

# The Nebraska Planner

A joint publication of APA Nebraska and NPZA

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SESSION PROPOSALS DUE APRIL 29!

Proposals to present sessions at the annual Nebraska Planning Conference are due this Friday, April 29th, 2022. The conference is scheduled for September 14-16, 2022 at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney. We are seeking sessions on a wide variety of topics! You can find more information on conference sessions and how to submit your proposal [in this packet](#) or on the [NPZA website](#).

### NPZA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS TO BE ACTED ON 9/15/22

The Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association Board of Directors is considering the proposal of amendments to the official NPZA Constitution and Bylaws. Such amendments will be introduced and voted on by the general membership at the NPZA annual meeting, to take place during the Nebraska Planning Conference on September 15, 2022. Amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the eligible voting members in attendance. Keep your eyes out for information regarding the content of these amendments later this year!

### PINTS W/ PLANNERS IS BACK!

The APA NE Chapter's Emerging Planners Group will begin hosting monthly networking events again starting Thursday, May 12th at 4:30pm at the Aksarben Inner Rail Food Hall located at 1911 S 67th Street in Omaha. These events are great opportunities to meet other planners and allied professionals in the area. Feel free to bring a friend and we hope to see you there!

Thursday, May 12th, 4:30-6:30pm

## PINTS WITH PLANNERS



Aksarben Inner Rail  
1911 S 67th St, Omaha



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# PRESIDENTS' UPDATES

Another spring, another successful NPZA Spring Workshop. We had over 300 attendees sign up to view the virtual workshop live, or watch the recorded sessions on their own time. The NPZA Spring Workshop has been an affordable planning and zoning learning opportunity for individuals and organizations alike for the past few years and we plan to keep holding it in the future.

However, I am excited for this fall. The Nebraska Planning Conference will be moving into our new "digs". Just a block away from our old conference center, the Younes Conference Center North will be a great facility for our annual conference. We've toured the finished facility and we are excited to share it with everyone in attendance this September. Be on the lookout for news and notices about the Nebraska Planning Conference. We're planning to once again hold a great event for planning and zoning education.

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.



Christopher Solberg, AICP - NPZA President



As a chapter, we had an active and successful winter quarter. The Annual Planning Workshop featured Ilana Preuss, author of *Recast your City*. Her discussion and the other featured panelists focused on including small manufacturing or retail artisans for successful downtowns or commercial nodes. In addition, new episodes of the "Booked on Planning" podcast are being regularly released thanks to the NE APA Vice President, Stephanie Rouse, and friends. Other activities included the APA Book club, a review and revamping of our awards program, and the chapter leadership working with NPZA on the Annual Planning Conference.

Although some days still feel like winter is hanging on, spring is here. Spring is my favorite time of the year as I get to start again in my yard and garden to grow things. While I may refer to this outdoor time as work, it is really my therapy or downtime from the office. For me, spring gardening involves fertilizing, cleaning out landscape beds, pruning, starting new plants and maybe relocating others.

Gardening also serves as an analogy for our professional careers in planning. This spring is a time when numerous training opportunities are happening, with NPC 2022 both in-person and virtual, as well as several other events. In addition, we plan to have our quarterly open meeting of the Executive Board in early June in Lincoln. Following this meeting will be a training session on utility-grade solar applications in Nebraska. Be on the lookout for meeting registration and details in the next few weeks.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ways which the chapter can better serve you. Sincerely,



Jeff Ray, AICP - APA-NE President



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# PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH PLANNING

APA'S 22 DIVISIONS ARE COMING TOGETHER IN A YEAR-LONG INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH CHALLENGES OUR COMMUNITIES FACE

BY: CHAD M. NABITY, AICP; [REPRINTED FROM PLANNING MAGAZINE, JANUARY 31, 2022](#)

For more than 20 years, I have been the planning director for the City of Grand Island and Hall County, Nebraska. Grand Island anchors a regional market with a population of more than 50,000 and two regional hospitals. Many of the small towns around us come here for medical services, something that's increasingly common in more rural areas as health care options shrink. As planners know, health services in small towns and rural communities have been under stress for some time, and the COVID-19 pandemic certainly has exacerbated those issues.

Being a planning director is my day job. This month, I also begin my term as chair of the APA Divisions Council's executive committee and the divisions representative to the APA Board of Directors. I'm excited to take on this role, the latest in some three decades of volunteer leadership.

