



OVERVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE
FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION

DEVELOPING FLORIDA'S PLANNING PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1951

Public Participation and Engagement: Past, Present and Future

Benjamin Franklin once noted that 'nothing is certain except death and taxes'. Had Mr. Franklin dabbled into the land use development realm, I'm fairly certain he would have added 'disappointing public engagement' or something similar to his statement. While the early history of planning knowingly excluded the public from participating in decision making both in participation and engagement. As modern planning and engineering professionals along with local government officials, we recognize that public participation and engagement, and community involvement are vital elements of our work. For the purpose of this piece, public participation includes simple communication to or from citizens within our communities (e.g. written public comment provided prior to a public hearing), and public engagement includes active, intentional dialogue between citizens, staff, applicants and public decision makers (e.g. citizen advisory boards, neighborhood meetings, design charrettes, etc.).

While vital to our profession and the delivery of projects, public engagement often proves to be one of the most challenging (and sometimes frustrating) parts of our jobs. As professionals, we are continuously working to eliminate obstacles that may hinder the public in participating or engaging in public participation and/or engagement. The goal is to increase the number and diversity of voices and assist in

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



bringing these voices to the proverbial table as projects move through the development approval process.

Public participation and engagement consists of involving the public in the development process, including both in person and in their written comments at public hearings, neighborhood/community meetings, design charrettes, and citizen advisory committees and groups. The challenge is in providing opportunities for participation and engagement. Historically, the process has failed to incorporate our community's most vulnerable, diverse and underrepresented populations. This lack of representation isn't the result of any one particular action (or inaction) but rather a culmination of multiple obstacles.

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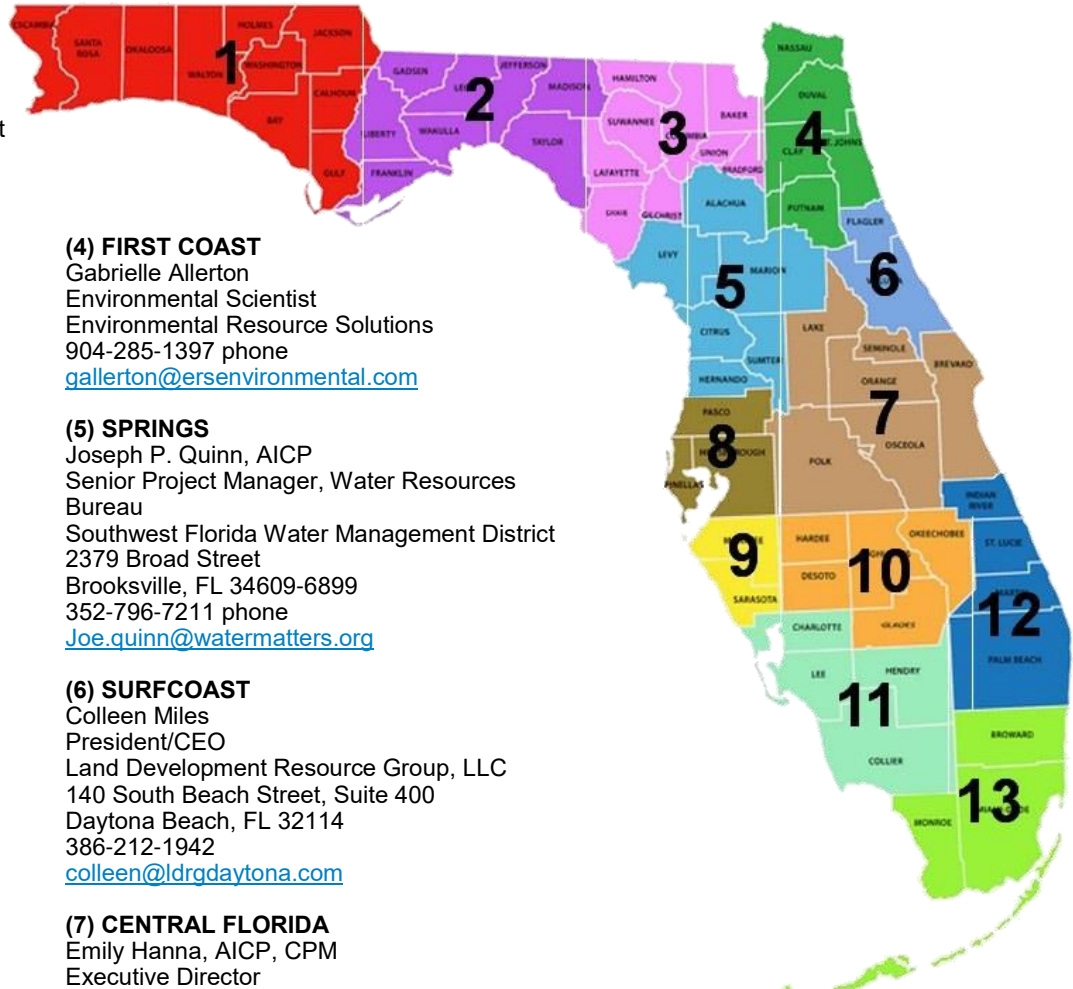
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(1) NORTHWEST - VACANT
(2) APPALACHEE - VACANT
(3) SUWANNEE - VACANT
(10) HEARTLAND - VACANT

