

**American Planning Association
Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division
(formerly: Intergovernmental Affairs Division)
Business Meeting Minutes,
San Francisco, 21 March 2005**

The Intergovernmental Affairs Division held its annual business meeting on Monday, 21 March 2005, in the Nob Hill Room A, San Francisco Marriott Hotel,. There were two sessions, one from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a second session from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. A combined reception with the Transportation Planning Division took place between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Attendance (for all or part of the business meeting): 11

Frank Osgood, division member from Seal Beach, California provided an overview of research he had done on regionalism in the Los Angeles area. He has recently published a book titled *Region Aroused*.

Division Chair Lee Schoenecker reported on the name change for the division – to become the Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division. The change was approved unanimously by both the Divisions Council (Saturday) and the APA Board of Directors (Sunday). Mr. Schoenecker reiterated that one of the primary reasons for the name change is to more actively engage planners involved in regional planning efforts. The division leadership will be working with members over the next 12 months to assess any revisions needed to the Division bylaws. One issue raised was whether the number of officers should be expanded to include at least one individual from each region of the U.S.

Clyde Forrest, APA Divisions Council chair, addressed those in attendance and expressed the interest of the Council's Executive Committee to work with the Division to increase membership.

Mr. Schoenecker reported that the Division had received a good performance evaluation – with one issue called out, that being the need to increase membership. Tom Christoffel, Front Royal, Virginia and Rocky Piro, vice-chair, agreed to co-chair the development of a membership recruitment team to oversee efforts to attract new members to the Division. It was agreed that the team should have representatives from different regions of the U.S. or possibly even from each chapter that has an active member in the Division.

There was frustration expressed with the schedule of business meetings at the National Conference. Not only are most division business meetings scheduled for the same evening at the same time, but that time period is also when the majority of alumni and chapter receptions are scheduled, and now an increasing number of evening sessions. Two suggestions emerged – one, that Conference schedulers stagger business meetings throughout the conference, perhaps even during the period scheduled for some sessions. – or two, that the Division consider hosting a morning breakfast business meeting.

The obligatory cost of hosting a business meeting at a conference hotel is an issue. Recent meetings have required payments of between \$500 and \$1000 – which has represented anywhere

between 15 to 25 % of the Divisions' total budget. Even by taking the step this year to reduce expenses by hosting a combined reception with the Transportation Division resulted in what the officers and meeting attendees felt was a huge financial drain on the Division's budget. At the 2004 Conference, the Division took the unusual action of hosting its business meeting off-site, which resulted in a cost savings. While it was noted that conference organizers frown on that practice, it was nevertheless advanced at the business meeting as a viable option for the Division again in the future, as long as there are no subsidies being offered to help underwrite the costs. Another option advanced was simply to arrange to use a conference session room during a period when the room was not being used for presentations. A final option suggested is that conference planners adjust the registration costs for all attendees to cover expenses for facilities to host division business meetings.

The Division has agreed to undertake a two- to three-year effort to develop a policy paper on *regional and intergovernmental planning*. Mr. Schoenecker has put together an initial outline and schedule for drafting this policy paper. It was recommended that he consider putting together a research or writing team of division members who might be interested in contributing to such an effort. Vice-Chair Piro agreed to take over the responsibilities for submitting the Division's 2006 performance report so that the chair can devote more time the policy paper project.

Vice-Chair Thomas Dow reported on the Division's budget, providing information on the past five budgets and projecting a worst-case scenario budget for the next fiscal year. It was noted that the current division leadership has taken action to scale back on annual business meeting reception costs and incur personal expenses to maintain the work of the Division, including paying partially or fully out-of-pocket to attend Divisions Council meetings and other required meetings. Again, increasing membership will help to stabilize the division financially. There was some discussion of proposals developed in the past relating to growing membership and increasing revenue. It was agreed that these proposals should be considered by the membership recruitment team.

It was noted that there have been some significant increases in expenses as the Division Newsletter has become more substantive. While creating an electronic-only newsletter has some financial merits, there was also support for continuing to produce at least one hard-copy newsletter each calendar year. Mr. Christoffel moved and Ben Hitchings (Durham, North Carolina) seconded adoption of the 2006 budget. The motion carried.

