

## Peninsula Section 2014 Conference Notes – June 13<sup>th</sup>, Shelton, WA

The annual section conference was held at the Shelton Civic Center on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2014. We had over 40 attendees for the conference alone, and an additional 27 or so who attended the concurrent Short Course on Local Planning.

We had a full schedule with two tracks and eight sessions, plus the Short Course. The sessions were generally well attended and comments from participants were good.



The section business meeting was held, with a quorum, at the beginning of the lunch session and lasted about 15 minutes. We began with a drawing for door prize #1 (Multi-power source Fan). Door prizes were geared toward kicking off the summer vacation season.

Changes to the section bylaws were discussed, voted on and approved;

- Annual conference changed from Fall to Spring (May)
- Election dates changed to coordinate with the State Chapter and National APA.
  - Existing – November elections
  - New – Candidates by May 31, Ballots to National by June 31, Results from National by September 10.
- Change in terms of office for Section officers. Officers will now take office on November 1<sup>st</sup> rather than January 1<sup>st</sup>, to better coordinate with the State Chapter, and also to give new officers more time to plan the annual spring conference.

Volunteer opportunities were discussed at the Chapter and Section levels. Volunteers are still needed.

- Chapter
  - Communication Committee Co-Chair
  - Legislative Committee Co-Chair
  - Planning Commissioner Program
- Section
  - Communications Committee

We discussed the results of the membership survey conducted earlier this year by the Membership Committee, noting;

- 69% are not AICP certified.
- The top 5 topics of interest to members were all covered at this conference, with the exception of the growth management hearings board updates, which we get at the quarterly planners forums.
  1. Landuse Law
  2. Shoreline Issues
  3. Growth Management Hearings Board
  4. Planning Ethics
  5. Climate Change
- Overwhelmingly, 96% feel the Section offers an appropriate level of service to its members.
- Members would like to see more opportunities for socialization at the planner's forums.

The membership committee is still analyzing the survey results, and hopes to have recommendations for the Board in the coming months.

With no new business, the official business meeting concluded with a drawing for door prize #2 (Folding lawn chair).

Our lunchtime keynote speaker, Paula Reeves – WSDOT, gave a great presentation on the challenges and opportunities with highways running through our communities. Green streets, non-motorized transportation and the Main Street Program were among the many topics discussed.

Lunch was catered by a local restaurant, Smoking Mo's, who provided some really good BBQ with all the fixings.

We also learned that Paula was just elected as the next Chapter President. Congratulations Paula!

We concluded the lunch session with a drawing for the final door prize (BBQ Tools)

The silent auction fund raiser, featuring several wood carvings, wine and other items, raised \$330 for the scholarship fund.



To wrap things up we did a bit of socializing at Smoking Mo's lounge after the conference. It was nice to wind down a bit after such a busy day.

It was a very busy day, and by all accounts a successful conference. Comments were all good. Upon reflection I have a few lessons learned that I will have to jot down and remember for next year.

Evidently I was too busy to remember to take very many pictures, so if anyone took pictures at the conference and would be willing to share those with me it would be much appreciated. Please send pictures to [jrogers@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:jrogers@co.kitsap.wa.us)

I would like to extend a big **THANK YOU**, to all who were able to help make this conference a success.

Jim Rogers - President