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Preparation of remarks for this edition of the Overview is with heavy heart as my thoughts and prayers go out to all the friends, family and colleagues affected by Hurricane Ian. This storm will undoubtedly be recorded in the history books as one of the most powerful storms to hit Florida. Thinking back to June and the incredible location for our State Conference at the South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, it's hard to imagine the impacts on the region's landscape

and the recovery efforts that will be required. As with a storm of this magnitude, such impacts were not just limited to the immediate landfall area, but instead extended across a broad swath of peninsular Florida.

Coastal areas of the state which have not previously experienced such storm devastation typically have older residential and commercial structures that do not meet current storm-resilient building design and construction standards. This evolutionary development mix of older and new construction works to provide for the unique characteristics of each community. Unfortunately, knowing the Fort Myers Beach area and the numerous historic ground-level structures, it's apparent from pictures that many of these did not fare well or were completely lost.

With recovery efforts moving forward, it's imperative to get everyone affected back to a sense of normalcy as expeditiously as possible. Equally important is to evaluate how to incorporate community resiliency for future tropical storms and hurricanes while also maintaining the unique characteristics of the community. I encourage everyone to continue to keep those affected by Hurricane Ian in your thoughts and to support those organizations that are at the front lines of the assistance and recovery efforts.

Regarding recent Association activities, a hearty thanks is extended to the Suncoast Chapter for organizing and hosting the latest Regional Forum and Quarterly State Board meeting in Tampa. The venue and accommodations were outstanding, and a great recap of the Regional Forum is provided in this volume of the Overview. These regional events are a long-standing component of the Association and represent a critical opportunity to engage and educate our members and others in the planning field and allied professions. Please stay tuned for details on the 2023 Regional Forums. As always, each of you are the heart and soul of the FPZA, and I want to personally thank you for your continued support and participation!



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Public Participation and Engagement: Past, Present and Future

...continued from cover page

Prior to the pandemic, many of the opportunities for public participation in projects required our residents to physically attend public hearings and/or meetings. These meetings often take place at local government offices and occur during working hours. Meeting times often pose challenges and result in an exclusion of our employed residents from actively participating in land use actions. Meetings often take place during what is traditionally first and second shifts (9am-5pm and 5pm-1am respectively). In addition to the challenges caused by meeting times, other obstacles to residents participating include transportation, childcare, work and school obligations.

This traditional philosophy of public participation was flipped on its head in March 2020 during the pandemic. Communities throughout the state and across the nation were faced with the question of how they continue to operate, particularly regarding public hearings as a result of quarantining, masking and social distancing requirements, prohibitions on large public gatherings and other public health requirements during the pandemic.

Communities quickly adopted virtual public hearings utilizing video and teleconferencing capabilities. While these new approaches to local governance came with learning pains and their own unique set of challenges, they also managed to tear down longtime obstacles to public participation/engagement as time and location challenges were no longer a limitation. Interested residents (a large number of which working remotely from home during the pandemic) could participate in meetings that were previously challenging or unreachable for them.

