



American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Executive Committee Meeting 2/4/13

Location: Offices of AKRF Inc. – 7th Floor, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY

Attendance: J. Rausse, K. Saxena, P. Lozito, L. Herbert, M. Sokol, R. Harris (via call-in),
K. d'Erizans (via call-in), M. Levine (via call-in)

Guests: Geoffrey Croft (NYC Park Advocates)

I. Procedural Duties

Call to order at 6:08 PM

II. REPORTS

A. President

- Hurricane Sandy
 - i. Rockaway Update
 1. J. Rausse reported on the status of the Chapter's post-Sandy efforts in the Rockaways, working with the Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation (RDRC).
 2. Chapter members working on the project made a presentation to RDRC last week. APA National also attended the presentation.
 - a. So far, there have been two weekends of conducting business surveys in the Rockaways: 96 of approximately 200 businesses responded to the survey; other businesses were still closed or not interested.
 - i. The primary concerns that were extrapolated from businesses were access to financial assistance and guidance from the government.
 3. As part of the project, the Chapter is also working with Community Board 14 to look at transportation alternatives for Rockaway residents, as many are still relying on shuttle buses.
 4. Overall, we are about two-thirds through the process at this point. We intend to conclude the process by the end of March, including the preparation of a document/presentation/toolkit that can be shared with other groups and serve as a resource for other towns/neighborhoods that need assistance.
 - ii. APA National workshop update
 1. J. Rausse reported that there was an APA National-sponsored conference in New Jersey last week, which

featured a two-hour workshop about post-Sandy recovery and resilience.

2. Our Chapter will also be collaborating with APA National to host workshops, beginning the week of February 25th.
 - a. One workshop will be in Staten Island.
 - i. Note: Hunter College and the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission are also coordinating with AIA for visioning sessions in Staten Island in May.
 - b. Another workshop may be at Cornell's Architecture/Planning studio at 50 West 17th Street.
 - c. The workshops will be "train the trainer" events – case studies and break-out groups to teach planners and local leaders how to do effective disaster planning.
 - iii. Post-Sandy Coordination Committee:
 1. J. Rausse has reached out to Committee chairs and Section representatives.
 2. The purpose is to strategically think about how our Chapter should be involved in ongoing post-Sandy resiliency efforts.
 3. The Committee will also assist APA National and coordinate workshops on specific topics.
 - iv. Partnerships
 1. J. Rausse discussed ongoing partnerships between our Chapter and other organizations.
 2. AIA has been asked by NYCDCP to present a report on building design as it relates to zoning for post-Sandy recovery; two AIA Committees have reached out to our Chapter for collaboration.
 - a. Other partners: RPA, Citizens Housing Planning Council, NYASLA.
 - b. A charrette is scheduled for 2/23 to discuss building design.
- By-Laws Update
 - i. Timeline
 1. J. Rausse spoke with Donald Burns, who is heading up the By-Laws/Communication Subcommittee.
 2. A final draft of the By-Laws update is expected to be shared in June with the Executive Committee; Chapter membership will have two months to review the document, and the goal is to adopt the document in September.
 - ii. Election coordination signoff (see attached sample resolution)
 1. J. Rausse reported on the coordination of Chapter elections/terms with APA National elections/terms.
 - Manhattan Core Parking Amendment

- i. J. Rausse reported that our Chapter submitted testimony—prepared by the Transportation Committee—on the Manhattan Core Parking Amendment.
- NID
 - i. J. Rausse reported that there has been extensive discussion among Executive Committee members via email, both in favor and against the Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) for Hudson River Park.
 - ii. L. Herbert introduced the guest at this meeting - Geoffrey Croft, founder and President of NYC Park Advocates.
 - iii. G. Croft thanked the Executive Committee for the invitation to offer a counter-argument to the NID.
 - 1. G. Croft prepared a written statement with background, which will be submitted electronically to L. Herbert.
 - 2. G. Croft discussed the controversy around the NID proposal, concluding that it should not be supported.
 - a. NID would be a “pay-to-play” revenue funding authority.
 - b. NID would set a dangerous precedent: once it is created, there would be no reason for public funding to be invested.
 - c. Not funding the park is a violation of the Hudson River Park Act, but proponents of the NID misrepresent the facts.
 - d. There is an important distinction between supplementing public funding and usurping public funding.
 - iv. Executive Committee members offered questions/comments to G. Croft.
 - 1. Given the current fiscally-constrained environment, is adequate public funding even available?
 - 2. How is the NID different from a corporate welfare scheme?
 - 3. Would a NID for Hudson River Park free up public funds to support parks in other neighborhoods?
 - 4. How effective are NIDs in other cities, and are there social justice issues?
 - v. G. Croft left the meeting, thanking the Executive Committee again for their time.
 - vi. J. Rausse concluded the discussion by outlining next steps. The Executive Committee needs to decide how to proceed before the next monthly meeting.
 - 1. J. Rausse presented three options for Executive Committee action about the NID:
 - a. Full support of the NID as a primary mechanism in funding Hudson River Park.
 - b. Full denial of the NID, including language that would be critical of NIDS (and Conservancies) as “pay to play” systems that create wide,

socioeconomically unjust disparities in the City's park system.

- c. Support for the concept of a NID as a supplemental/secondary funding source. This would include support for the NID in theory (and not specifically for Hudson River Park) as a creative mechanism for community groups/parks advocacy organizations to raise funds, but not as a primary source of revenue. This would include critical language of NYC (and potentially NYS) on how it has increasingly underfunded parks that has led to the need for NIDs (and Conservancies).

vii. L. Herbert left the meeting.

