



OVERVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE
FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION

DEVELOPING FLORIDA'S PLANNING PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1951

Winter Regional Forum: Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland

Rhea Lopes, Suncoast Chapter

FPZA Members enjoyed the Educational Regional Forum at Bonnet Springs Park in Lakeland, organized by the Suncoast Chapter. Bonnet Springs Park is the 2023 recipient of the FPZA Outstanding Grassroots Project award. The 168-acre park is designed over a former railway repair yard that had served the phosphate and agricultural industries for many years. The site had remained dormant for almost 40 years leaving the land in disrepair. Development of the property required not only a vision but also the remediation of contamination and the restoration of an ecological system. This was possible through the collaboration of developers, the City of Lakeland, and the Carol Jenkins Barnett Endowment.

The event started with a presentation by Josh Henderson, CEO of Bonnet Springs Park, which provided an overview of the history of the site, design process and challenges, and current day-to-day park operations. This was followed by a tram tour of the park.

The event highlighted key planning principles employed in designing the park:

Community Engagement – This park serves the regional community; therefore, it was important to research and analyze the community needs. The community was engaged in the design concepts for the park in addition to the formal design by the Sasaki Group. After completion of the park the community remains engaged through events and festivals that draw large crowds to the park. It also draws a continuous flow of people to who enjoy the park daily.

Accessibility / Walkability – The park is located within walking distance of the urban core of downtown Lakeland. It also provides connections to the surrounding areas via pedestrian and bicycle paths. Internal to the park, it was intentional that all activities be accessible to all people despite their age or access challenges. A tram system is available to assist visitors in traversing the 168-acre park allowing their ability to experience the entire park. As planning practices have evolved, the park is an excellent example of the importance to consider accessibility in designing public spaces to serve the entire community.



Diversity – The park offers many opportunities and makes all features accessible to everyone who wishes to enjoy, learn, and relax. The park is free to enjoy as a community asset. Those with disadvantages, whether that by age, economic status or physical challenges, are welcome and can be accommodated. This promotes sound planning practices of inclusivity.

Education – The park provides a variety of educational opportunities like embracing the site's history and its use as a railway yard that served the phosphate and agricultural industry. In addition, there is a Nature Center with a Butterfly House, a Children's Museum and the open environment providing education on ecological subjects. These opportunities are interactive and promote learning for all ages. Those attending the educational activities of the park will learn the advantages of considering all aspects of history, nature and ecological features which are paramount to good planning practices.

For more information on Bonnet Springs Park, please visit <https://bonnetspringspark.com/>

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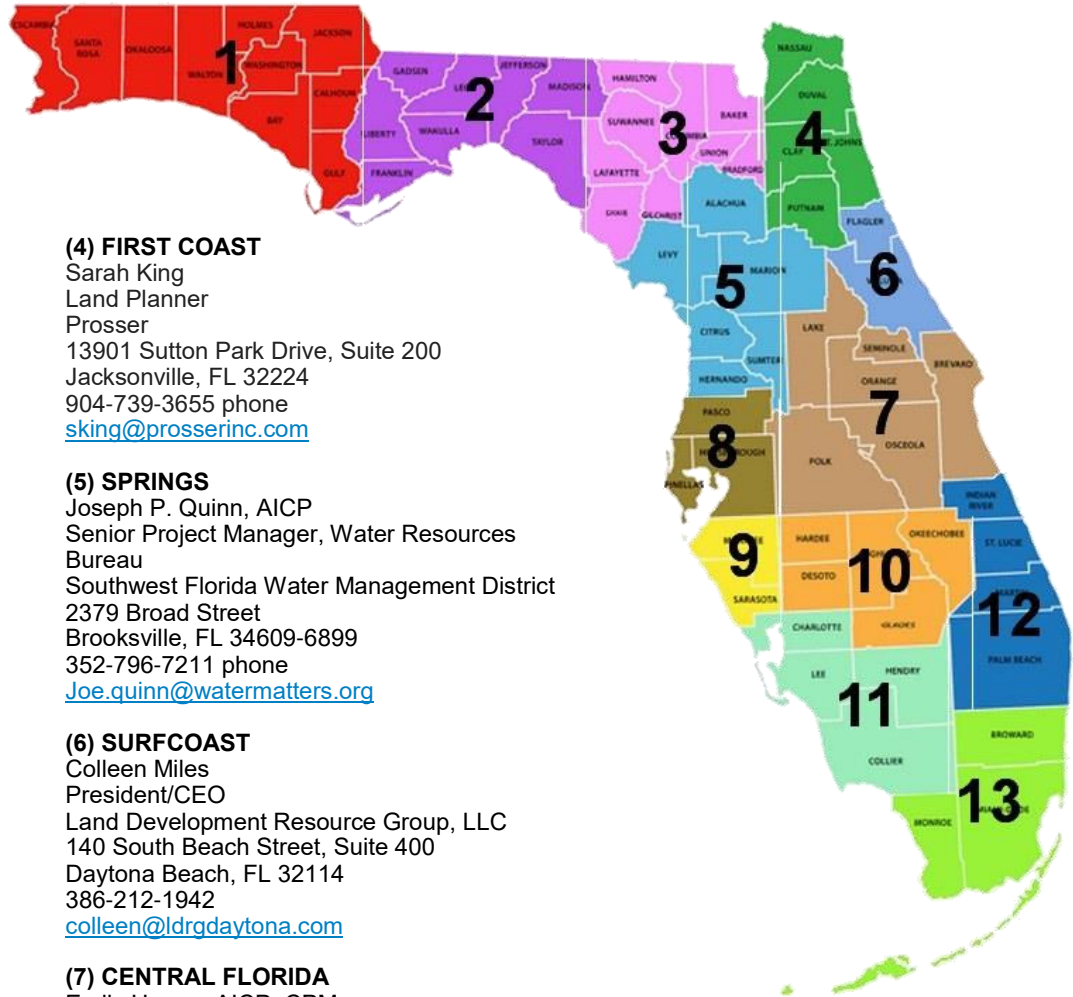
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(3) SUWANNEE - VACANT
(10) HEARTLAND - VACANT

