

MEETING NOTES • URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE • APA NY METRO CHAPTER

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2015

ATTENDEES: Katie Theis (Co-Chair), Chris Riale (Co-Chair), Victoria Hallas, Michele McInnes, Chris Rhie, Cristina Ungureanu, Renee Schoonbeek, Greg Haley

AGENDA:

1. Meeting Notes
2. Updates
3. Policy / Public Review
4. Social Media Strategy
5. Potential Programming
 - Conference Session Proposals – Discuss feedback EC + CM-event opportunities (All)
 - Community Planning Month Walking Tour (Katie)
 - FAF Annual Meeting (Katie)
6. Interact / Engage with other professional organizations
 - Penn Station Working Group
7. Next steps / Action items

1. Meeting Notes

Draft notes of meeting July 20th have been approved. With thanks to Cristina for taking notes in Renee's absence.

2. Updates

Katie reports on upcoming committee event, August 18th, to discuss "Zoning for Quality & Affordability". Lot of representatives of other committees has RSVP'ed. Katie expects about 15 people.

Katie and Chris Riale have attended the quarterly meeting of committee chairs. All committees were represented. Our committee has been most active. Other committees are ramping up their efforts:

- A new committee was formed to address diversity (lack thereof) in the planning profession. The Diversity Committee is reaching out to Columbia University regarding recent controversy about diversity.
- The Zoning Committee has started a newsletter.
- The NYM Chapter has asked committees to organize a walking tour as part of APA's Community Planning Month in October.
- The Chapter has issued an RFP to select a designer to redesign the Chapter's website. A group will be formed to oversee the project. A member of our committee should join this group, especially since we are a design-oriented committee. Chris Rhie and Victoria may be interested.

3. Social Media Strategy

Victoria reports that the latest blogpost by a SUNY-graduate student got a lot of views. It is Chris Riale and Cristina turn to provide posts next month:

- Katie or Victoria will post blog on Zoning for Quality & Affordability event.
- Chris Riale will post blog on Pathways to Success event.
- Katie will provide a blog by Jeff Byles, President of FAF, also to announce FAF annual event on September 17th.
- Michele offers to provide a blog post in September.
- Katie will reach out to Jocelyn, chair of the Student relations Committee about another blog post by a student.

4. Policy / Public Review

Katie will coordinate a response to the DCP proposal "Zoning for Quality & Affordability" with input from committee members and representatives of other committees.

5. Potential Programming

In reaction to our inquiry about the selection process, the group that reviewed the proposals for sessions at the upcoming annual NYM chapter meeting has reconsidered the proposals our committee submitted. As a result, one of the proposals our committee prepared was selected. A session about how investments in transportation can leverage good urban design will added to the program. As it turns out, the selection group was not aware that committees had been asked to submit proposals. None of the proposals committees submitted had initially been selected. Katie and Chris Riale will follow up and ask for a better understanding of the selection criteria and for feedback from the selection group, so that we know what they are looking for and can better manage our own expectations.

Katie is asking for help to execute her idea for a walking tour of Hudson, New York, on a weekend in October as part of the Community Planning Month. The theme would be 'revitalization and regeneration'. Speakers could be representatives of the local planning department and economic development corporation. Victoria and Cristina agree to take this on. The event will be advertised through our own mailing list, linkedin group and the chapter's e-blasts.

Renee offers to organize a future walking tour of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, as it makes for an interesting case of waterfront redevelopment and dramatic urban transformation as a result of market forces and intentional changes in land use.

FAF will hold its annual meeting on September 17th. Katie will share the invite with committee members. Invite can be shared with who might be interested. All constituent organizations will be there.

Greg is working on an event about the intersection of industrial and urban design and street furnishings. This event idea will be put on next month's agenda.

6. Interact / Engage with other professional organizations

Katie and Chris Riale spoke with Mike Ernst of the Municipal Arts Society about the Penn Station Working Group. MAS is definitely interested in an active participation of the urban design committee.

Renee would like to be involved. Katie and Chris Riale will follow up with Mike to find out when the next meeting of the working group will be held. Renee will check with the Regional Plan Association as well about the status of the working group.

7. Next Steps / Action Items

Chris Riale asks the committee to help with promotion of the ‘Pathways to Success’ event.

ACTION ITEMS:

#	Action:	Who:	When:
1	Delegate a committee member to help oversee redesign chapter’s website	All	?
2	Post blog about Zoning for Quality & Affordability event	Katie/Victoria	8/18/15
3	Coordinate APA response to DCP proposal “Zoning for Quality & Affordability”	Katie	After 8/18/15
4	Help promote the “Pathways to Success” event	All	9/1/15
5	Plan “Pathways to Success” event for young planners	Chris Riale	9/1/15
6	Post blog about Pathways to Success event	Chris Riale	After 9/1/15
7	Share invite FAF annual event 9/17 w/committee	Katie	Before 9/17/15
8	Post blog by Jeff Byles about FAF	Katie	Before 9/17/15
9	Follow up with EC about selection process session proposal chapter’s annual meeting	Katie/Chris Riale	9/21/15
10	Contact potential candidate for blog post in September	Michele	9/21/15
11	Contact chair student relations committee about blog post by student	Katie	9/21/15
12	Plan/coordinate walking tour Hudson NY as part of community planning month	Victoria/Cristina	9/21/15
13	Follow up w/Mike Ernst of MAS about Penn Station Working Group	Katie/Chris Riale	9/21/15
14	Check w/RPA about the status of the Penn Station Working Group	Renee	9/21/15
15	Develop idea for event about industrial & urban design	Greg	9/21/15
16	Plan/coordinate walking tour Williamsburg, Brooklyn	Renee	TBD
17	Develop offering technical assistance to non-profits	Cristina	TBD

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2015, 6 PM at Parsons Brinkerhoff, One Penn Plaza