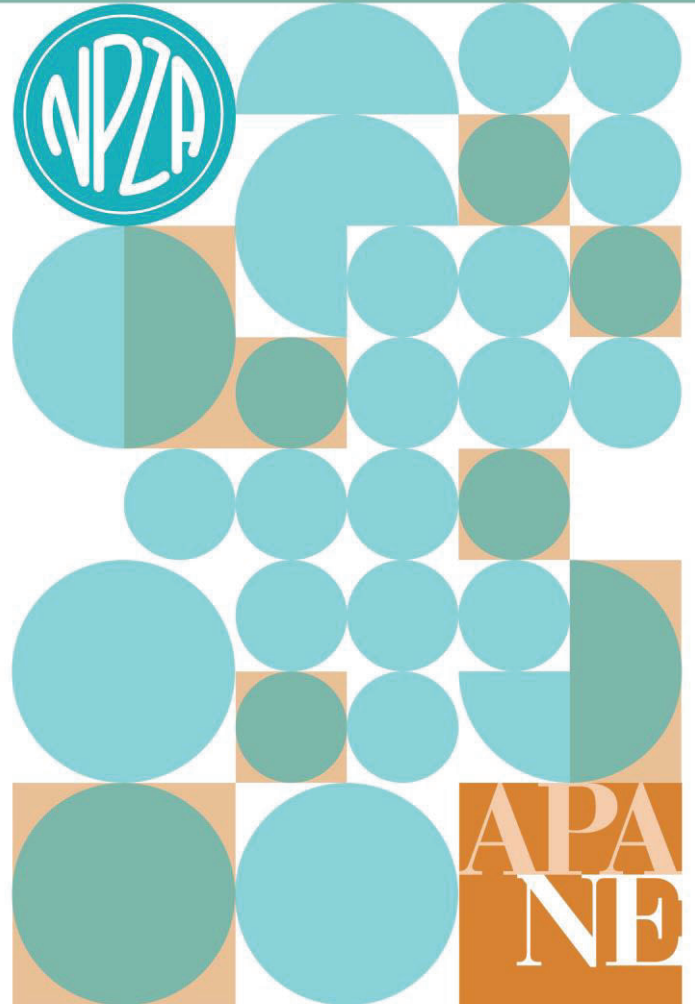


Conference Sponsors

2024



NEBRASKA PLANNING CONFERENCE



Welcome

From the Presidents...

Welcome to the 2024 Nebraska Planning Conference!

The Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA) and the American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter (APA NE) are excited to kick off this year's conference, packed with learning, networking, and recreational opportunities.

The Conference Committee has pulled together another excellent slate of sessions with a wide variety of topics and training opportunities. There is a session track for every professional including housing, economic development, environmental changes, transportation, and rural community concerns. This conference provides attendees with the opportunity to hear from a variety of local and national experts in their field, with representatives from the American Planning Association presenting our keynote address.

In addition to the learning opportunities, we have a host of events to celebrate individuals and organizations doing great work in the field with our Awards Banquet on Thursday, followed by a second year of the cornhole tournament. Give back to the students in the field by spending your evening challenging peers to a game of cornhole. Proceeds go to the UNL Scholarship Fund to assist students of the Community and Regional Planning program.

This incredible conference and training opportunity would not be possible without our generous support of our conference sponsors. Please take a moment to say "thank you" to our sponsors for their contribution in making the conference a huge success. Many of the sponsors have booths in the sponsor area and are listed on the back of the conference agenda as well.

Additionally, a special thank you to each and every board member of NPZA and APA Nebraska. Planning for this annual even of NPZA and APA Nebraska. Planning for this annual event takes a dedicated team of volunteers, getting started on the next years conference just a few months after the last one has ended. There is an extensive amount of work for all those involved, and without the work of these energetic volunteers, this conference would not have become what it is today and what it will become in the future.

We hope that you all enjoy the educational opportunities available at the conference as well as the chance to catch up with your colleagues in the profession. While you are here, take some time to explore Kearney and all it has to offer.



Judy Clark, AICP
President, NPZA



Stephanie Rouse, AICP
President, APA Nebraska

Planning for Community Resilience

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM (1 SR)

Zhenghong Tang, Professor and Program Director, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Anthony Kohel, Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Junior Planner, JEO Consulting Group
Tony D. Krause, Floodplain Management for Flood Risk Reduction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Omaha District

Jenny B. Mason, Disaster Recovery Planning Program for Nebraska Communities, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Elijah Kaufman, Floodplain Management for Nebraska Communities, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

This session will delve into the critical aspects of community hazard planning, floodplain management, and bolstering community resilience. The presentations will empower communities by enhancing their capacity for strategic planning, ultimately leading to a heightened comprehension of the concept of community resilience. As we confront the escalating impacts of disasters, both in the United States and globally, it is imperative to emphasize the role of planning in reducing losses and bolstering local capabilities to withstand the various stressors affecting our communities and society. This session will showcase successful local and regional planning endeavors that have not only added value but also provided steadfast support to jurisdictions across various phases of disaster and floodplain management cycle.