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello members of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association.

If you missed it, there was a regional forum in Lakeland, showcasing Bonnet Springs Park. It won a FPZA award for sustainability last year. What a treat to see an old contaminated railway depot turned into a beautiful park. It was developed with no government funding. Just good people living there, wanting to make a difference. And did

they deliver. As a bonus, you would receive 3 continuing education credits through the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. Thank you Gulf Coast Chapter.



If you were not aware, I cut my teeth in the Midwest in park design, environmental planning, and redevelopment. I know it's not for everybody, but I love it. And still do. While we plan for the increases in population for the State of Florida, providing housing needs, planners need to remember that the visioning does not stop there. Some of these older, developed areas are waiting for a change. Some may think it's too difficult. I, on the other hand, love the challenge. I think people are begging for people like us to show what these areas can be.

At a time when flood insurance is going through the roof, with map changes due to increase flooding from weather events, these are the projects that make us step back and think what can be! Ironically, I am working on the first park master plan for our community. The input from the community so far as been great, and has opened much discussion on what they are willing to do to preserve open space and natural resources.

My time as president is limited and I want to call out the all Planners to get involved with the FPZA. We are not robots. We are creative thinkers and don't follow a strait line. We create vision for people on what can happen.

All I ask is that you get involved. Let your fellow planners know FPZA is a powerful resource. We also can be fun!

Thank you for your support.

Daniel J. Smith, AICP
FPZA President

FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION ANNOUNCES 2023 GREEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS

ST. PETERSBURG - The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), the state's leading certifier of green residential and commercial construction, land developments and local governments, has announced the 2023 Green Achievement Award Finalists.

Finalists were recognized for Builder of the Year - Most Multifamily Homes Certified, Most Single Homes Certified, Builder Highest Multi-Family Scoring Home and Highest Scoring Single-Family Home, Highest Scoring Commercial Project, Highest Scoring High Rise Residential Project, Highest Scoring Local Government, City, Highest Scoring Single-Family and Multi-Family Home, Volunteer of the Year and Certifying Agent of the Year.

Award winners will be unveiled at a luncheon following a program at the Aloft, 202 SE 5th Avenue Delray Beach, on Tuesday March 26 at 11:30 a.m.

[FINALISTS FGBC GREEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS](#)

[LUNCHEON REGISTRATION](#)

[HOTEL INFORMATION](#)



Points are awarded by FGBC for each of the individual green certifying levels – bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. Numerical points are given for selecting and integrating individual environmentally friendly green products, best practices, and sustainable techniques from a menu of available green options.