Residents with childcare, health concerns, transportation challenges, and other traditional roadblocks to engagement with their local government could now participate readily from the comfort of their homes or offices. Individuals and populations who had historically been underrepresented could now actively participate in decision-making processes. While these opportunities

for remote participation eliminated obstacles to participation/engagement, it did create new ones as individuals or even geographic areas lacking cable or internet were unable to access the meetings virtually. These hybrid meetings presented what could be looked at as the best of both worlds, residents who lacked virtual capability were able to travel to attend a meeting. While those on the other side of the equation were still able to participate remotely.

It finally looked as though local government and the land use planning world had finally cracked the code to opening the door to greater engagement. But as the state and nation continue to move away from 'peak to post pandemic' or 'new normal' many of these hybrid options have again been reduced or eliminated. Just when it looked as if local government and the land use profession had made a giant leap forward for public participation/engagement, it virtually disappeared. As the proliferation of information and technology continues, and advances in how individuals and communities engage with one another continues to change; it is vital for us as professionals and advocates for the communities we work in and represent to continue to provide greater accessibility for public participation/engagement and involvement.

The benefits of meaningful and substantive public participation and public engagement cannot be understated. The information gathered can help direct officials in developing policies and plans that will retain or create a desirable community character. Public feedback can also help provide insight into decisions about projects or proposals such as housing subdivisions or commercial development. In a period of human history where access to information and connectivity is greater than any prior period, it is paramount that we as professionals continue to provide all persons with an ability for their voices to be heard. We need to turn to new technologies that were tested during the COVID-19 pandemic and embrace advancements as they emerge. Likewise, by opening doors for good, impactful participation and engagement we can strive to ensure community support, buy in and excitement for the projects we work on to benefit their community and their livelihoods.



Paul
Wieczorek





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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kellie Erlacher

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Florida Law Firm Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. Elects New Shareholders

West Palm Beach, Fla., January 9, 2023 – Florida law firm Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. is pleased to announce the election of four new shareholders of the firm: Seth C. Behn, Julia L. Jennison, Kathryn B. Rossmell and Robert Angus Williams. Collectively, this group of lawyers brings a total of 60 years of legal experience, most of them being while they practiced at LLW.

“We are thrilled to announce these new shareholders,” said Michelle Diffenderfer, President and Shareholder of LLW. “This group exemplifies LLW’s commitment to delivering the best in client service through leadership, expertise, and legal advocacy.”

Seth’s practice focuses on land use, environmental law and governmental affairs. He assists clients with complex land development matters and helps them navigate through the government approval processes. With a background in Urban Planning, his work often focuses on zoning entitlements, riparian rights, and real estate.

Julia’s practice focuses on working closely with clients to understand and execute their strategic objectives within the evolving and complex areas of water resource, environmental and real property law. Julia is the Vice-Chair of LLW’s Land Use & Real Estate Law Practice Group and assists clients in permitting of their land development projects, obtaining state and federal environmental resource and mitigation bank permits, state water use permitting issues, and in all aspects of complex real estate transactions.

Kathryn’s practice focuses on land use, environmental, local government and natural resources law. She represents private clients on land use matters including comprehensive planning issues and land development regulation application, drafting and implementation; public and private clients on natural resources permitting issues; clients challenging and defending National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance; as well as civil litigation for public and private clients for matters within her practice areas.



Seth C. Behn
West Palm Beach



Julia L. Jennison
West Palm Beach



Kathryn B. Rossmell
West Palm Beach



Robert Angus Williams
West Palm Beach

She also represents and advises public clients as general and special counsel, including legal analysis of special assessment methodology and counseling clients on community redevelopment and other special district matters.

