

The Nebraska Planner

A joint publication of APA Nebraska and NPZA



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NPZA ELECTION RESULTS

Prior to the awards ceremony at the Nebraska Planning Conference NPZA held a board meeting with an agenda that included the election of officers for the 2020-2022 term. After a recommendation by the Nomination Committee, a motion was made by Keith Marvin, which was seconded by Chad Nabity, to keep the current slate of officers. The motion was carried by voice vote. These are:

- » Christopher Solberg, AICP – President
- » Judy Clark – 1st Vice President
- » Dan Giittinger – 2nd Vice President

NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE-VIRTUAL EVENT

WHEN: APRIL 29-MAY 1

COST: \$125 MEMBER, \$175 NONMEMBER, \$25 STUDENT

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://PLANNING.ORG/CONFERENCE/DIGITAL/](https://planning.org/conference/digital/)

With the cancellation of NPC20 and many other local conferences, online learning is going to be important to maintaining certification and to staying up to date on the latest planning trends. NPC20 @ Home provides practical insights and education you can use right away. Join for what you'd like live and take advantage of the recordings as soon as the following day. AICP members will have the opportunity to earn over 20 CM credits, including law and ethics credits. If you were planning to attend NPC20 in Houston and still have registration credits, you can apply part to your NPC20 @ Home registration!

We are so excited to debut this digital event that will bring together the planning community at a time when preparation and connection is more urgent than ever before. The conference will span three days and cover timely and relevant content focused on rebuilding community, planning in a digital era, and navigating the future of planning. Daily keynotes featuring planning leaders from the public and private sector will start each day's program. There will also be plenty of opportunities for networking and making career connections throughout the event. All for [one affordable price](#) that includes all session recordings for up to one year in APA Learn immediately following the event.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Missing Middle Housing

LB866, as amended, establishes the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act (the “Act”). Senator Wayne introduced LB866 initially as the Density Bonus and Inclusionary Housing Act. However, through several amendments, LB866 has evolved to the Act we describe below.

The Act would require each city of the metropolitan class, primary class and first class to submit a report to the Legislature detailing its efforts to address the availability and incentives for affordable housing beginning July 1, 2021. Each city with a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants would have to adopt an affordable housing action plan by 2023, and each city with a population of less than 50,000 would have to do so by 2024. Such action plans would have to outline goals for constructing new affordable housing units, including multifamily and middle family housing. If any city failed to adopt an action plan by the deadline, that city would have to allow development of middle housing and duplexes in all areas zoned for residential use.

LB866, as amended, is on General File as of March 12. Because LB866, as amended, is on General File, the Legislature will consider it when it eventually reconvenes. Please see [this Dirt Alert](#) for an update on the Legislature’s suspension of the Legislative Session in light of COVID-19. We will continue to update you as we receive further information.

Covid-19 Legislative Impacts

LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUSPENDED

In response to COVID-19, the Nebraska Legislature suspended the legislative session on March 16, 2020 until further notice. This session was 40 days into the 60 day session, which began on January 3, 2020. It may not reconvene until late spring or summer to complete the remaining 20 days.

VIDEO MEETING ALLOWED TO MEET OPEN MEETINGS ACT

The first declaration of a state of emergency occurred on March 13, 2020 followed by a limit of 50 and now 10 people in public gatherings. Under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act public bodies are required to hold their meetings in person and open to the public. Action cannot be taken if this requirement is not met, but because public meetings can draw more than 10 people, this would prohibit them from conducting business as usual. To allow work to continue with added precautions Governor Ricketts issued a limited waiver of public meeting requirements to allow telephonic and video meetings under Executive Order 20-03 signed March 17, 2020. Governing bodies can meet through teleconference or video conference, as long as they comply with all other Open Meetings Act requirements which includes reasonable public notice, making arrangements to accommodate the public’s right to attend and speak, and make documents available at each site of attendance.

