APA RI Annual Meeting

Friday, October 29  2021
8:00AM – 9:15AM
SNEAPA
Treasurer’s Report

Submitted by RI APA Chapter Treasurer
Josh O’Neill, AICP
## APA RI 2021 BUDGET Proposed

### FY 2021 PROPOSED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sponsorship</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNEAPA (80% of 3-year average)</td>
<td>$6,172.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Funding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,872.10</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's Travel</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Business Expenses</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Development and Outreach</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,000.00</strong></td>
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Account Balances

**Checking 2021**
- Checking Balance January 1st
  - $5,813.76
- Checking Balance October 1st
  - $15,198.65

**Savings 2021**
- Savings Balance January 1st
  - $3,842.05
- Savings Balance October 1st
  - $3,843.32

Current Bank Balance Total = **$19,041.97**
Largest Expenses

• RI Convention Center Deposit for SNEAPA 2022 – Current expense for the hold on the Convention Center for October 2022 = $6,264.00 (THIS IS STILL BEING HELD FROM 2020*)

• General Businesses Expenses – RI APA Chapter and SNEAPA Website Contracts and Maintenance, RI League of Cities and Towns Affiliation, Philly Insurance Policy and Tax Accountant Services = $3,957
Impact of Covid-19

• RI APA in person trainings were still not happening, however, social events have started to be in person again such as the Summer Social at Colt State Park and the upcoming Holiday Party.

• Executive Board meetings continue to be over Zoom, however it’s possible that could change in 2022.

• Depending on the course of the Pandemic, RI APA could bring back in person training opportunities.
Future Fundraising Needs

• Continue to Expand Membership in the RI Chapter (Great progress made in last 2 years)
• Improve Sponsorship Fundraising (in person events would help)
• Improve Attendance at Social Events Post Pandemic
• Make SNEAPA at the Convention Center in Providence in 2022 a Big Success!
Chapter Highlights from 2021
Professional Development

• CM credit activities being maintained and monitored

• New CM Mandatory credits coming in January 2022: Social Equity and Resilience & Sustainability

• January 2022: all CM reporting on the same schedule

• AICP exam content will be updated for November 2021 – new content on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Events/Programming

• Planners’ Book Club (February 26, May 21, January 2022!)
• Summer Social 2021 – picnic at Colt State Park (June 26)
• Charette High School Meet and Greet (June 29)
• Planners Social Hour (July 16)
• RI Act on Climate Webinar (August 18)
• Green Infrastructure Assistance from RIDOT (October 1)
• SNEAPA In-Person Events
  • Charette High School Walking Tour of Downtown PVD – postponed to next week
  • Tour of Farm Fresh RI and reception at ISCO – tonight!
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

• Equity in Planning Session (RILOCAT – January)
• EDI Movie Night (March 26)
• Reimagining Zoning to Desegregate our Communities (April 30)
• "The City of Providence Matter of Truth Report“ (September 10)
• Infusing Equity in Community Development in MA and RI (SNEAPA – today!)

Always looking for more committee members!
Awards

• Nominations EXTENDED to COB Friday, November 5
• Current Topic: Equity in Planning
• Awardees will be announced in December
• Awards/Post-Holiday Party – January 13, 2022
Membership

- Membership Committee
  - Increased membership from 150 to 240+/-!!!
  - 7 Planning Board Chapter-Only memberships
  - Increasing discounts to Members
  - Weekly e-news only available to members
Legislative

- Zoom committee hearings!
- Continued to testify and write letters on legislation
- Letters and brochures distributed to new legislators
- Legislative Debrief (July 23)
- Biggest News: Land Use Commission!

This will be the bulk of our conversation today
Who are your incoming APA RI Board Members?

President: Ashley Sweet
Past President: Jeff Davis
President-Elect: Roberta Groch
Treasurer: Glenn Modica
Secretary: Stacy Wasserman

Executive Board
Elected for 2-year terms
Starting December 1
Who are your APA RI Board Members?

Awards Chair: Josh O’Neill

EDI Chairs: Annette Bourne and Pat McKenna

Elections Officer: Mike DeLuca

Events: Sarah Ingle

Legislative Liaison: Jane Weidman

Legislative Co-Chair: Maria Mack

Other Board Members Appointed by the Executive Board as needed
Who are your APA RI Board Members?