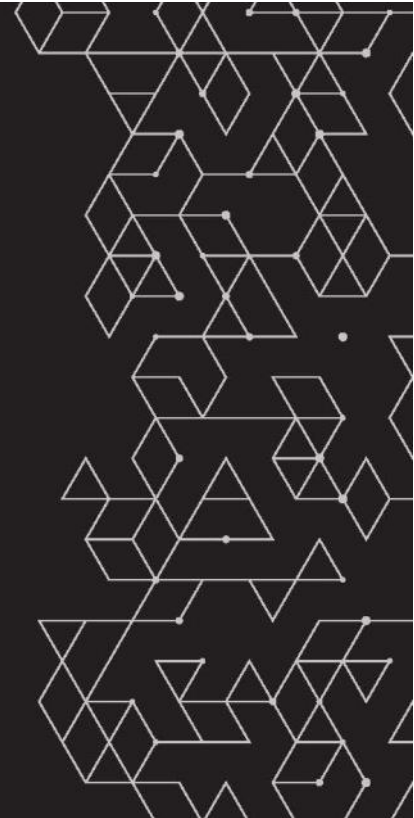
Robert Angus Williams has extensive experience in environmental, land use, agricultural law, zoning, permitting, administrative matters and business and real estate transactions. Robert previously served as General Counsel of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He is a Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated attorney, is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Mediator.

Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. is a statewide law firm with 34 attorneys and over 25 years of experience practicing in the areas of environmental, land use, real estate, litigation, legislative and governmental affairs. LLW has the experience to navigate complex local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Our offices are in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Tampa, St. Petersburg and West Palm Beach. For more detailed information on our qualifications, visit our website at www.llw-law.com.



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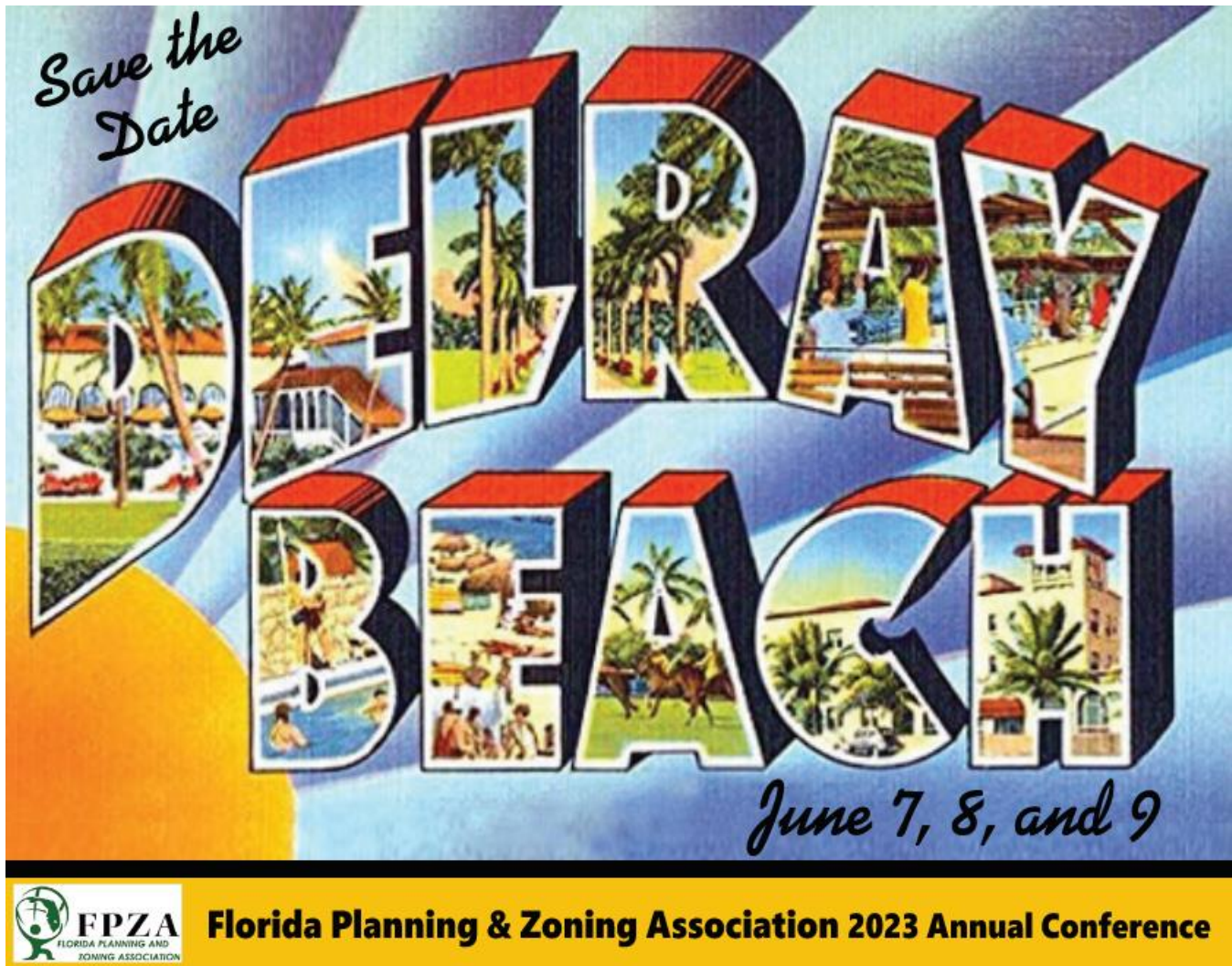