A new initiative of the Divisions Council brings my volunteer leadership experience at APA very close to the issues of my home community. This past fall, the chairs of [all 22 divisions](#) and the executive committee adopted Planning and Public Health as the 2022 Division Initiative. While the realities of COVID-19 and its impacts on communities are impossible to ignore, the group is purposefully charging itself with focusing on public health more broadly. We think we can use this moment to learn about the common challenges communities face and, more to the point, share the innovative solutions planners are bringing to bear. The committee looked at a number of potential planning topics, but public health stood out. And if the pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that public health impacts planners of all stripes.



Artistic image of Chad Nabity from Planning Magazine

For more than 10 years, APA divisions have jointly chosen a single topic to rally around and to anchor content for newsletters, educational sessions at the National Planning Conference, and original research. Each division is asked to look at that topic through the specialty lens of its work, interests, and perspective. For some, like the Food Systems Division or the Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division, the connections to public health are rather obvious, but there is crossover for every division.

I'm eager to learn about all the various ways planning and public health intersect and to open my eyes to unexpected connections and points of view. Of course, there are already significant resources on the topic available from APA and other organizations, including a [series of blog posts](#) that detail strategies that planners and public health professionals can adopt to increase physical activity. The body of work we create under this initiative will add to our shared knowledge about planning and public health. We hope you'll join with other members of your chosen divisions in building up our collective wisdom.

If you're not already involved with APA divisions, I strongly encourage you to consider it. We like to refer to the divisions as the "nouns of APA": the persons, places, and things. [APA's 22 divisions](#) — as well as our interest groups — are dedicated to [County Planning](#), [International Planning](#), [Planning and the Black Community](#), [Technology](#), [Transportation](#), and [Women in Planning](#). The list goes on, but these divisions help planners find "their people," learn, and collaborate.



Pictured: Planning Director Chad Naby in his garden. Naby and his wife run a small CSA. Photo courtesy of Chad Naby, reprinted from Planning Magazine.

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# SAVE YOUR DOWNTOWN WITH HOT SAUCE, HANDBAGS, AND HARDWARE

**BY: STEPHANIE ROUSE, AICP**

Retail shops have been on the decline for many years now despite planners' best efforts to try to push more retail into new developments with mixed use or first floor retail requirements. Retail is not going to save our downtowns. There is another way however, which local planners learned about during the APA Nebraska Recast Your City Spring Workshop in early March. It comes down to hot sauce, handbags, or hardware.

What do all these items have in common? They are artisan or advanced manufacturing uses that fit well into our downtown and urban areas. Author and keynote speaker Ilana Preuss nestles them into the category of small scale manufacturing. These businesses make tangible products that can be replicated and packaged. You find these types of businesses at holiday markets and fairs selling homemade jewelry, pastries, and bags or in a commercial space providing items such as craft beer or cocktails.

As we listened to Preuss she explained that it is more than just having these businesses in our communities but how they fit into the fabric of our neighborhood and add to our downtowns and main streets. Most small product businesses need 500 to 2,000 square feet and fit very well into our storefronts and serve as an attraction to our commercial districts struggling with traditional retail stores. They make vibrant places because they attract foot traffic to their storefront where they have retail and production and allowing people to see the goods being made. They also sell both in-person and online so they are not dependent only on foot traffic to thrive and bring money into the community from elsewhere.



Ilana Preuss delivers her keynote presentation at the Recast Your City Workshop.

We have such a tradition of making things in our society, so when we can support these local entrepreneurs and give them the resources they need to thrive we create a much more resilient and inclusive local economy.

Our past economic development strategies have failed most communities and focus too much on attracting the large scale businesses that have a habit of leaving after a short time in one location. We have used large sums of money to try to lure these businesses in because of the large number of jobs promised up front, when we could spend far less money and get the same results while supporting the people already living in our community.

## Save Your Downtown With Hot Sauce, Handbags, and Hardware - Continued

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By stepping away from the decades old policy of chasing large employers and instead setting up a program and funding source to reach out to the entrepreneurs and home based businesses we already have, we can get a more diverse, thriving economy that results in more jobs and better paying jobs. Nationally, small businesses have created [65.1% of all new jobs](#) from 2000 to 2019.

The solution, however, is not to just set up funding or add some information to a city website to support these small scale manufacturing businesses. We need to make sure regulations like zoning allow these types of uses in our downtowns. We need to look at our permitting processes and ensure they do not create barriers to opening these kinds of businesses. We also need to leave our offices and go talk to these business owners to see what they need. In some instances you need to recruit Connectors, or members within certain communities that can reach out to these small business owners and creators to provide them with information and make the connection. This approach is very similar to what we do at the start of a small area or downtown plan, but takes it a step further. We cannot rely on the data or a few focus group meetings to tell us everything. We have to spend a lot more time going out and talking one-on-one with the people we are trying to help.