Special thanks to Baird Holm LLP for their assistance in pulling together this legislative update

CELEBRATING PLANNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Each March we have the opportunity to honor the people, communities, organizations, and firms doing excellent planning work in the state of Nebraska. We use the awards ceremony as a time to highlight great projects and inspire others. We want to congratulate this years winners for their hard work and dedication to the profession. Following is a list of the award categories and winners of each award.

APA Nebraska Awards

Individuals

- » **Alden Aust Distinguished Leadership:** Derek Miller, AICP
- » **Woznizk-Selander Award for a Planning Pioneer:** Marty Shukert, FAICP
- » **Charlston-Ptak Planning Advocate Award:** Paul Gossin (Ashland City Council)

Projects

- » **Master Plan Transportation Planning:** The Grand Island Bicycle & Pedestrian
- » **Grassroots Initiative:** Historic 10th Street Neighborhood Plan (Omaha, NE)
- » **Best Practices:** Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Update
- » **Urban Design:** Ralston Downtown/Hinge Master Plan
- » **Environmental Award:** Norfolk Levee System Emergency Preparedness Plan
- » **Communications Initiative:** North Platte Telegraph



NPZA Awards

- » **District Appointed Officials Award :**
 - › Howard County Zoning Board
 - › Cherri Klinginsmith
 - › Leland Jacobsen
 - › Grand Island Community Development Authority
- » **Carol Swayne Planning Commissioner Award:** Leslie Ruge
- » **Loretta Ludemann Achievement Award for Excellence in Planning by a Woman in the State of Nebraska:** Stacey Hageman
- » **Mitsuo Kawamoto Excellence in Planning Award:** Dan Giittinger
- » **President's Award:** Lincoln\Lancaster Planning Department
- » **President's Award:** Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



LEADERSHIP UPDATES



Another year, another successful Nebraska Planning Conference! This year we once again had over 300 people attend the conference. Actually, it is a number that been growing regularly lately as those in the planning and zoning field witness the viability of the training and networking provided by the conference. We hope the wide variety of sessions that the conference planning committee packed into the conference program covered every subject that piqued your interests.

Unfortunately, much like the floods that arose a week after last-year's conference, we've been once again been impacted by something that can have life-changing consequences. This time the impact is being felt on a world-wide basis with COVID-19.

NPZA is once again planning on holding our annual Fall Workshop. It is our hope that this virus is well-behind us by the time the of the Workshop in October. However, we will be keeping an eye on this issue and adjusting accordingly. This year's Fall Workshop will be held in Ord with some good learning opportunities planned, stay tuned for more information.

For more information on upcoming training opportunities and other NPZA activities, please check out the NPZA website or follow our activities on Facebook and Twitter as well. Although we are practicing "social distancing", it doesn't mean that we need to emotionally distance ourselves from others. Remember, whether it is social media, email, or that old relic called a phone, you are close to your friends and colleagues in the planning and zoning field.

Christopher Solberg, AICP - NPZA President



We were fortunate in the timing of the Nebraska Planning Conference this year, coming just weeks before we all began staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19. The conference was again a huge success, with a robust attendance furthered by attendance from allied professionals. The National conference was not as lucky however, but our leadership has pivoted and created a great online event at an affordable price. The conference kicks off on April 29th and ends on May 1st with a Zoom happy hour wrapping up the first day of sessions. For more information on registration check out the front page of the newsletter.

Another great adaptation by National was hosting their annual awards during a Facebook Live event last week. During this event, past chapter vice president/PDO Stacey Hageman won the Chapter Presidents Council 2020 Leadership Award for her service to our membership. Each year, the Chapter Presidents Council recognizes individual APA chapters and chapter presidents that have demonstrated outstanding performance in public outreach, service to members, professional development, and overall chapter achievement. We want to say congratulations to Stacey and thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the chapter during her term.