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ABOUT THE OVERVIEW

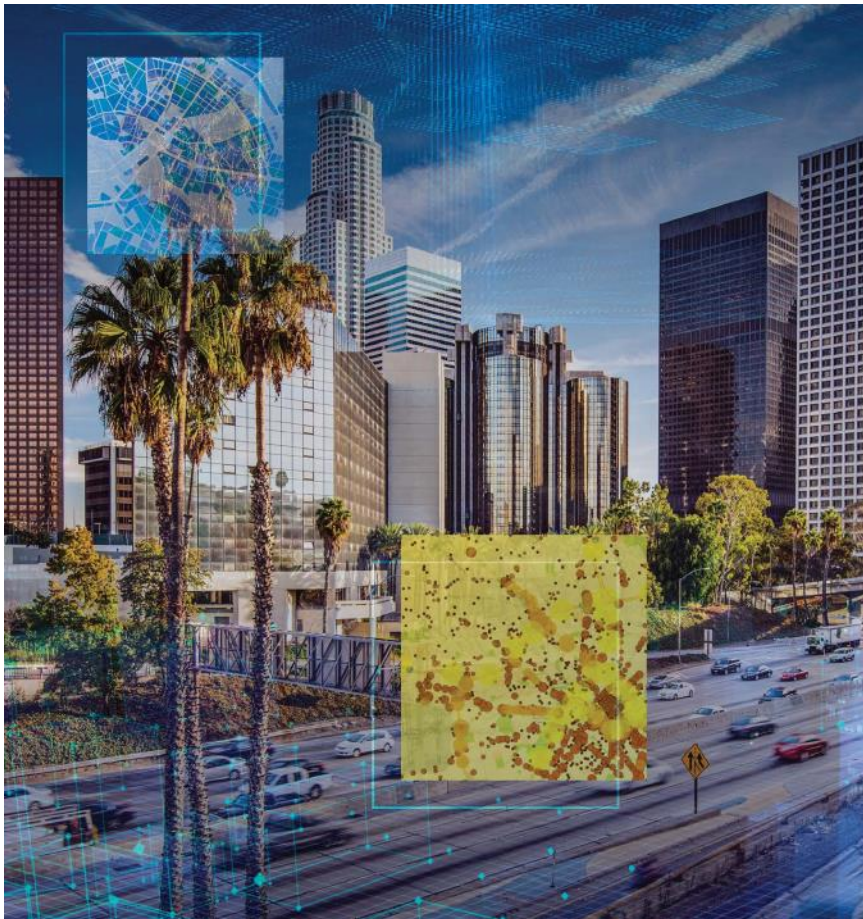
The Overview is a quarterly newsletter published by the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. The contents of these newsletters include contributions from our members across the state. The issues are published in the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall following the quarterly Board of Director's meetings.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Overview offers an opportunity for contributions from our members to share an opinion, review or analysis of a current planning topic of personal or state interest.

We are looking for contributions for upcoming issues of the Overview. One time or recurring contributors are welcome. Contributions can include, but are not limited to: news articles, press releases, analytic reviews and narratives, legal briefs and reviews.

The views expressed in the Overview are those of the Editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association. Articles may be edited to conform to space and/or style requirements, and may be reserved for use in later issues if appropriate.




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SURVEY

MEMBER PROFILE: ALEXANDRA SCROGGIN

**Q. WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?**

A. Miami, Florida

Q. WHAT COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY DID YOU ATTEND/GRADUATE FROM? PLEASE LIST YOUR DEGREE(S) AND IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIALIZED TRAINING.

