvrdc.org](http://www.umvrdc.org).

**Job Title: Community Development Planner**

Hiring Agency: Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission  
Web Link: [http://www.umvrdc.org](http://www.umvrdc.org)  
Deadline: open until filled  
Salary Range: $42,000-60,000 DOE  
Job Description  
The Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) is looking for TWO community development planners to develop and manage projects with cities, counties and other organizations in the five-county UMVRDC region of Big Stone, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine Counties.  
This position will work on a variety of projects including:  
- Grant writing  
- GIS mapping and analysis  
- Facilitating strategic planning meetings  
- Capital improvement planning  
- Environmental reviews  
- Comprehensive plan development  
- Telecommunication/broadband planning  
- Business retention and expansion processes  
- Researching and implementing community finance methods  
- MN DEED Small Cities Development Program grant writing and administration  
- USDA Rural Development grant writing and administration  
- Survey development and analysis  
- Renewable energy project development  
- Transportation planning  
- Development of County Hazard Mitigation Plans  
- Transportation Planning  
- Safe Routes to School Plans  
- Zoning ordinances  
Application Instructions  
Job description and application available online at [www.umvrdc.org](http://www.umvrdc.org)
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Adam Freed  Andrew Reese  Palencia Mobley  Jon Allan

www.michigan.gov/deqevents | #GI4GreatLakes
Leadership Directory

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Dayton MN 55327
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E-mail: tgoodroad@cityofdaytonmn.com

Jason Zimmerman
Treasurer
City of Golden Valley
Phone: 612-270-3857 (cell)
E-mail: jzimmerman@goldenvalleymn.gov

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City of St. Joseph
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Planning Director
West Central Initiative
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Southwest District Director
City of Worthington
Director of Community/Economic Devl.
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