

Meeting Notes

APA- Wisconsin: NE District meeting – July 27, 2015

16 +/- members and guests in attendance

NE District activities, which may include:

- 1) **NE district newsletter** to promote awareness of planning and its impacts in the region; - It would be nice to have a regular update on planning and development stories from around the district. It is difficult for NE District membership to know what is happening in the area. Discussion of alternatives for a “newsletter – could it be a blog, could it piggy back on WAPA website, Google Group or others. Content would include Planning and development news from NE district, PC agendas. CLUE sends out monthly newsletter – needs to be focused on NE district. Could UW-Milwaukee student(s) aggregate news and send an update out? Andrew Dane and Brad Schmidt volunteered to look into alternatives.
- 2) **NE District awards program** to recognize excellence in planning across the district; general Agreement that this would be worthwhile activity. The NW District had a program for many years that we could use as a model. Various categories were discussed. Allen will contact Kim Flom and Kristan Sanchez to see if they are interested in volunteering for the activity.
- 3) **Study tours or project tours** to promote member learning and celebrate and recognize good projects; Members thought this would be the best activity to start. The study tours could involve a tour, lunch and networking event. These could be held quarterly. Elizabeth Williams and Kathy Thunes volunteered to coordinate this activity.
- 4) **Workshops/education** targeted to area Plan Commissions. Catherine Neiswender reported on CLUE’s videos for Plan Commissions. They are relatively short and can be viewed easily by planners and commissioners. CLUE also has a training program that was recently in the Fox Valley, and they can provide training when requested. It was unresolved how best to share best practices including how to effectively advocate for good planning practices locally;
- 5) **Networking events**. There were suggestions to offer meet-ups for NE district members at state and regional events – very informal. Other non-planning related activities like golf, bicycle and kayak events could be done too. Andrew Dane and Allen Davis volunteered to look at those types of events.

Small Houses – there was discussion about recent proposals in New London and Kaukauna regarding houses smaller than usual. “Tiny” houses are less than 400 sq.ft. “Small” houses are 400 to 1,000 sq.ft. Some communities do not have a minimum house size. Some communities set a minimum house size at least 960 sq.ft. Most agreed that these could not be mobile homes with wheels attached. Wheels must be removed from the unit. It was uncertain whether this was a trend in housing yet.

Sustainability – Catherine Neiswender reported on plans to change or amend the APA Sustainability policies. No one had heard about this. Catherine will email info to the membership. APA-WI Board should attend to this.

Allen Davis/Oshkosh