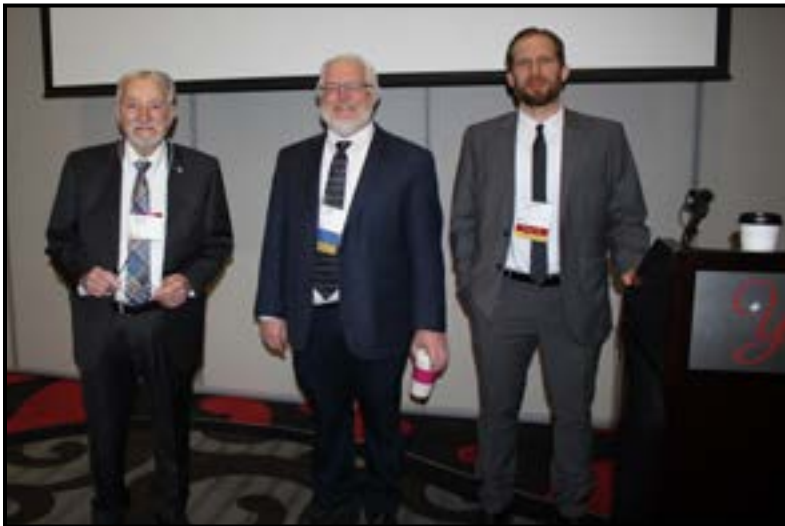
Stephanie Rouse, AICP - APA-NE Chapter Vice-President/PDO



IN MEMORANDUM

The planning community felt the loss of Harry Milligan on March 27, 2020. Harry had a long and distinguished career in the planning and zoning field, including his time as the Planning Director for the Kodiak Island Borough (Alaska), Community Development Director for Hastings (Nebraska), and as the owner of Milligan and Associates.

At the recent 2020 Nebraska Planning Conference it was announced that the Institute for Planning Fundamentals would be named after Harry out of respect for his over two decades worth of commitment to teaching and mentoring in the planning and zoning field. He also served on the NPZA and APA Nebraska boards over the years. Harry's contributions to planning and zoning in Nebraska will long be remembered. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration of life service and burial will be held at a later date.



APA NE MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

By: Cale Brodersen, AICP Candidate

The APA Nebraska Chapter is committed to supporting the profession and practice of planning in Nebraska through professional development and the creation of a robust social network. Among these initiatives is the Mentor Match Program, a program led by the Nebraska Chapter's Emerging Planners Group, the Student Planning Association of Nebraska (SPAN), and the APA Nebraska Chapter Executive Board.

The Mentor Match Program is an informal program to connect established planners with those emerging into the profession. Interested mentors are matched with planning students and emerging professionals based on areas of expertise and professional interests and aspirations. Throughout the year, matched pairs spend a minimum of 6-12 hours together.

The program kicked off in the Fall of 2018 and has made 22 mentor/mentee matches to date. Our mentors and mentees have spent time together job shadowing, attending conference sessions and workshops together, sharing meals or coffee, videoconferencing, meeting up at Emerging Planners Group networking and social events, and more. Past participants have noted that the program is a very flexible and rewarding way to get involved and meet others with similar interests and aspirations.

With many individuals working from home with more limited social opportunities due to concerns over COVID-19, now is a great time to get involved with the program and video/teleconference with your mentor or mentee through Zoom, Skype, or similar platforms. Keep in mind, you don't need to be a student to be a mentee. Are you new to the planning profession or new to the State? Are you interested in learning more about other areas of practice? Are you looking to expand your network? These are all reasons to participate!

Keep your eye out for the "Mentor Match Spotlight" in future newsletters that will highlight a mentor and mentee pair, to help you get to know a few more members of the Nebraska planning community. If you are interested in getting involved as a mentor or a mentee, please reach out to Cale Brodersen, the Mentor Match Program Coordinator, at cbrodersen@cityoflavista.org.