Membership: Kellie King

Professional Development Officer: Al Ranaldi

Program Coordinator: Jillian Finkle

Public Relations Coordinator: Roberta Groch

SNEAPA Chair: Jay Parker

Our Committees Always Need Your Help!
Better Land Use Rhode Island presents APA Rhode Island’s recommendations for improvement of land-use regulation. The purpose is to add both efficiency and efficacy. These recommendations will be provided to the Land-Use Commission and the membership of our chapter.
Presentation Overview

Our APA-RI Principles

Process and Procedure

Prominent and Emerging Issues
• Seat at the table
• Recognition by the Land Use Commission
• We work with these policies every day
• Municipal self-governance (Home Rule)
• Consistency with the State Guide Plan
• Rejection of unfunded mandates
• Holistic approach to policy
• Efficiency in response to the needs of the public
• Technical accuracy and correctness
Process and Procedures

A. State Mandated Time Periods for Completeness and Review of Applications
B. Design Review Guidelines and how They are Tied to Development Plan Review (45-23-30 and 45-24-30)
C. Zoning and Use Variances
D. Meeting Attendance and Quorums for Board Meetings
E. Training and Continuing Education for Board Members
F. Virtual Meetings and Distance Participation in Meetings and Decisions
G. Cross-Reference Local Law, Policy, and Plans along with State Law, Policy, and Plans
H. Use of Certified Mail vs. Certificate of Mail (i.e., Postal Service Form 3817)\(^1\) for the land development and subdivision processes as opposed to the more expensive and complicated Certified Mailing.
I. Professional Peer Review of Applications
J. Engagement, Diversity, and Inclusion
K. Climate Change
L. Housing Affordability - Inclusionary Housing, “Middle Housing”, Workforce Housing, Affordable Housing
M. Energy Siting
N. Transportation and Mobility
State Mandated Time Periods

• Reduced the time period for certification of completeness of the application from 60 days to 25 days for recertification of completeness from 14 days to 10 days; and for the decision by the planning board from 120 days to 90 days.

• Opposed the drastic cut in time to review applications for completeness

• Provisions for comprehensive permit applications (under Section 45-53-4(4)(iv)) received no amendment to the timeframe.

• Now an application for affordable housing is provisioned with a review limit that is 30 days longer than a conventional application.
Revisions to development law should encourage better standards for architecture, landscapes, and streets.

Land Use Commission should explore whether there should be specific language to enable design regulations and design review outside of historic districts.
Zoning and Use Variance

• Zoning Act does not allow a community to regulate conformance once a use receive a variance.

• A use variance effectively becomes the zoning for a parcel and runs with the land regardless of whether the hardship continues to exist or whether the use is abandoned.

• Advocate for a process where a use variance can be changed to a permitted use by right if the owner agrees to record that the use variance is abandoned.

• Also, the APA RI would support a process where a use by variance can be changed to a use of lesser intensity use by special use permit.
• Bill S-307 allows for minority decisions by allowing a majority PRESENT to make a decision

• Use an approach like the Zoning Enabling Law

• Have alternate members who can sit in the place of a member who is unavailable.
We support training for local planning boards and zoning boards, but wish to ensure ample opportunities at no cost.

Provide flexibility in the law to allow the Director of Administration (with support from the Division of Planning) to consider new areas of concern as they may arise.

Set up a 2-year cycle.
Virtual Meetings

- Use of virtual meetings for land-use decision making.
- Municipalities should be **offered flexibility** to do this under the Open Meetings Law as well.
• Conduct a full review of development law to ensure proper and accurate cross-referencing.
Given the success in use for zoning hearings, of the Certificate of mailing should be allowed under RIGL 45-23 for major and minor subdivisions.
Codify the right for municipalities to use peer-review services for development review.
More expansive language to ensure as diverse and inclusive process as possible.
No one can precisely predict what will come in 10, 20, or 100 years. We ask that climate change is recognized as an issue by statute and that municipalities are given the authority address it as needed.
• Authorize flexibility in local regulations.

• Coordinate with the Special LMI Housing Commission

• A dedicated finance package that eliminates the need for competitive application for funds.
• Disincentivize solar installations in areas of the state that may be better served to contain much needed housing and habitat protection.

• Consider siting of alternative energy facilities, the hardening of infrastructure, and the potential relocation or abandonment of facilities in a manner ensuring appropriate public engagement and assurance of equitable solutions.
Incorporate recommendations of the LRTP, TMP, BMP, and BSDG into land use policy to the greatest extent possible while expressly ensuring Home Rule.
Land Use Commission Discussion

*Just raise your hand!* We’ll ask you to unmute and share your thoughts