A. I'm attending Florida Atlantic University, seeking a Bachelors degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Criminology

Q. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN FPZA AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

A. My previous Boss at the City of Crystal River

Planning introduced me to Joseph Quinn at a city conference. I have been a member for 7 months

Q. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT POSITION AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE?

A. I'm a student focusing on City Planning.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

A. Roller Skating, ping pong, and free diving I am currently seeking my Master Captain's license for boating.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TRAVEL SPOT?

A. My favorite vacation spot is Eastern Oregon, on our family farm or anywhere I am when I am with my family.

Q. WHAT BOOK DID YOU READ LAST?

A. The last book I read was "Interplay-The process of Interpersonal Communications".

Q. IF GIVEN THE CHANCE, WHO YOU LIKE TO BE FOR A DAY?

A. I am happy being myself :)

Q. WHO INSPIRES YOU?

A. My older sisters.

Q. WHAT ARE THREE CAREER LESSONS YOU'VE LEARNED THUS FAR?

A. I've learned how to speak up and share my ideas, to always be open to new possibilities, and to maintain a healthy work/life balance.

Q. IF A NEW COLLEGE GRADUATE ASKED YOU FOR ADVICE ABOUT YOUR FIELD, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

A. There are plenty of opportunities in this field and be open to trying something out of your comfort zone. I didn't learn about daily etiquette (attire, mannerisms, etc.)

Q. DO YOU HAVE A MOTTO OR PERSONAL MANTRA THAT YOU LIKE TO LIVE BY?

A. "If at first you do succeed, try something harder" and "Delay is the deadliest form of denial"

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING NOW IF YOU HADN'T CHOSEN YOUR CURRENT PROFESSION?

A. If I had not chosen my current profession, I may be working for my parents landscape design and maintenance company.

Q. WHAT PERSONAL GOALS WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE (BEFORE YOU RETIRE)?

A. Before I retire, I would like to travel to new places to experience different cultures around the world. I would also like to be able to bring my family with me on these adventures.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION

The Florida Planning and Zoning Association was founded in 1951, during the national conference of the American Planning and Civic Association held in Miami. Frank F. Stearns, then Director of Planning for the City of Miami, set up a special meeting for those interested in forming an active State Association. Approximately thirty people attended that historic meeting, representing most of the populated areas of the State.

The purposes of the Association are: to promote cooperation among official planning and zoning boards or commissions, civic bodies, citizens, technicians and students interested in planning and zoning in the State of Florida; to cultivate and stimulate interest in planning and zoning by local governments; to encourage the observance of sound planning and zoning practices; to furnish information, advice and assistance to its members and provide a medium for exchanging information, advice and assistance among them; to engage in research and issue publications on planning and zoning and related matters; to promote and encourage the sound development of land, water and natural resources and the elimination of air and water pollution; and to educate the public and elected and appointed officials in matters pertaining to planning and zoning.

WHO BELONGS TO THE FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION?

MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE...

Planning professionals - public and private zoning staff, transportation engineers, land-use lawyers, expert witnesses, members of the Florida Bar, city, county and state elected officials, members of local planning and zoning boards, university professors, architects, landscape architects, housing professionals, real estate agents, transportation specialists, surveyors, marketing professionals, communications directors, graphic artists, students of land planning, public relations professionals...and more.

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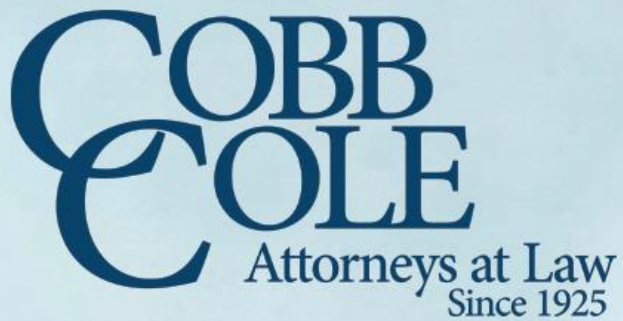
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REGIONAL FORUM RECAP

The Sun Coast Chapter hosted the Fall Regional Forum at the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission's offices in downtown Tampa on Friday, September 23, 2022. Our speaker was Miles Ballogg, Cardno now Stantec, who is a nationally recognized expert on Brownfields, Healthfields and Redevelopment as an Environmental Justice and Equitable Development Tool.