FGBC recently passed 33,000 "Florida Green" certifications of single-family homes, commercial buildings, high-rises, land developments and local governments. Beyond third party certifications, FGBC is also a valuable resource for the builders, developers, contractors, architects, and municipalities when considering going green.

Going Green? In Florida you have a choice. For more information call (407) 777-4914, email info@floridagreenbuilding.org or visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

FPZA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY: FPZA'S CALUSA CHAPTER

 [FPZACALUSA.ORG](https://www.fpzacalusa.org)

 [FPZACALUSA](https://www.instagram.com/fpzacalusa)

*Adventure
Awaits*
JUNE 5-7, 2024

Sunseeker Resort
CHARLOTTE HARBOR

REGISTRATION & CONFERENCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE SOON



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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.

FOR A CHANCE TO NETWORK WITH LIKE-MINDED PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, WHY NOT JOIN US?

Visit our website at www.FPZA.org.

AARP®

2024 Call for FPZA Planning Awards

The FPZA Awards recognize outstanding land development and public/private sector planning statewide. For several decades, the awards program has been the centerpiece of FPZA's acknowledgment and promotion of best practices in planning throughout Florida.

FPZA encourages members to submit award applications. Projects must have been approved or completed during the last two calendar years (2022 or 2023). The categories are as follows:

- **Outstanding Development/Design Excellence:** Newly planned, designed, or built “brick and mortar” projects that demonstrate superior form and function.
- **Outstanding Redevelopment:** Reuse of a site, facility or structure.
- **Outstanding Study/Plan:** Reports, studies, plans, documents, planning analysis, etc.
- **Infrastructure:** Plans or projects that skillfully blend facilities or services into the community.
- **Innovation:** Project or development that is unusual or ahead of its time.
- **Education:** Plans or efforts that effectively promote planning and zoning best practices.
- **Grassroots/Non-Profit Initiative:** Recognizes a nonprofit or neighborhood organization that has furthered the quality of life through the planning process within its community, such as: new or redevelopment, infrastructure, outreach, cultural events, education, health, festivals, tourism, and environmental.
- **Sustainability:** Plans or projects that improve on and harmonize with the natural environment and reduce energy costs.
- **Outstanding Elected Official:** Local, state or federal elected official who champions sound planning practices and accomplishes positive gains in areas of smart growth, environmental preservation, sustainable development, or equity planning.
- **Outstanding Journalist:** Journalist who effectively and accurately puts forth information about planning and zoning issues to the public.
- **Outstanding FPZA Chapter:** The chapter that increases or maintains their membership, achieves FPZA goals, and provides quality programs for its chapter members.
- **George W. Simons, Jr. Award:** Candidate must be a current member of FPZA; evaluation is based upon the person's work and efforts over time and evaluation will also be based upon work directed towards the stated purposes, mission and goals of FPZA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each award entry must state how the development, study, project, design, innovation, chapter or person meets one or more of the following purposes of FPZA:

- To promote cooperation among official planning and zoning boards and commissions, civic bodies, citizens, technicians and students interested in planning and zoning in Florida.
- To cultivate and stimulate interest in planning and zoning in the State of Florida.
- To encourage the observance of sound planning and zoning practices.
- To furnish information, advice and assistance to its members and provide a medium to exchange information, advice and assistance among them.
- To engage in research and issue publications on planning and zoning and related matters.

- To promote education concerning matters related to planning and zoning.

In addition, each award entry will be judged based upon the following criteria:

- **Background:** History or context within which the project is significant; indication of expenditure of time, type of personnel, budget, population and size of jurisdiction.
- **Innovativeness:** Use of an original concept or refinement of an existing technique or procedure.
- **Effectiveness:** Project/strategy impact on the subject matter.
- **Implementation:** Project/Strategy method or application to the subject matter; adaptability to changing conditions; and consideration of and solution to practical constraints.
- **Comprehensiveness:** Scope and consideration of project/strategy in relationship to all aspects of the subject matter.
- **Clarity:** Clarity of the award entry application.

SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES

- A cover letter that states the name of the nomination, the award that is sought, the name of the recipient(s), and the name, phone number, address and email of the applicant.
- A brief summary to be used for ceremony purposes, if selected. (100 words or less).
- A brief description of the nomination for the award relevant to the award category. (500 words or less).
- A narrative of the nomination which clearly demonstrates the evaluation criteria, as outlined on page one (1) of this “Call for Entries” (1,000 words or less).
- Applicable images and graphics representing the projects, in JPEG or PDF format.
- Letter(s) of recommendation.