So how do you get started implementing these ideas in your own city? First, get a copy of *Recast Your City: How to Save Your Downtown With Small Scale Manufacturing*. Then download the worksheets from the [Recast Your City website](#) and start working through them. Workshop attendees began this process in March, asking themselves questions like 'what is the current situation in downtown? Why is it important to change this? What is at stake? And what happens if you don't make that change?' These are just a few of the many questions to set you and your community on a path to supporting local entrepreneurs in an effort to create a more inclusive, robust, and thriving local economy.

To hear the full interview with Ilana Preuss on her book and how to apply the principles in your own community head to [www.bookedonplanning.com](http://www.bookedonplanning.com) or search 'Booked on Planning' wherever you listen to podcasts.



Ilana Preuss and Stephanie Rouse live recording a Booked on Planning podcast episode at the Recast Your City workshop.

# WATER TRAILS IN NEBRASKA

BY: STEVE MILLER, AICP

## Did you know?

- Nebraska has over 79,000 miles of river – more than any other state in the U.S.
- There are 11 designated Water Trails in Nebraska covering 518 river miles.
- Stretches of the Niobrara River and the Missouri River are declared Wild and Scenic Rivers by the National Parks Service.

A water trail, as defined by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), is a designated recreation route on a river, creek, reservoir, or lake. Water trails can be used by both motorized and non-motorized watercraft, but most water trails in Nebraska are used by non-motorized watercraft. Non-motorized watercraft includes canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, inner tubes and even metal livestock water tanks commonly used to float down the Niobrara!

The designated Water Trails in Nebraska are located on the Calamus River, the Cedar River, the Dismal River, the Elkhorn River, Logan Creek, the Lower Missouri River, the Niobrara River, the North Loup River, the Platte River, the Republican River, and the Upper Missouri River.

It's a goal of the NGPC to expand the water trail network throughout the state and it needs local communities as partners. The NGPC published a guide to planning and developing water trails in Nebraska called *Floating the Good Life*. It's a free resource for local water trail planners that can be found at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/watertrails/>.

One of the newest and most creative water trails in Nebraska is the Kearney Whitewater Park. The whitewater section of the 2.3-mile-long Kearney Water Trail opened this month (April 2022). The Kearney Water Trail starts at Yanney Heritage Park and ends at Central Avenue in the North Channel of the Platte River (otherwise known as Turkey Creek) in the south part of Kearney. The whitewater trail is the only one in Nebraska and the hope is it will attract kayakers from throughout the region and be a catalyst for beautification in the area. The project was born out of a partnership with the Kearney Whitewater Association and the City of Kearney Parks and Recreation Department. For more information check out the Kearney Whitewater Association's webpage at <https://kearneywhitewater.org/>.



Nebraska's Water Trails

# NEBRASKA TRAILS CONFERENCE

BY: CHUCK GRIFFIN AND JESSE POORE, AICP

Recreational trail professionals and trail enthusiasts attended a Nebraska Trails Conference held in Central City on April 14th & 15th. Approximately 50 people from across Nebraska attended sessions on trail planning, building support for trails, and funding trails. Additional sessions included UNL research on asphalt surfaces and maintaining and operating recreational trails.

Presenters and panelists were present from the Nebraska Trails Foundation, Bike Walk Nebraska, (Washington D.C. based) Rails to Trails Conservancy, Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Department of Transportation, Nebraska Tourism, trail planning and engineering firms, UNL Engineering Department, economic development agencies, and Natural Resource District representatives. The conference was funded by a cohort project funded by the Sherwood Foundation.



Conference presentations at the Nebraska Trails Conference

Members of the MoPac Gap Trail Alliance (Nebraska Trails Foundation, Bike Walk Nebraska, and Great Plains Trails Network) relayed their efforts to attain \$8.3M state appropriation funding for completion of the final eight-mile segment of the MoPac Trail connecting Lincoln and Omaha. Retired Nebraska Budget Director Gerry Oligmueller, Bike Walk Nebraska Director Julie Harris, and Nebraska Trails Foundation President Jason Buss shared their experiences in obtaining state funding.

The trail is part of the Great American Rail Trail across America. Kevin Belanger, Project Manager with Rails to Trails Conservancy, shared the national perspective of completing this priority project.

Additional sessions included summaries of research to strengthen and extend the life of asphalt pavements, engineering design considerations in funding requests, and trail planning considerations for urban and rural contexts as well as best practices for operation and maintenance of community trails.