B. Secretary

- G. Holisko not in attendance.
- No vote on 1/7/13 meeting minutes.

C. VP Programs

- K. Saxena reported that he contacted Columbia about reserving space for the Biennial Conference. M. Sokol is helping with coordination.
 - i. Tentative dates for the Biennial Conference: October 18th and 25th (both Fridays); alternatively, October 17th or 24th (Thursdays).
- J. Rausse mentioned that, in addition to an overall theme of post-Sandy recovery and resilience, the Biennial Conference should still include 3-4 tracks of different substantive topics (e.g., infrastructure, economic development, etc.).
- At the previous Executive Committee meeting, S. Yackel mentioned an idea to allow Chapter members to make proposals for sessions for the Biennial Conference. This will be considered.

D. VP Committees

- S. Yackel not in attendance. No report.

E. VP Professional Development

- T. Lund not in attendance. No report.

F. VP Intergovernmental Affairs

- M. Levine reported on the Chapter's testimony on 1/17/13 on Long Island before the NYS Senate Committee on Superstorm Sandy.
 - i. J. Rausse received a special invitation from NYS Senators Marcellino and Martins to testify at the hearing. The focus of the hearing was post-Sandy resiliency, including infrastructure hardening and possible changes to zoning regulations.
 - ii. At the hearing, the State Senators posed several questions:
 1. Do we rebuild? Do we buy-out property owners?
 2. Should we invest in gasoline storage on Long Island?
 3. Should we regulate the height of trees?

G. Treasurer

- R. Harris reported that he submitted the Chapter's quarterly finance report to APA National.

- i. We have \$121,661.36 total, including a combination of money in our Chase checking account, Chase savings account, HSBC bank account, HSBC brokerage account, and PayPal.
 - 1. We are still in the process of moving money from our HSBC accounts (\$3,399.81 in bank account and \$32,005.46 in brokerage account), the bulk of which is proceeds from the 2000 National Conference, as well as some funds reserved for a scholarship that our Chapter no longer offers.
 - 2. We cannot currently withdraw money from our PayPal account (\$21,186.45).
- We need to decide how to spend the money.
 - i. J. Rausse proposed that some of the money be used to hire a staff person to support the Chapter in terms of both communications and administration.
 - ii. K. Saxena proposed that some of the money be used to support an Executive Committee retreat, which could address—among other things—a review of the updated Chapter By-Laws.
- R. Harris mentioned that we received a letter from Empire State Future soliciting monetary support from our Chapter. Non-profit organizations are asked to contribute between \$200 and \$500.
 - i. R. Harris will scan the letter and share with the Executive Committee via email.
- We received our Chapter's annual renewal bill for our insurance, which costs \$1,300.

H. School Relations

- P. Lozito reported that the Student Relations Committee (with all new members) convened on January 26th.
- SRC will be hosting a conference on March 13th at NYU. Students are recruiting speakers.
- The annual graduate school studio presentations event will take place on May 3rd at Pratt.
- Two students per graduate school will receive up to \$100 each (for a total \$800 cost to the Chapter) as scholarships to attend the 2013 APA National conference, similar to 2012.
- P. Lozito mentioned an idea for graduate students to participate on Chapter Committees.
 - i. J. Rausse recommended that P. Lozito speak to S. Yackel to discuss strategy.
- J. Rausse reported that NYU Wagner is going through its reaccreditation process. The Chapter submitted comments to the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). There is a site visit scheduled for February 12th with the PAB; J. Rausse will be joined by up to three NYU Wagner alumni (G. Holisko, Sandra Rothbard, and Julie Simon).

I. Young Planners Group

- K. d'Erizans provided an update on the three YPG Subcommittees:
 - i. Events: former Co-Chairs (G. Holisko and Matt Bernstine) are trying to find replacements.

- ii. Outreach: Youth In Planning program is ongoing; currently preparing for its presentation at the 2013 APA National Conference.
- iii. Mentorship: application period for 2013 program will close this Wednesday; the kick-off event is scheduled for February 20th.

J. Long Island Section

- J. Rausse provided an update on behalf of E. Dokonal (via email):
 - i. Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarship applications were due last week. There were nine applicants, and up to three will receive funding to attend the 2013 APA National Conference.
 - 1. The scholarship breakfast is scheduled for May 10th, and will include a post-Sandy panel discussion.
 - a. J. Rausse mentioned that the Long Island Section should coordinate with him for any post-Sandy events.
- The Section will also start planning for its annual East End Conference.

K. New York City Section

- M. Sokol reported that he is starting to think about coordinating a NYC Section event. Ideas include a NYC Mayoral Forum or a “Future of East Midtown” panel discussion.
 - i. J. Rausse mentioned that M. Sokol should collaborate with graduate schools for a NYC Mayoral Forum, if he decides to pursue the idea.
- M. Sokol mentioned that he will participate in the Post-Sandy Committee that J. Rausse is coordinating for the Chapter.
- M. Sokol mentioned that he will assist K. Saxena in coordinating the Biennial Conference.

L. Hudson Valley East Section

- L. Herbert not in attendance (i.e., he left the meeting previously). No report.

M. Hudson Valley West Section

- D. Gilmour not in attendance. No report.

III. ADJOURNMENT [8:27 pm, motion: K. Saxena; seconded: P. Lozito]

Note: Meeting minutes drafted by M. Sokol. G. Holisko not in attendance.