Deadline to submit is March 25, 2024.

Submit nominations or questions to info@fpza.org

NOTE: For the Outstanding Journalist and Chapter Awards, in lieu of the above submittal procedures, only a one (1) page statement in support of the nominee is required, while further supporting information is encouraged.

NOTE: For the George W. Simons, Jr. Award, the nomination application must be submitted by an FPZA member with a statement by FPZA member(s); however, additional endorsements included in the application may be from non-members.

The FPZA Awards Committee reserves the right to reclassify the category for any submittal.

Adventure Awaits

FPZA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION

Who We Are: The **Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA)** is a 501(c)3 that promotes 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. FPZA is comprised of twelve chapters throughout Florida. Every year, the state FPZA committee chooses one chapter to host the annual conference. This year, the conference will be hosted by the **Calusa Chapter**, whose jurisdiction includes Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Lee Counties.

Why Donate: Your tax-deductible sponsorship supports an educational event while increasing your visibility to planning professionals, civic leaders, and other like-minded individuals and organizations. Sponsorship of the Annual FPZA state conference is a worthwhile way to promote your business or organization and further the sound planning principles of the FPZA. Additionally, the FPZA Calusa Chapter will tag all sponsors on the FPZA Calusa social media accounts and send you a conference sponsor logo for your Instagram or website!

Conference Information

Theme: Adventure Awaits! *Overcome. Plan. Grow. Innovate.*

Location: Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor

Dates: June 5-7, 2024

Expected Attendance: 150

How to Donate: Sponsorship registration can be completed online at www.FPZAcalus.org or via the form on page 3 with a check made payable to **Florida Planning and Zoning Association** mailed to:

Hole Montes, a Bownman Company
Attn: Jeremie Chastain
950 Encore Way
Naples, FL 34110

Digital media used for print and promotional materials must be sent in high-resolution JPG or PNG to info@fpzcalusa.com. To ensure sufficient time for inclusion of your information in the conference's printed materials, complete your sponsorship registration before **April 12, 2024**.

Adventure Awaits

SUNSEEKER RESORT
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
JUNE 5-7, 2024

FPZA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP TIERS

HOSTED BY: FPZA CALUSA CHAPTER

\$5,000

DIAMOND

Head Honcho

- Two (2) full conference registrations
- Exhibitors booth space
- Optional 1-hour Session
- X-Large sponsor logo on all promotional materials
- Full-page ad in the FPZA Overview newsletter

PLATINUM

Park Ranger

- One (1) full conference registration
- Optional 1-Hour Session
- Exhibitors booth space
- Large sponsor logo on all promotional materials
- Half page ad in the FPZA Overview newsletter

\$2,500

\$1,000

GOLD

Troop Leader

- Exhibitors booth space
- Medium sponsor logo on all promotional materials
- Quarter page ad in the FPZA Overview newsletter

SILVER

Arts & Crafts Captain

- Small sponsor logo on all promotional materials
- Business card size ad in the FPZA Overview newsletter

\$500

\$250

BRONZE

S'mores Wrangler

- Small Sponsor logo on all promotional materials

Adventure Awaits

FPZA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION

Register online at FPZACalusa.org!

Paper Registration

Don't forget to attach your check made out to FPZA per the information provided on Page 2 or Venmo us your sponsorship @FPZACalusaChapter!

Select Sponsorship Level

- Diamond
- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver
- Bronze

Do you want to use the optional Conference Session?

- Yes
- No

If yes, topic: _____

Contact Information

Contact Name _____

Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Contact Email _____

Website _____

Thank You! On behalf of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA) and FPZA Calusa, thank you for sharing our organization's goal to cultivate and encourage best planning and zoning practices through your sponsorship of the 2024 State Conference.

Adventure Awaits

FPZA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM

Port Charlotte, FL from June 5 to 7, 2024

Register online: [HERE](#)

Attendee Information

Use Page 2 if registering multiple attendees from one organization.