Large group sessions were blended with interactive group rides (Dark Island Trail) and a social dinner (Prairie Creek Vineyard and Winery) to provide additional networking opportunities and build momentum toward developing local, regional, and state-wide trails.



Group ride participants at the Nebraska Trails Conference

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# ANKERSON NAMED NEBRASKA'S NEW EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

BY: TROY FEDDERSON; [REPRINTED FROM NEBRASKA TODAY, JANUARY 10, 2022](#)

Katherine Ankerson, an academic leader who directed a revitalization of the College of Architecture, has been named the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's next executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

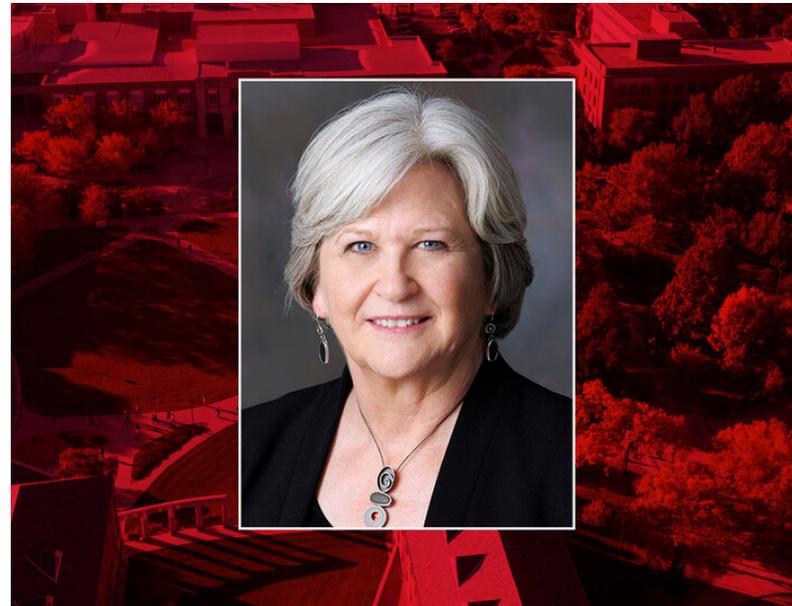
Selected through an internal search, Ankerson will assume the new role on Jan. 18, the first day of the university's spring semester.

"Kathy is the right leader at the right time for this very important role," Chancellor Ronnie Green said in a Jan. 10 announcement to campus. "She is a collaborative, inclusive and strategic leader who will take a 'what if' approach into this vital role for our academic mission and help propel us forward."

An award-winning author and leader in design education, Ankerson has served as dean of the College of Architecture since July 2016. She was previously a professor and head of interior architecture and product design at Kansas State University and served as a professor and associate dean at Nebraska from 1996 to 2011.

Under her leadership as dean, the College of Architecture has prospered, particularly in faculty achievement and student success. Key metrics include 24% of architecture faculty being recognized with the highest academic and professional honors; improving the six-year graduation rate from 50.9% to 71.9%; and the five-year employment rate for graduates of the college ranging between 95% and 100%.

She also played an active role on the university's N150 Commission and the N2025 Steering Committee, helping shape the vision and strategic goals of the institution.



Kathy Ankerson, previous Dean of the College of Architecture at UNL

"I am honored, humbled and excited by this opportunity to lead Nebraska's academic enterprise," Ankerson said. "Our university is a place where every person and every interaction matters. I look forward to building upon our shared momentum, our unwavering belief in the transformational power of education, and our ability to effect positive change in this world."

Ankerson, the International Interior Design Association's 2020 Educator of the Year, advocates for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary engagement, the value of design and making, and embracing new technologies to strengthen traditional design tools. Her leadership is focused on elevating inclusive innovation and celebrating the differences and excellence across academic disciplines.

She led the 20th Anniversary Nuckolls Lighting grant, which included nine educators in architecture, interior design, engineering and lighting design, and represented four major universities. The project produced the award-winning web-based Lighting Across the (Design) Curriculum.

An architect and designer, Ankerson has held academic positions at Radford University and Washington State University. She received a master's degree, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Architecture from Washington State University.

[Sharon Kuska has been named interim dean](#) of the College of Architecture. A Nebraska alumna, Kuska has served as a faculty member in the college for 35 years and, since 2018, has been associate dean for faculty and academic programs.

Details on a search for a new dean for the college will be announced.