Figure 1: Participants in the APA NE Mentor Match Program, 2019



Figure 2: Several APA NE Mentor Match Program participants met up at the Emerging Planners Group Networking Event at the Nebraska Planning Conference this March, 2020

HYDE LECTURE @ UNL

By: Jesse Poore, AICP



Speaker Dr. Noreen McDonald presents to audience at UNL February 28, 2020, "Changing Technology, Changing Travel: Thinking About Our Transport Future"

Are Planners bold enough to pursue a desired future that leverages both the humility of lessons learned and potential of an altered technological state? Or, is the profession too wounded and insecure from lasting impacts of mistakes caused by the last great reimagining of the urban form and context? Such was the question begged by Dr. Noreen McDonald, Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She presented the final UNL College of Architecture Hyde Lecture for the year with her "epistemological" approach to thinking about how planners could help create bold vision of a new shared reality.

According to Dr. McDonald, the emerging force of connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV) has far-reaching potential to influence our shared human environment, the ways we interact with transportation infrastructure and how infrastructure funding is distributed. Some of the outlook appears to be good and points to a utopian future where all your friends and family make it home alive and no one "has to" own a vehicle to get to work, school, recreation, health care or other essential elements of urban life. When contrasted with the annual number of crashes that lead to pedestrian deaths (6,283 US deaths in 2018), that future seems appealing. But therein lies the rub for Planners, right!? Temper your enthusiasm because a full embrace and funding race to that CAV utopian future of safe and smart vehicular movement could just as easily lead to unknown and unintended consequence(s) foreshadowed by the ills of our Urban Renewal period of city making. Shall we aspire to plan more surgically than the likes of Robert Moses who once said, "When you operate in an overbuilt metropolis, you have to hack your way with a meat ax." With certainty.

URBAN RENEWAL of 1950s and 1960s
A nationwide program that gave cities massive federal grants to rebuild their downtowns. The goal was to keep cities economically viable as they lost large parts of their middle-class residents to the suburbs. The Housing Act of 1949 provided funds for buying and clearing "blighted" areas, usually dense industrial and residential neighborhoods.

Transportation planning in America has deferred largely to the boxed models built by Engineers using historic data to measure where people are going to be and where they are likely to go (by car) from there. These Engineering-led models provide Planners with estimates of travel demand that can justify land-use planning decisions informed by transportation infrastructure; purportedly addressing problems of congestion, system reliability, and equitable access. Engineering models may aid Planners, but the model itself does not tell the story and is historically poor at anticipating the assumptions likely to change in the future. Planners must tell the story of why and why it matters. Planners must help articulate a compelling narrative that makes sense of the transportation patterns and, maybe more importantly, what changes could occur that would undercut core assumptions Engineers make.

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Enter the enhanced transportation technology age. Dr. McDonald recently published research in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine which analyzed the previously referenced pedestrian deaths. The analysis of the researchers posits that autonomous vehicles (AV), operating under designed conditions, have potential to prevent up to 90% of crashes with pedestrians; keeping 5,614 individuals alive from 2018 to experience this brave new world of technologically enhanced urban form. Enhancements with results of this magnitude are enticing and even compelling for some. It's a great story. So why are Planners standing in limbo? Perhaps because this reimagined urban form, where all modes of travel are safe, non-emergency transportation services are available on demand, and an automated (largely electrified) fleet drastically reduces our contribution of greenhouse gasses to the environment, is not so similar to the last great urban renewal.

- » Along with potential positives, what are possible drawbacks to adoption of CAV in our country?
- » Increased Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and congestion in downtowns as vehicles circulate continuously
- » Infrastructure investments that perpetuate single occupancy vehicles to reach basic services
- » Promotion of sprawl and scattered essential services as commute by vehicle friction is reduced
- » Unsustainable personal insurance rates when individual drivers carry greater risk than autonomous vehicles
- » Undercut investments and progress made to develop viable transit networks based on density
- » Replace (and likely increase) personal transportation costs with mobility as a service (MAAS) pricing that further reduces equitable access to essential services
- » New challenges of autonomous freight vehicle staging and parking
- » And many others that Planners can start helping to shed light on in the coming years.