First Name	Last Name	
Name and Title for Badge		
Employer/School		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email		

FULL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE	EARLY REG. FEE	LATE REG. FEE	#	TOTAL
FPZA Member	\$375	\$450		
Non-member	\$450	\$500		
Group Rate (4+ Attendees)	\$325	NA		
Student –Full Conference ¹	\$200	\$250		
SINGLE-DAY ATTENDANCE				
Wednesday	\$150	\$200		
Thursday	\$200	\$250		
Friday	\$150	\$200		
EXTRAS ²				
Mobile Tour #1	\$50			
Mobile Tour #2	\$50			
Mobile Tour #3	\$50			
Wednesday Evening Reception	\$50			
Thursday Keynote Luncheon	\$75			
Thursday, Off-site Reception	\$50			
Friday, Awards Luncheon	\$75			
TOTAL # OF ATTENDEES:				
TOTAL # MOBILE TOURS:				
TOTAL # EXTRAS:				
TOTAL FEES:				\$

¹ Student rates may be reduced by \$100 if student volunteers a minimum of 4 hours. Volunteers must be able to attend volunteer organizational meeting prior to the event which will have a virtual attendance option.

² Mobile Tours Require registration prior to the event to ensure availability. Tours may be added at registration if openings exist for an additional Fee.

Additional Attendees

First Name Last Name

Name and Title for Badge

Email

First Name Last Name

Name and Title for Badge

Email

First Name Last Name

Name and Title for Badge

Email

First Name Last Name



Name and Title for Badge

Email

First Name Last Name

Name and Title for Badge

Email

	<p>Register Online @ FPZAcalus.org Email Completed Registration PDF to info@FPZAcalus.com Mail Registration to: Hole Montes, a Bowman Company Attn: Jeremie Chastain 950 Encore Way Naples, FL 34110</p>	
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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

- **BUSINESS CARD AD:**
4 issues \$100, or \$50/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 2" x 3.5"
- **QUARTER-PAGE AD:**
4 issues \$150, or \$75/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 4.6" x 3.75" or 2.3" x 7.25"
- **HALF-PAGE AD:**
4 issues \$250, or \$125/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 9.2" x 3.75" or 4.6" x 7.5"
- **FULL-PAGE AD:**
4 issues \$500, or \$250/issue
Maximum Ad dimensions: 9.2" x 7.5"

If you are interested in advertising in the Overview, or would like additional information, please contact Branden Roe, the Overview Editor at branden.m.roe@gmail.com.



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2024 Florida Planning and Zoning Association State Conference Session Proposals

Adventure Awaits!

Name of Session					
Contact Information	Name				
	Email				
	Phone				
	Address				
Topic (Check most relevant)					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spatial Planning/Urban Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law/Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zoning/Code Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Redevelopment/Revitalization	<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability/Resilience	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify topic)				
Session Description: (4,000 characters max. Please clearly describe the planning related educational objective that this session achieves. Content must be appropriate for typical planning professional with minimum 2 years' experience/AICP.)					
Instructors/Speakers					
Speaker No. 1	Name/Accreditations				
	Biographical Information (2,000-character max. include education, title, achievements, and experience.)				
Speaker No. 2	Name/Accreditations				
	Biographical Information				

Speaker No. 3	Name/Accreditations					
	Biographical Information					
Speaker No. 4	Name/Accreditations					
	Biographical Information					
Equipment Required*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laptop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Screen
Available Time Slots** (Check all available)						
Wednesday, June 5		Thursday, June 6		Friday, June 7		
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		8:30 – 10:00 a.m.				8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		10:15 – 11:45 a.m.				10:15 – 11:45 a.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.		<input type="checkbox"/>	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.		<input type="checkbox"/>	3:15 – 4:45 p.m.		
Previous Experience (Have you given this presentation previously? If yes, when and where.)						
*						
Additional Information or Comments?						
.						

* We cannot guarantee availability of equipment at this time; information is for planning purposes only.

** Please note all sessions are scheduled to run 1.5 hours and should be planned to fill that entire time slot (may include Q&A period up to 15 minutes). Please include additional sheets for additional speakers or to address criteria noted above.

Submit proposals electronically by 5:00 p.m. on **March 15, 2024** to:
info@fpzcalusa.com

2024 FLORIDA PLANNING AND ZONING ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD APPLICATION



This is a competitive merit-based award open to all students currently enrolled in a Florida College/University urban planning undergraduate, graduate, or certificate program. Application essays and letters of recommendation will be reviewed and scored by a panel based on alignment with the mission of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association. Winning essays may be published in whole or in part within FPZA publications including the FPZA website. For more information regarding FPZA and its mission, visit www.fpza.org.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name:

School:

Major:

Level: (circle one) Graduate Undergraduate

Year:

Contact Information:

Permanent Mailing Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Student Scholarship Award recipients receive paid conference registration and two nights hotel stay for the FPZA State Conference being held **June 5-7, 2024**, at the **Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor**, Florida. Recipients are expected to attend conference sessions and events, and provide volunteer conference assistance. The awards will be presented at a luncheon to be held on June 7th. The awarded students will be candidates for the student representative to serve on the State Board.