Nebraska's executive vice chancellor reports directly to the chancellor, is the chief academic officer and is the responsible authority in the absence of the chancellor. The position leads and coordinates the university's academic enterprise. The university's academic deans, other than those in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, report directly to the executive vice chancellor.

Bob Wilhelm, vice chancellor for research and economic development, has served as the interim executive vice chancellor since Nov. 20. Elizabeth Spiller held the position previously.

The search committee was led by co-chairs Sherri Jones, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences; and Steve Kolbe, president of the Faculty Senate and associate professor in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film.



Sharon Kuska, Interim Dean for the College of Architecture at UNL

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# EMERGING PLANNERS GROUP - BOOK CLUB REVIEW

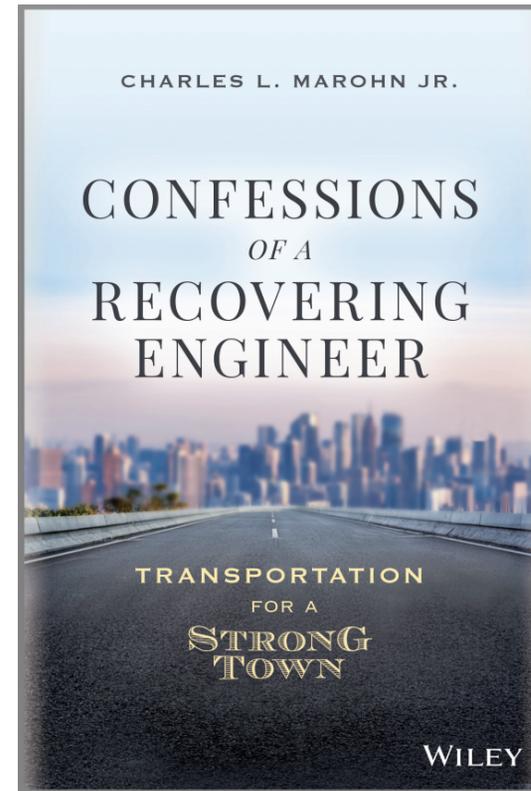
BY: CALE BRODERSEN, AICP

## **Confessions of a Recovering Engineer: Transportation for a Strong Town By Charles L. Marohn Jr.**

In early April, the Emerging Planners Group's Book Club reconvened to discuss *Confessions of a Recovering Engineer*. The author, Charles Marohn, is an engineer and land use planner, and the founder and president of Strong Towns. Informed by his multidisciplinary educational and professional background, Marohn utilizes this book to expose the shortcomings in how we prioritize, design, construct, assess, and finance our transportation infrastructure.

Although our needs and priorities for transportation are always changing, we have continued to apply the same values and standards for transportation infrastructure design for the last 60+ years. For example, we strive to make all of the intersections in our cities achieve the Level of Service "A" rating, meaning it has completely free-flowing traffic. This is great for highways, but is far from what we want on a local street with pedestrian activity, where our goal is to create an economically productive and enjoyable place. To this point, Marohn articulates the difference between a road and a street and how we should be utilizing each.

A road should be a way to get people from one place to another quickly (think interstate systems), while a street should be a way to create great places and opportunities to develop wealth (think small town main street). What we build in most of our communities are what the author calls "stroads". We build streets that are over-engineered for high speeds (straight and flat with wide lanes and all obstacles and sight intrusions removed), but attempt to make them roads by adding lots of access points, traffic control systems, with pedestrian infrastructure as a secondary priority.



This mix is what creates dangerous conditions for pedestrians and drivers alike. In this book, Marohn uses some powerful stories and examples of the consequences that occur from our use of stroads and prioritization of automobiles instead of pedestrians. His prescription: make your streets streets, and your roads roads.

In our country, traffic engineers are the ones typically making the decisions on the design for our streets and roads; decisions such as design speed, how many vehicles should be accommodated, the size of vehicle that the street should be designed for, and the degree of deference that should be shown to people walking or biking in the intersection. Marohn argues that these decisions should not be made by our engineers, but rather by our elected officials, because these decisions are value decisions. Elected officials should make decisions on what they want their corridors and communities to look and operate like, and the engineers should provide those elected officials with a menu of options for how to achieve that vision. Engineers have the technical knowledge, and therefore should be responsible only for the technical decisions such as pavement thickness, pavement cross slope, lane width, and bituminous mixture to ensure that the vision can be implemented in a way that is safe for all of its users.

Marohn discusses how we use biased language when we talk about traffic engineering and construction projects that excludes members of the public and elected officials from actively participating in the conversation. We call everything a “street improvement project” when we should be more specific about what it actually is. Call that project “street widening” rather than “street improvement”, or “tree-removal” rather than “sight enhancement”. As a planner, I often find myself doing the exact same thing, and its important that we avoid the use of lingo and technical terms when not talking with other planners or engineers.