The Urban Renewal period deployed applications of the scientific method to characterize Civic problems and achieve better outcomes. Urban Renewal outcomes were intended to remove the bad and insert the good for some. Planners know that this approach led to devastation of historical, cultural, environmental and social fabric of many communities. As a result, Planners can be advocates for the richness that is seen in our differences. As technology in transportation takes a front seat, Planners must engage in the human-focused aspects of transportation, technology and infrastructure financing. We will find many disciplines already at work at that table. Planners must also engage in the topics of use-based charges for transportation which is gaining momentum in the United States. Learn from and help inform the conversations that are happening. Our perspective is needed to ensure that this time we (collectively) improve the bad and create more good for all.

EQUITY | DIVERSITY | INCLUSION

By: Steve Miller, AICP

Equity, diversity and inclusion are themes we often discuss as planners. In the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, the first stated principle we aspire to is “We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.” These themes and the topic of who the “others” are in our communities resonated with two national leaders of the American Planning Association, who made presentations at the Nebraska Planning Conference in March 2020.

Drawing upon his own personal experience as an openly gay planner, APA President Kurt Christiansen, FAICP, shared how planners play a pivotal role in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion--within the profession and within our communities. In the presentation Elevating Voices through Planning, he highlighted how planning is giving a voice to those underrepresented, correcting past inequities, and continuing to change our thinking for tomorrow.

Joel Albizo, the CEO of APA, joined Kurt for the Welcome Address and Keynote Presentation. Joel and Kurt shared their insights about the Three Big Societal Shifts that are Transforming Planning, Your Work and Your Career and how focusing on equity, diversity and inclusion may help us better navigate these shifts.

Big Shift number 1 is that technological innovations outpace the human ability to adapt to those innovations. Technological innovations will most likely automate many of the tasks we do as planners. So what? Does that mean we all will be out of work? It's the observation of the presenters that the technological advances in planning will free us up to be more humane – to tackle the really tough social, racial, economic and cultural issues in our communities.

Big Shift number 2 is our splintering society. Examples in Nebraska are rural job loss versus urban job growth and pro-pipeline or no pipeline. In fact, the Pew Research Center found that 55% of Democrats and 49% of Republicans are “afraid” of the other party. The presenters challenged planners to use their community-building and collaboration skills to be the bridge linking diverse interest groups in our communities.

Finally, Big Shift number 3 is the changing face of America – we are getting bigger, older and more diverse. Today the population of the U.S. is approximately 331 million people. We are the 3rd most populous country (way) behind China and India which each have approximately 1.4 billion people. In 10 years, we will be home to over 350 million, India will have 1.5 billion and China will have 1.46 billion.

In a report on the PBS News Hour website, Dudley L. Preston notes that today, there are over 74.1 million people under age 18 in the U.S. and there are 56.4 million people age 65 and older. Ten years from now, there will almost be as many old folks as there are young ones. The numbers of young people will have grown just a little to 76.3 million, but the numbers of old people will have increased a lot – to 74.1 million. A lot of these new elderly will be baby boomers.

Whites today make up about 60% of the population in the U.S. and non-whites – Hispanic, black and Asian people make up the rest. A dramatic shift is underway. By 2045, the non-white population will be slightly greater than the white population, making the U.S. a minority-majority society. Already, the non-white population under 18 is greater than the white population.

By the way, there are already more women than men in America. In fact, women outnumber men in Nebraska by about 8,000.

Again, what does this mean for planners? It means that as our world, country, state and community changes, so must we. We need to learn and correct our past inequities, give voice to community members who are underrepresented and to be brave enough to see our community through someone else's eyes.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

By: Stephanie Rouse, AICP

Public engagement has been evolving rapidly to keep up with our growing reliance on technology. Already city governments and advocacy groups use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to keep their constituents informed. The benefits of digital engagement include removing time constraints, providing a new and interactive way to engage, and bringing new voices to the table. These tools are usually employed with traditional methods of engagement like public meetings and open houses. However, with our current environment reliant on social distancing we must look at ways to continue reaching a broad audience while staying safe. Many communities are canceling public meetings or postponing them for several more months. Some activities will be fine despite the delay, others however will suffer greatly by losing momentum or adding costs. Social distancing does not mean the end of democracy. It just means we must be more innovative in how we engage our audience. There are many ways to keep moving forward in a time when we cannot meet in person thanks to the growth and development of interactive online tools.