ESSAY TOPIC: Please answer the following questions in 500–1,000 words total.

- **What attracted you to the field of planning?**
- **How would you describe Florida fifty years from now?**
- **How does your education prepare you for this future, and what role do you think you will serve as a professional?**

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: Please attach a letter of recommendation from a professor/instructor to this application and mail it or scan and email it to the contact listed at the bottom of this application.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Submittals must be e-mailed no later than **April 1, 2024**, and recipients will be notified soon after that. Recipients are expected to attend the state conference.

Submit completed application, essay and letter of recommendation to info@fpza.org

Questions should be directed to info@fpza.org

MEMBER PROFILE: TOM SACHARSKI, AICP

Q. WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

A. From Cleveland, OH, but I've been in SW Florida for the past 4 years.

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

A. I attended Cleveland State University for both my undergrad and my master's degree. My undergrad is in music education and my master's is in Urban Planning and Development. Fun fact, Norm Krumholz, the father of Equity Planning was one of my professors!



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

A. I joined FPZA last year, after joining the team at RVI.

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

A. I am current a Senior Project Manager at RVI Planning + Landscape Architecture and I'm based out of the Sarasota office. My specialty area is urban infill development and form-based code.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

A. I enjoy reading, cooking, and exploring different communities.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE TRAVEL SPOT?

A. San Francisco has always been special to me. It's a city that I never get tired of. It's always changes but has such a strong history.

Q. WHAT BOOK DID YOU READ LAST?

A. Recently finished "There are No Children Here" by Alex Kotlowitz – a great book about growing up in inner Chicago. I'm not reading Scattershot, Bernie Taupin's autobiography. He recounts the past several decades working as Elton John's collaborator and lyricist.

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

A. Adele. Because you know you're an icon when you're known by a single name.

Q. WHO INSPIRES YOU?

A. At RVI, I work very closely with a team of dedicated and talented planners around the state of Florida. We come from a diverse background and bring a different skillset to the table. They inspire me daily.

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

A. Take the time to learn how the process works and how development works. Learn what drives development decisions (often financing). There are some bad developers out there, but the majority are not. They are trying to make a tight deal happen but are usually open to compromising as long as they understand the benefits.

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

A. I appreciate da Vinci's quote "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication". I think we often over analyze and over complicate simple issues. Oftentimes the most basic

answer to an issue leads to the most successful solution.

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

A. I think I ended up where I'm supposed to be. Planning is such a niche field and I don't think many people set out to be urban planners when finishing high school. One year of teaching junior high choir can make you reevaluate your life choices. I'll take a room full of elected officials and upset community members over 100 hormonal young adults any day.

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

A. (1) Focus on projects that inspire me. (2) Give back to the Planning community. (3) Lead a diverse planning team. (4) Become a millionaire (jk, we're urban planners, not developers).

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

A. (1) Stay open minded and you'll learn a lot. (2) Put in the hard work early in your career and network. It'll pay off in the long term. (3) Never be afraid to stand up for yourself and your beliefs. (4) (because I think it's important) Think about what you don't want to see when planning – not what you want. I think communities often focus on what they want to see when writing code and it limits a lot of creativity and other great opportunities when it comes to development and the growth of the community.

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 issues 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.

If you are interested in submitting a contribution, or would like additional information, please contact Branden Roe, the Overview Editor at branden.m.roe@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2024

President Smith called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The following were present:

DIANE CHADWICK – SUNCOAST
DAN SMITH – CALUSA
BRANDEN ROE – OVERVIEW EDITOR
RHEA LOPES – SUNCOAST
KATIE LABARR – GULF COAST
JIM BARNES – SOUTH FLORIDA/GULFSTREAM
HELEN LAVALLEY - SURFCOAST
TOM SACHARSKI – GULF COAST
JEREMIE CHASTAIN - CALUSA
JAMIE SCHINDEWOLF - GULF COAST

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was conducted. President Smith welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in today's meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: DAN SMITH

President Smith requested volunteers to do a bylaw review prior to the next meeting. Helen volunteered to do a first round of suggested edits and then send out to the group to review. Volunteers include Dan, Diane and Katie. That group will make recommendations and send out to the full Board for discussion.