Marohn shares his ideas for how to reimage our transportation infrastructure, including adopting shared-space intersections with no stop lights or stop signs, getting away from our hierarchical street networks that funnel all of our traffic onto major arterials streets which artificially create congestion, and converting our stroads back to what they should be: streets and roads.

When discussing how some of the principles could be applied to our own communities, book club participants did feel that some of the ideas were fairly radical, and may be unrealistic right now. However, the overall perception was that we generally agreed with the author’s ideas, and reading this book gave us some great perspectives that could influence the work we do. Whether you are a planner, engineer, elected official, or transportation enthusiast, I think this book is well worth your time.

Don’t worry if you missed out this time, the Emerging Planners Group hosts quarterly book clubs. Join us in July for the next one! See page 16 of this newsletter, or e-mail [cbrodersen@cityoflavista.org](mailto:cbrodersen@cityoflavista.org) for more information!

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY: DAVID LEVY & JENNIFER L. HIATT

The Second Session of the 107th Nebraska Legislature adjourned sine die on April 20, 2022. Below we summarize important bills of interest regarding planning, land use, municipal law, and economic development. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly with any questions.

## PASSED BILLS OF NOTE

### LB 742 (Erdman)

LB 742 amends the Open Meetings Act to allow public entities to keep minutes as electronic records. On April 12, 2022, the Legislature passed the bill. On April 18, 2022, Governor Ricketts approved the bill. The bill takes effect on July 21, 2022.

### LB 908 (McDonnell)

LB 908 expands the use of virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act. Under this bill, a public body could hold a meeting by virtual conferencing so long as the meeting's subject would also be the subject of a later in-person meeting, no final action would occur at the virtual meeting, and the public received notice and an opportunity to participate. On April 12, 2022, the Legislature passed the bill. On April 18, 2022, Governor Ricketts approved the bill. The bill takes effect on July 21, 2022.

### LB 998 (Wayne)

LB 998 amends provisions in the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act. In any city or county that has not established an inland port authority, this bill authorizes nonprofit economic development corporations to instead create such an authority. On April 12, 2022, the Legislature passed the bill. On April 18, 2022, Governor Ricketts approved the bill. The bill takes effect on July 21, 2022.

### LB 1065 (Wayne)

LB 1065 amends the Community Development Law. Under this bill, redevelopment plans that receive expedited review no longer have a 10-year restriction on tax-increment financing. This bill also expands expedited review to include redevelopment plans involving a vacant lot inside a substandard and blighted area located within the corporate limits of a municipality for at least sixty years and platted at least sixty years ago. On April 12, 2022, the Legislature passed the bill. On April 18, 2022, Governor Ricketts approved the bill. The bill takes effect on July 21, 2022.

### LB 1102 (Bostelman)

LB 1102 adopts the Environmental Response Act. Under the Act, the Department of Environment and Energy will receive funding and authorization to clean up releases of pollutants in the state. The Department could also elect to issue orders requiring any persons responsible for the release to clean it up.

If a responsible person fails to pay as required under the Act, the Department can issue administrative penalties. The Department can also issue a lien on the responsible person's property. Exceptions to liability apply, however, for releases caused by acts of God, acts of war, or acts of an independent third party. A responsible party can also avoid liability by voluntarily remedying the contamination in accordance with the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act. In many respects, this Act resembles the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The term “release” in this bill uses the definition of the same term in applicable federal and state environmental standards. The bill also transfers \$300,000 to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. It also adds plant and animal life to the definition of property for purposes of harmful effects. On April 12, 2022, the Legislature passed the bill. On April 18, 2022, Governor Ricketts approved the bill. The bill takes effect on July 21, 2022.

### FAILED BILLS OF NOTE

#### **LB 695 (Blood)**

LB 695 proposed to amend statutes relating to conditional use permits and zoning exceptions. This bill would have prohibited counties from issuing conditional use permits or zoning exceptions to persons who are delinquent on their real property taxes. The Legislature did not pass this bill. Since this is the end of the biennium, the bill will not carry over to the next session.

#### **LB 701 (Williams)**

LB 701 proposed to amend certain deadlines in the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act (also known as the Historic Tax Credit) and the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act. On March 1, 2022, the Committee adopted [AM 2087](#) amending LB 701 into LB 730. The Legislature did not pass LB 730. Accordingly, the Nebraska Job Creation and Main Street Revitalization Act will sunset on December 31, 2022. People interested in using the program can file applications through that day – a project need not be completed by then to qualify for state historic tax credits.