Digital Engagement Types

Digital engagement can be categorized into three types--sharing, collecting, and exchanging information. Nearly all organizations are sharing information online through established websites and social media platforms and have been providing daily updates on the status of their operations. Bigger communities live stream their public meetings for residents to watch on local stations, posting the recorded version to a YouTube channel several days following the meeting.

Many communities will have the second type of engagement, collecting, also underway. They provide contact information, both phone and email, for residents to provide feedback or ask questions. For individual projects, online surveys and polls are used to collect feedback on specific topics. The use of interactive maps and discussion forums are another technique employed for long range plans.

But the last category, exchanging information, is often lacking in most communities. This is the most important form of digital engagement to strengthen when in-person engagement is no longer an option. Some communities, like Lakewood, Colorado, invested in their online engagement experience several years ago. Their web based platform allows residents to participate two weeks ahead of a planning commission or city council meeting by posting presentations and documents with staff and applicant contact information. Residents can review the material and pose questions directly to staff or the applicant and leave comments. They can even sign up to receive application updates. Their site assures that participating in this way has the same effect as attending in-person.

Digital Engagement Tools

Four broad categories summarize most online engagement tools--video conferencing, social media, polling, and surveys. Video conferencing has shot up drastically since social distancing began. Many companies are already using software like Zoom and Skype while others are learning quickly. This software works great for professionals to conduct meetings, but can be a barrier to the average resident who is unfamiliar with the tool or has to download software, regardless of whether it's free, to participate. This is where social media can bridge the gap. The use of Facebook Live is easy and requires no extra steps for anyone already on the platform. It also allows comments throughout the presentation and a recording for anyone unable to watch live to view later. The Arts Council of Indianapolis and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful recently turned a planned community workshop into a Facebook Live event. They followed up the Facebook Live presentation with "watch parties" that allowed viewers to ask questions of the project team during the viewing. The city of Salt Lake has been using Facebook Live even before social distancing to host Q&A's with their residents. Another real time engagement idea is a Twitter Town Hall where a discussion is held on a topic with others on the platform in real time. Other platforms or tools to use include:

- » Online surveys
- » YouTube presentations
- » Instagram
- » Live polling
- » Reddit
- » Next Door for notifications

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I was unable to find any examples of this in a public meeting like city council or planning commission, but it would be really interesting if a city followed Twitter and Facebook during the open comment period to receive live comments and questions from residents unable to attend in person that would be read aloud, allowing them to participate during the actual meeting. It is always more impactful when comments are voiced in person, rather than placed in the back of a staff report. We have seen this done at conferences and political debates where questions come in via social media and are asked to candidates or speakers during the event. Why couldn't this happen at a local government meeting?

Non-Digital Socially Distanced Engagement

We cannot rely solely on internet based strategies for public engagement even in times of social distancing. There are other ways than gathering large groups to engage the 10% of the population who does not use the internet. One way to share information is to set up posters in shop windows and provide contact information and links to online resources. This could also be done in local parks (spaced appropriately) for residents to read while getting out for a walk. Checking with a local radio station to do an interview and inviting people to call in with their questions or comments would be another non-digital engagement strategy. Below is a larger list of non-digital methods for sharing information:

- » Radio
- » Podcast
- » Direct mailers, flyers
- » Utility bills
- » Newsletters
- » Window displays
- » Local news interview
- » Story in local newspapers
- » Conference call
- » Text messages
- » Door hangers

Considerations for Engagement Method Selection

When considering engagement methods, regardless of whether its online or in-person, you should always consider your audience. The type of engagement tool needs to reflect the people you are trying to reach. For example, Facebook is one of the most widely used social media platforms across all age groups, however if you are targeting a younger population you should focus your efforts on Instagram or Twitter which is used more by individuals under the age of 30. You should also follow up with your audience on the same platform you used to engage them. Do not rely on a press release if you gathered input and feedback through Facebook. Last, make sure to promote the digital event well in advance through a variety of channels. You should not rely only on online notification, but consider sending postcards or other mailings, radio or TV advertisements, or a flyer in a utility bill to make sure everyone is aware of the opportunity to engage online.