Attendees had high praise for Ryan Harris, who services as the Division's webmaster, as well as for Scott Taylor, the newsletter editor. Both the website and the newsletter are of high quality. There were no objections to the proposal of exploring the use of a new listserv in conjunction with *Regional Community Newsletter*. It was agreed that the partnership that has evolved with *Regional Community Newsletter* over the past year has been very positive and should continue to be fostered.

Amy Carrier, with the *Alliance for Regional Stewardship* based in Denver, provided an overview of the work of the Alliance – which is dedicated to addressing complex issues affecting both the built environment and the natural environment on a multijurisdictional basis. There was solid

interest in having the Division develop a stronger partnership with the Alliance. The Alliance is an excellent resource for information on regional topics and problem-solving; Ms. Carrier also suggested that planners involved in the Alliance would be good candidates for possible membership in the Division.

A nominating committee to conduct division elections was formed at the business meeting. The Committee includes Tom Christoffel, Tom Dow, Bob Kull, Rocky Piro, and Lee Schoenecker. The nominating committee will work on producing a slate of candidates – based on any proposed revisions to the Division's by-laws that might expand the leadership team beyond three persons. Both Mr. Dow and Mr. Piro expressed interest in helping the Division transition into new roles and to assist in identifying new leadership for the future. Ballots would be sent out to the division membership with a deadline date for return.

Finally, the attendees began to discuss possible topics for the Division's two by-right sessions for the 2006 National Conference in San Antonio. Among the proposals were the following suggestions:

- 1) Regional Planning Councils in Texas. This session could be designed to focus either on metropolitan councils in the larger urban regions of the state, or provide an overview of regional planning efforts in three distinct settings – major metropolitan, midsize urban, and rural. Austin's regional alliance efforts could be incorporated into this session.
- 2) Texas Transport Corridor. This session would look at the intergovernmental aspects of developing a multi-use corridor through the state – considering the land use and economic implications. Potentially could be co-sponsored with the Transportation Division.
- 3) Developing Multi-Agency Projects. This session would look complex planning projects – with transportation, land use, economic development, and/or other facets – and consider the problems and challenges they have faced. The projects themselves would not necessarily be only success stories. Up to three projects would be examined, including the State Route 10 project between Lawrence, Kansas and Kansas City. Other projects could also be from the mid-west – or from other parts of the country (perhaps one from Texas).
- 4) Current Issues in Regional and Intergovernmental Planning. This session would provide an opportunity to showcase efforts to redefine the work and mission of the Division – perhaps showcasing some of the work related to the Policy Paper being developed. Another option would be to have this more of a work session and operate the session in a way that allows the audience to interact with the policy paper team on key regional issues.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm expressed at the business meeting related to the inclusion of a track at this year's Conference dedicated to *Regional Alliances for Planning*. At the same time, there was also some concern expressed that the Division did not have much interaction with the Conference organizers in developing this track. A particular problem was fact that there was an overlap with multiple regional track sessions being scheduled at the same time – including one scheduled opposite a by-right session sponsored by the Division. The leadership

team agreed to make these concerns know to the Divisions Council and conference organizers at APA headquarters.

Mr. Dow moved and Mr. Piro seconded a motion to approve the Division's 2006 work program. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Attending:

Amy Carrier, Alliance for Regional Stewardship (Denver)
Thomas Christoffel, Regional Community Newsletter (Virginia)
Thomas Dow, Division Vice-Chair, Kansas State Department of Transportation
Clyde Forrest, Chair, Divisions Council
Ben Hitchings, Durham, North Carolina
Bob Kull, Burlington County (New Jersey)
Bob Leiter, San Diego Association of Governments
Frank Osgood, Seal Beach, California
Rocky Piro, Division Vice-Chair, Puget Sound Regional Council
Shari Schartlein, Federal Highway Administration (Washington, DC)
Lee Schoenecker, Division Chair, (Washington, DC)

Note: Attendance at the Division's two by-right sessions in San Francisco was estimated to be 55 at the Sunday session on "Regional Planning Alliances in California" (moderated by Tom Christoffel) and 65 at the Wednesday session on "Improving Transportation and Urban Form for Health" (moderated by Rocky Piro).