

**APA MN Legislative Committee Meeting
1st Meeting of 2010 Legislative Year**

**Friday, January 8th 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Meeting location: Cuningham Group**

Present: Suzanne Rhees, Matt Brown, Karin Berkholtz, Paul Mogush, Andy Gitzlaff, Alex Conzemius; by phone: John Sevald, John Shepard, Bob Patton

Meeting began approximately 2:10 p.m.
Agenda approved

Approval of 11/6/09 and 12/7/09 Joint MACPZA Meeting Minutes: John Shepard pointed out that he was in attendance by phone at the November 6, 2009 meeting

Joint APA MN/MACPZA Enabling Reform Policy – Reviewed MACPZA meeting notes and next steps – Mike Wozniak had volunteered to work on a white paper. We need to start developing a work program for the reform process. Also suggested inviting MACPZA members to Planner’s Day at the Capitol. Good idea to increase APA MN profile among zoning administrators.

- White paper should include examples of what other states have done; describe the problem
- Note that this effort doesn’t relate to priorities for the current legislative session – a long-term process.

Legislative Education Coordinator Position: update from Bob/Suzanne - still in between interviews and potential offer; will decide in time for Board meeting

Planner’s Day at the Capitol (March 2010) – Andrew/Bob are beginning to plan for event

2010 Legislative Priorities - Karen Berkholtz is requesting Chapter sponsorship of legislation to establish 60-day time limit on appeals of city zoning decisions, similar to the rule that applies to counties under 394. Discussed pros and cons.

- Why not have city introduce it themselves – too many legislators are hostile to Minneapolis.
- LMC role? Offered help, but not willing to sponsor
- Is this too narrow an initiative? A way to test the waters at the Legislature and increase visibility? Enabling legislation reform is long-term; this is immediate, although something of a ‘band-aid.’
- Provides a good example of how to level the playing field between cities and counties
- Relates to Policy Platform statement 1- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Next step would be Board approval; contact legislators and invite them to co-sponsor. Karen will circulate a draft statement
- General agreement to pursue this, recommend for Board approval

APA MN Organization Input on MnDOT Statewide Rail Plan: Andy Gitzlaff offered to put a letter together for Board approval, to be signed by Chair. MnDOT will be asking for bonding funding; has now established an Office of Passenger and Freight Rail.

- Complete Streets effort? Andy to follow up with Ethan (Fresh Energy); AMC is also supporting

Open Discussion: Other legislative / rulemaking issues include DNR Critical Areas rulemaking.

- A statewide Geospatial Advisory Council has been established; is tracking GIS-related legislation – will be providing aerial photography at high resolution – successor to “LMIC” (Land Management Information Center)
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Chaudhary) is looking into reorganization of environmental agencies, similar to last year’s bill – held hearing December 7 for “listening,” not drafting.
- Friends of the Mississippi planning to reintroduce last year’s bill on critical areas and shorelands.

Established initial **bill-tracking responsibilities** for 2010 Legislative Session:

- Transportation: Andy and Paul
- Economic Development: Matt
- Agriculture: Bob
- Intergovernmental Coordination: Andrew
- Land Use: Suzanne
- Natural Resources: Alex
- County issues: Jon Sevald
- Michael Noonan (?): Housing

Alex to forward Annalee’s bill-tracking matrix (color-coded by topic) as an example of how to improve our bill-tracking efforts

Future Meeting Dates Schedule:

APA MN Chapter Board Meeting 1/15/09

Next Legislative Committee Meeting – 2/12/10, Golden Valley (to be confirmed)

Planners Day at the Capitol – March 2010

Meeting adjourned approx. 4:15

notes S. Rhees, 1/21/10