He noted that the forum at Bonnet Springs Park the day prior was well attended, despite rainy weather. The tour was exceptional and a full three hours of education was completed.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT: KATIE LABARR

As the new PDO, Katie will be submitting credits for the Forum. Katie suggested creating a template event evaluation form through Google Docs that all chapters can use. Helen will send the sample from Surfcoast to Katie and Suzanne. Jeremie will begin submitting for the conference once sessions are confirmed. Katie will pull the 2023 summary of credits for the next meeting.

VP MEMBERSHIP REPORT: JAMIE SCHINDEWOLF

The membership report was presented with all current paid members and a report of membership by Chapter. Chapters should be doing outreach locally to encourage renewals. The group requested that another paper mailing be done to non-renewals offering that they would be good through June 2025. Suzanne will mail those out in the next couple of weeks.

Jamie is reviewing sample membership surveys to send out prior to the next meeting so that results can be discussed.

Katie recommended Tom Sacharski consider supporting Jamie with membership engagement/support.

VP FINANCIAL AFFAIRS REPORT: JEREMIE CHASTAIN

Current financials were presented. Revenue was down compared to prior year and budget, primarily due to renewals. Expenses were also below prior year and budget so that helps offset the revenue loss.

Proposed budget for 2024 should be presented at the June Board meeting for approval. Katie will work with Jeremie to review the process.

Chapter financials from 2023 are due to Jeremie or FPZA Office by February 15th.

Suzanne presented the Engagement Letter from the CPA for discussion/approval. Katie made a motion to authorize Suzanne to execute the Engagement letter. Diane seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 STATE CONFERENCE: JIM BARNES

Jim noted that the Chapter was able to cover the difference in the F&B minimum. Jim will send over the final financial report to Suzanne. Other Board members shared that the feedback in general from members has been positive.

2024 STATE CONFERENCE: JEREMIE CHASTAIN

Save the Date was included in last Overview – June 5-7 at the Sunseeker Resort. Calusa Chapter had a Board meeting to determine which volunteers will assist with specific items and those assignments have been made. Conference theme is Adventure Awaits. Call for sessions is available now (March 1st deadline) as well as sponsorships. Registration should be online shortly.

2024 ANNUAL AWARDS:

Awards nomination deadline is March 25th. The committee will be chaired by Katie as the Chair-Elect and include Helen, Diane, Jim and Tom. Applications should go to info@fpza.org should be online shortly.

OVERVIEW EDITOR: BRANDEN ROE

Deadline for articles/information is February 9th with a potential publishing mid-February. Items needed:

1. Word from the President – Dan Smith
2. Cover Story – Regional Forum – Diane

Chadwick

3. Member Spotlight – Tom Sacharski
4. Call for Award Entries – Katie LaBarr
5. Student Scholarship Application – Eli Brown
6. Conference Sponsorship Opportunities, Call for Speakers & Registration Form – Jeremie Chastain
7. BOD Meeting Minutes – Suzanne
8. Any Board President changes need to be sent for updates to the end of the calendar/fiscal year.

CHAPTER REPORTS

- **First Coast** – Not present.
- **Springs** – Not present.
- **Surfcoast** – Ended year with awards gala and best attendance in several years. New Board (President & Vice President) and first Board meeting is at the end of the month. Helen will see if the group is willing to host the next forum. Potential Dates of 3/23 or 3/30
- **Central Florida** – Not present.
- **Suncoast** – Held forum the day prior at Bonnet Springs. Potential new Board member coming as well.
- **Calusa** – Focusing on planning conference.
- **Gulf Coast** – Several presentations in 2023 and looking for new meeting space for bimonthly meetings in 2024 to expand. Would like to host a fall forum at Waterside at Lakewood Ranch with a walking tour.
- **Gulfstream/South Florida** – Membership has increased. Working on new Board members.

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Potentially Surfcoast to host 3/23 or 3/30. Board meeting following conclusion of Conference at Sunseeker on June 7th. Potential Gulf Coast to host forum and Board meeting on 10/11 and 10/12

ADJOURN – With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:36am.