Mr. Ballogg explained the history and purpose for these efforts including a discussion of EPA Brownfields Grant & Environmental Justice Grant opportunities and incentives. He provided examples of successful brownfields/healthfields project in the underserved areas of Tampa Bay. The event was attended by 17 people whose questions lead to an informative round table discussion.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 24 2022

President Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:12AM

The following were present:

JIM BARNES – SOUTH FLORIDA (Zoom)
JOE QUINN – SPRINGS
PAUL WIECZOREK – SPRINGS (Zoom)
DEBI LACROIX - SURF COAST
DIANNE CHADWICK - SUNCOAST
KATIE LABARR – GULF COAST (Zoom)
DAN SMITH – CALUSA
HELEN LAVALLEY – SURF COAST
SUZANNE NEVE – BOARD ADMINISTRATOR (Zoom)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was determined. President Quinn welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in today's meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FPZA Administrator, Suzanne Neve, presented the minutes from the June 2022 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Paul Wieczorek and second was made by Diane Chadwick. The motion carried unanimously.

The membership report was presented with all current paid members and a report of membership by Chapter. All Chapter Directors were emailed the list and asked to please reach out to unpaid and to also check their Director and Officer listing on the website for accuracy and provide any updates to Suzanne.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JOE QUINN

President Quinn noted that he wants to make sure we need to make sure we are thinking about the 2023 Conference. Jim Barnes offered to look into options in South Florida for the South Florida / Gulfstream Chapter to take the lead. Suzanne will send a calendar invite for October 20th at 9am to discuss options.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT: DAN SMITH

Conference CM credits were 29.5. The Suncoast Chapter event that was held on September 23rd was 1.5 credit in Equity. Total for 2022 is 39 credits.

VP FINANCIAL AFFAIRS REPORT: KATIE LABARR

Monthly and Year to Date Financials were presented for discussion and review by those in attendance.

The 2023 proposed budget will be presented at the next meeting.

A committee was assembled to review the bylaws and will meet prior to the next Board meeting. The committee consists of Joe Quinn, Dan Smith, Colleen Miles, Paula McMichael and Katie LaBarr.

2022 STATE CONFERENCE

The draft conference financials were presented by Helen LaValley and will be emailed out to the group on Monday.

OVERVIEW

Deadline for articles/information is October 17th with a potential publishing date of the week of October 31st. Items needed:

1. Word from the President - Joe Quinn
2. Cover Story - Dan Smith - Workforce Housing
3. Short Article 1 (500-750 words with pictures) - Helen LaValley
4. Short Article 2 (500-750 words with pictures) - Joe Quinn
5. Regional Forum Recap - Suncoast Chapter / Diane
6. Member Spotlight - Student Scholarship Winners / Student Reps (Aly & Gabby)
7. Save the Date for the 2023 Conference
8. BOD Meeting Minutes - Suzanne

CHAPTER REPORTS

- **First Coast** - Not present.
- **Springs** - Nothing new to report.

- **Surfcoast** - Did a Community Service Project - Coastal Cleanup on September 17th. Scheduling another one later this fall. Planning for awards gala on December 11th.
- **Central Florida** - Not present.
- **Suncoast** - Hosted the Regional Forum with 17 people on September 23.
- **Calusa** - No updates.
- **Gulf Coast** - Planning a luncheon (first in 2 years), on October 14th with Charles Klein (Former Sarasota County with Trust for Public Land, discussing regional trails and creation and connection from Sarasota through Manatee to Hillsborough County. Hosted at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar.
- **Gulfstream/South Florida** - Added a new Board member and continuing to look for more. Looking at co-hosting with local planning Congress for a virtual seminar on housing

OLD BUSINESS

The Bylaw Committee will meet to review the Bylaws prior to the next Board meeting.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Joe to reach out to Doug Kelly and Central FL Chapter to ask them to host for January/February

ADJOURN - With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43AM.