All bills are available on the Nebraska Legislature’s website at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>. Please contact us if you have any questions about these bills or any others the Nebraska Legislature is currently considering. Thank you.

David C. Levy  
Jennifer L. Hiatt  
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# PUBLIC HEALTH TEAMS WITH UNL FOR NEW DUAL DEGREE

BY: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN; [REPRINTED FROM UNMC NEWSROOM, FEBRUARY 9, 2022](#)

The UNMC College of Public Health and University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Architecture are accepting applications for a new Master of Community and Regional Planning and Master of Public Health Dual Degree, which has been approved to start in fall 2022.

The COVID -19 pandemic has amplified the need for equal access to resources for improved public health and quality of life. Cities, neighborhoods and the built environment can have both positive and adverse impacts on human health.

Both rural and urban communities face environmental conditions, such as poor air quality, deteriorated housing, disease outbreaks, inadequate infrastructure, ground and surface water contamination and other environmental conditions, that have significant effects on public health. These conditions are influenced by the various ways communities are planned and developed.

“We know that where someone lives significantly affects their health, and the MCRP/MPH dual degree will provide students the knowledge and skills necessary to promote the design and construction of places which are safe and healthy for everyone,” said Nicole Kolm-Valdivia, PhD, director of professional programs with College of Public Health. “This training on how to shape physical and community environments to enhance the health of populations will be effective in working towards the Healthy People 2030 goal of building a healthier future for all.”



Nicole Kolm-Valdivia, director of professional programs with UNMC College of Public Health

UNL collaborators are eager to start this long-awaited dual degree. “We look forward to working with our colleagues at UNMC to bring new and relevant opportunities to our students and fill a much needed gap in education,” said Sharon Kuska, PhD, interim dean of the College of Architecture.

The need for this dual degree increases as more and more planners and public health professionals are collaborating to address these and other emerging issues, but few policymakers, health officials and planners are trained or have experiences specifically in the intersection of community planning and public health.

“We only need to look to the current pandemic to see how public health can significantly change our planning theories and the professions, and we need to be responsive to our rapidly changing environment,” said Zhenghong Tang, PhD, community and regional planning program director. “The new dual degree program provides students great collaborative opportunities to help build healthier communities.”

The completion of this dual degree allows students to become experts in both community planning and public health while greatly impacting their communities and increasing their opportunities in the job market.

“This new dual degree program is a great example of inter-campus collaboration to address the critical needs in healthy community development in Nebraska and beyond,” said Katherine Ankerson, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Students interested in learning more about this dual degree can email the [College of Public Health](#) or visit the [Master of Community and Regional Planning](#) and the [Master of Public Health](#) webpages.

# PLANNERS BOOK CLUB - THE ADDRESS BOOK

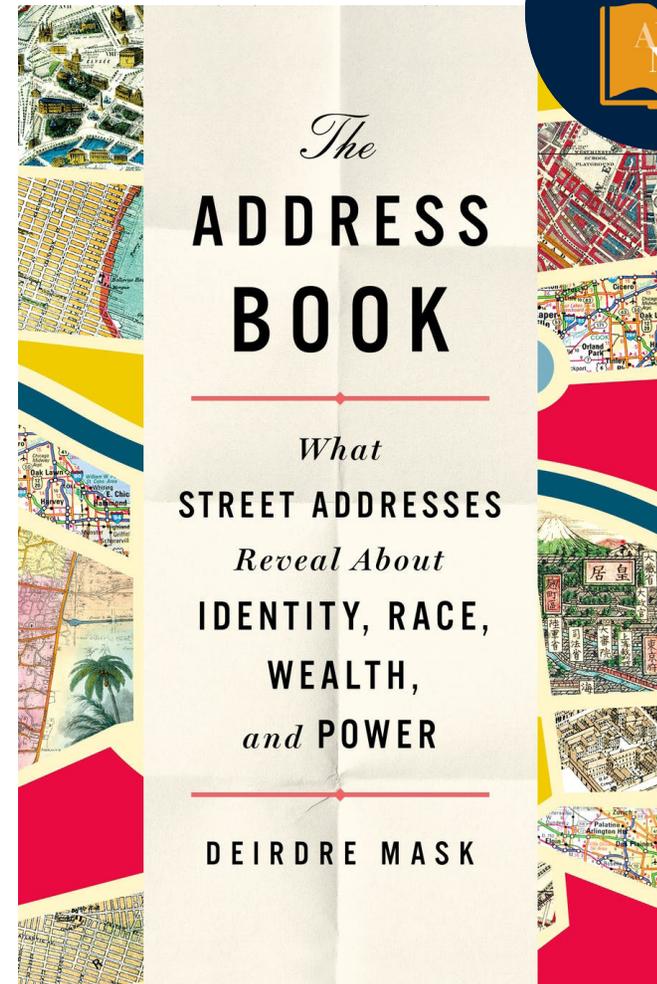
Join your fellow planners and allied professionals in the Summer 2022 Planners Book Club hosted by the APA Nebraska Chapter's Emerging Planners Group. Here is how it works:

1. Register to participate at the following link: <https://forms.gle/hnnctKLPQGxGsQYG6>.
2. Read or listen to the book (available in physical, digital, and audio formats).
3. Join us for a lively discussion in July. A Doodle poll will be sent out to book club participants several weeks in advance to find a time that works for everyone for the discussion. We typically host more than one discussion over Zoom to accommodate everyone's schedules.
4. Earn CM credit for participating in the discussion.

**Book Selection: *The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power* by Deirdre Mask**

When most people think about street addresses, if they think of them at all, it is in their capacity to ensure that the postman can deliver mail or a traveler won't get lost. But street addresses were not invented to help you find your way; they were created to find you. In many parts of the world, your address can reveal your race and class.

In this wide-ranging and remarkable book, Deirdre Mask looks at the fate of streets named after Martin Luther King Jr., the wayfinding means of ancient Romans, and how Nazis haunt the streets of modern Germany. The flipside of having an address is not having one, and we also see what that means for millions of people today, including those who live in the slums of Kolkata and on the streets of London. Filled with fascinating people and histories, *The Address Book* illuminates the complex and sometimes hidden stories behind street names and their power to name, to hide, to decide who counts, who doesn't—and why.



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# APA NE CHAPTER ANNUAL SPONSORS

The Nebraska Chapter of the APA would like to thank our annual sponsors for supporting our chapter and professional development programs. These sponsorships support Emerging Planners Group events, our Mentor Match Program, and allow us to provide a quality Spring Workshop and other educational and professional development opportunities throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more or to become a sponsor today, please email Stephanie at [rouseplanning@gmail.com](mailto:rouseplanning@gmail.com).

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## PLATINUM



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## GOLD



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## SILVER



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# JOB POSTINGS

Looking to hire? Visit <https://nebraska.planning.org/career-center/job-announcements/> to post your job description , or find job openings today.

## FOR MORE JOB POSTINGS VISIT:

- » <https://npza.org/resources/careers>
- » <https://iowa.planning.org/career-center/job-announcements/>
- » <https://www.lonm.org/classifieds/careers.html>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OHIO CHAPTER WEBINAR SERIES

1. May 6, 2022 in partnership with APA Urban Design & Preservation Division: [Topic Coming Soon](#) at 12:00 PM CT
2. May 13, 2022 in partnership with the APA Sustainable Communities Division: [Technology Tools for Sustainability](#) at 12:00 PM CT
3. May 20, 2022 with guest host APA Florida: [Planning for Healthier Communities: Consider a Nurse](#) at 12:00 PM CT

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# RESOURCES

## APA NE Board Members

- Jeff Ray, AICP – President
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- Stephanie Rouse, AICP – Vice President/Professional Development Officer
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- Andrew Conzett, AIA – Allied Professionals Liaison
- Anna Headlee – Student Planning Association of Nebraska (SPAN) Liaison
- Zhenghong Tang, Ph.D. – UNL Planning Faculty Liaison

## APA NE Subcommittees

- Legislative: David Levy; Amy Haase, AICP
- Membership Recruitment & Appreciation: Paul Barnes, AICP
- Emerging Planners Group: Cale Brodersen, AICP; Ryan Ossell; Mason Herrman
- Conference/Workshop: Keith Marvin, AICP; Stacey Hageman; Jeff Ray, AICP; Bruce Fountain, AICP
- Mentorship/Student Outreach: Cale Brodersen, AICP; Zhenghong Tang, Ph.D.
- Allied Professional Collaborations: Andrew Conzett, AIA
- Newsletter and Social Media – Stephanie Rouse, AICP
- Awards/Nominations – Steve Miller, AICP; Caitlin Bolte; Andrea Gebhart, AICP

## 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. For your content to be included in the next newsletter, please email [rouseplanning@gmail.com](mailto:rouseplanning@gmail.com).

## NPZA Board Members

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