A major consideration for online engagement is equity, diversity, and inclusion. It's important to make sure the online media is accessible to a broad audience. Pages should be designed to comply with website accessibility standards which will help people with slower web connections, old browser versions, and those with disabilities. Considerations to make content accessible to the largest audience include captioned videos, audio files for written documents, translation services, and clear images with alt text tags. It is important to make sure content is easy to view on a smart phone or tablet will help reach residents without access to a computer.

Moving Forward

It will be especially interesting to see the impact COVID-19 has on our future engagement efforts when we are out of danger and can gather in large groups again. No doubt public meetings and open houses will resume, but will we keep the interactive, digital engagement methods in place for residents still unable to show up to a meeting at 6 pm on a Tuesday? We should make every effort possible to strengthen the variety of tools we use, which this experience is forcing us to test and adapt.

AND THE FLOODS CAME: NEBRASKA 2019

By: Steve Miller, AICP

March 2019 was a memorable time for many Nebraskans. Devasting floods unlike any others in Nebraska's recorded history impacted the state. Many of us were at the NPZA – Nebraska Planning Conference when these events began to unfold. Bill Kelly, Senior Producer for NET News, shared his insight at the 2020 Conference Lunch Keynote. He was the producer and writer of the documentary *And The Floods Came: Nebraska 2019*, a look back at the worst natural disaster in the state's recorded history.

What led to such catastrophic flooding and the resulting devastation to many of our villages, towns and cities? A perfect storm of meteorological phenomena culminated in the weather conditions that led to the floods. Nebraska experienced record snowfall from January to March where many areas of the state received over 50 inches. In February alone, Omaha received over 27 inches of snow and Lincoln recorded over 23 inches. February 2019 was one of the 10 coldest February's on record in Nebraska resulting in major river systems being ice covered and a frost depth of approximately 2 feet across the state. And just when we all could begin to feel the relief of rapidly warming temperatures, a huge winter storm – a bomb cyclone – with wind gusts of over 100 mph, heavy snow and blizzard conditions barreled into the state.

The results were immediately felt across Nebraska as highways and roads were closed. The blizzard conditions turned to heavy rains of up to 3 inches across wide portions of central and eastern Nebraska. The snow melt and rain sent rivers and creeks out of their banks and the flood waters flowed rapidly across the frozen ground. The resulting floods were devastating to roads and bridges, towns and cities, farms and businesses, and homes and infrastructure.

People across Nebraska were displaced; lives were lost. In all, 104 towns and cities, 81 counties, and 5 tribal nations received State of Federal Disaster Declarations.

What does all of this mean to us as planners and zoning officials? The devastating floods and catastrophic results are harsh reminders that we need to be prepared for natural disasters. We need to approach planning in our communities with resiliency in mind. Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations and states to plan for and recover from hazards, shocks or stresses without compromising long-term, future quality of life.

The American Planning Association has many resources where you can learn more about resiliency planning. A good place to begin is with the blog: *Planning for Resilience*. You can find it at link in the Resources Section below. To learn more about the March 2019 flooding in Nebraska and to see the documentary *And the Floods Came*, please use the following links to a Story Map and the video in the Resources section too.

RESOURCES

Planning for Resilience

By the American Planning Association

<https://www.planning.org/blog/blogpost/9124762/>

And the Floods Came – March 2019

An NET News documentary by Bill Kelly

<http://netnebraska.org/interactive-multimedia/television/and-floods-came-nebraska-2019-sunday-sept-8th-9pm-ct>

Story Map – Nebraska Flooding: March 2019

By the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9ce70c78f5a44813a326d20035cab95a>

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Job Postings

Looking to hire? Send us your posting! Email srouse@rdgusa.com with a short description and link to the job posting.

For more job postings visit:

- » <https://npza.org/resources/careers>
- » www.iowa-apa.org/resources/job-postings
- » <https://www.lonm.org/classifieds/careers.html>

AICP

DEADLINES

CM Recording Grade Period Closes | May 28, 2020

Registration and Transfer Deadline | April 30th

Testing Window | May 11-23

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to congratulate the two most recent AICP members—Cale Brodersen and Kevin Carder. Both Nebraska Chapter members passed their AICP Exam in November. Kevin is now AICP certified and Cale is an AICP Candidate.

UPPER MIDWEST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association announces its call for session proposals for the 2020 APA Upper Midwest Conference, “Regionalism: Planning Knows No Boundaries” being held on October 14 – 16th, 2020 in Des Moines, Iowa. If you would like to propose a conference session and share your work with other planners, please complete the form found at this link to access the online Session Proposal Application. Please submit all online forms no later than Friday, May 15, 2020.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 1 | Craving Community: The Increments of Great Neighborhoods |
| May 8 | Integrating Sea Level Rise into Plans (Coming Soon) |
| May 15 | Micromobility: Incorporating New Methods of Travel into the Planning Landscape |
| May 22 | Project Management for Planners |

To register for any of the above webinars visit: <http://www.ohioplanning.org/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/planning-webcast-series>

**CHECK OUT THE UPDATED APANE
WEBSITE!**

[HTTPS://NEBRASKA.PLANNING.ORG/](https://nebraska.planning.org/)

RESOURCES

APA NE Board Members

- Jeff Ray, AICP – President
- Bruce Fountain, AICP – Past President
- Stephanie Rouse, AICP – Vice President/
Professional Development Officer
- Troy Anderson, AICP – Treasurer
- Jesse Poore, AICP - Secretary
- Chris Solberg, AICP – NPZA Liaison
- Andrew Conzett, AIA – Allied Professionals Liaison
- Anthony Kohel – Student Planning
Association of Nebraska (SPAN) Liaison
- Gordon Scholz, AICP – UNL Planning Faculty Liaison

APA NE Subcommittees

- Legislative: David Levy, Baird Holm; Amy Haase, RDG
- Membership Recruitment & Appreciation: Paul Barnes, City
of Lincoln
- Emerging Planners Group: Kurt Elder, City of Lincoln; Cale
Brodersen, City of La Vista
- Social Events/Networking: Don Gross, Metropolitan Area
Planning Agency; Kaitlin Bolte, Confluence
- Conference/Workshop: Keith Marvin, Marvin Consulting;
Stacey Hageman, City of Lincoln; Jeff Ray, JEO; Bruce
Fountain, City of La Vista
- Mentorship/Student Outreach: Cale Brodersen; Gordon
Scholz, UNL Faculty liaison to the APA-NE Board; Bruce
Fountain
- Allied Professional Collaborations: Andrew Conzett
- Newsletter and Social Media – Stephanie Rouse, RDG
- Awards/Nominations – Jeff Ray, JEO

NPZA Board Members

- Chris Solberg, AICP – President
- Judy Clark, AICP – 1st Vice President
- Dan Giittinger – 2nd Vice President
- Chad Nability, AICP – Immediate Past President
- Char Carpenter – Recording Secretary
- Steve Charleston – Membership Sec/Treasurer
- Stacey Hageman – Conference Coordinator
- Jeff Ray, AICP – NE APA Liaison
- Gordon Scholz, AICP – UNL Liaison
- Dave Ptak – Legal Counsel

NPZA SUBCOMMITTEES

- Conference Committee – Keith Marvin, AICP
- Newsletter Committee – Kurt Elder, AICP, GISP
- Awards Committee – Christopher Solberg, AICP
- Zoning Administrator Certification Committee –
David Ptak
- Nebraska Planning Handbook Committee –
Vacant

Submit Your Content!

The NE Planner welcomes readers and associates to submit articles for publication within the newsletter. We are also happy to include RFP/RFQ's, new job postings, and upcoming events. Email srouse@rdgusa.com to be included in the next Newsletter.