Planning for Resilience: Hamburg Iowa

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Sam Howland, PLA, Landscape Architect, Lamp Rynearson

Joe Zadina, PE Env-SP, Senior Project Manager, Lamp Rynearson

Floods wreaked havoc on portions of Iowa and Nebraska in 2019. This presentation will provide an overview of how the HUD CDBG program and Green Building programs were used to develop 10 acres of affordable, resilient, and universally designed housing for all ages in small community. We'll cover how engagement, design, and collaboration led to innovative solutions in an unlikely town.

Networking

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Final Questions & Answers

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, GOLD 7

Is there something you need answered but it didn't seem to come up during the conference? Did a session bring up other questions or do you just want some clarification? If so, this session is for you. Experienced individuals from NPZA/NE APA will facilitate this Question & Answer session along with conference speakers in attendance. There is no need to leave with unanswered questions.

Zoning Administrator Q & A

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE

David Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

If you are a zoning administrator, you are invited to attend this session. This is a Question & Answer session with David Ptak, Attorney at Law. If you are wondering how to deal with a specific issue regarding the public, planning commission, or even elected officials, then this session may be for you. You are welcome to attend even if you want to listen and learn. Again, this is for Zoning Administrators only.

Conference Closing

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM, GOLD 1

Board of Zoning Adjustment

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE

Dave Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

The presentation will be a two-fold approach. The first approach will be to inform and educate the audience on the state statutes regarding the Board of Adjustment as well as the statutory role of the Board of Adjustment. Remarkably, there are educated planners that do not understand the specific requirements and laws governing this body. This educational portion will also teach using past case law from the different courts in Nebraska. The second item addressed during the session will be an update on all court cases and legislation in Nebraska that have come down in the past year. As an annual session, this covers material similar to what has been presented in past years, and is intended for new practitioners or those who feel they could use a refresh.

Networking & Refreshments

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Tackling the 10,000 Piece Drought Puzzle

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM (1 SR)

Karl Dietrich, Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Planner, JEO Consulting Group
Kelli Smith, Assistant Director & Communications Coordinator, National Drought Mitigation Center

Andy Pedley, Integrated Water Management Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Drought is a hazard that has the potential to impact the economy and everyday life of those living in Nebraska and across the United States. This session will discuss the importance of drought planning in Nebraska from a regional level, an NRD level, a community level, and an individual level. It will touch on what has been done within the state as well as what is needed in the future. Climate change will only make drought worse, and everyone needs to join together to tackle this issue.

Urban Watershed and Stormwater Planning - Lessons Learned and Looking Forward

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 7 | 1.25 CM

Greg Pierce, Water Resource Engineer, RDG Planning & Design

This presentation will review several watershed planning efforts completed by the presenter over the last 15 years. These plans were focused at the individual community or small urban watershed scale. How have methods used to prepare these plans changed over that period? What useful information was collected? What lessons have been learned and how will that influence future planning efforts? Plans being reviewed as part of this presentation included information on flooding, stream stability, stormwater management planning, capital improvements programming and budgeting, urban stormwater retrofits, ordinance and policy reviews, and evaluation of land use changes (past, present and future).

Developing Bylaws & Rules of Procedure

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE

Dave Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

This session will review the current state of the law and need to have Planning Commissions and Boards of Adjustment having Bylaws. It will also explore what traits are beneficial for being a planning commissioner and how to prepare and conduct public meetings and public hearings as well as how to deal with the public at those meetings.

General Information

Conference Overview

The Nebraska Planning Conference is an annual event providing training to planning commission members as well as continuing education for professional planners. Each conference session will be led by one of our experts on a specific planning topic, developed around emerging areas as well as continually challenging issues in the field of planning.

Conference session presenters will range from planners, attorneys, professors, consultants, and engineers, all of which are locally or nationally recognized for their efforts in the field of planning. (Conference sessions are not intended to be a platform for vendors focusing on their products and/or services.)

Learning Objectives

Conference attendees will leave the conference with more knowledge and examples regarding current and future planning issues on both a local and national level.

Conference attendees will be equipped with new tools to improve planning process and invoke community change.

Conference attendees will be provided examples of processes and data that can be duplicated and applied to the planners' individual community.

Schedule at a Glance

For a quick look at the conference schedule, see the centerfold (pages 10-11).

Registration

The registration desk will be open from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Wednesday, March 6th and Thursday, March 7th, and from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM on Friday, March 8th.

Continuing Education

Available credits are provided in the Schedule at a Glance and next to each session description.

For Planners: Members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) will have the opportunity to receive Certification Maintenance (CM) credits. Please visit the Certification Maintenance section of APA's website (www.planning.org/cm) to claim your credits.

For Attorneys: Active attorneys will have the opportunity to receive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. Uniform Certificate of Attendance forms are available at the registration desk. Please submit completed forms to registration after you've completed all training events.

Younes Campus Map



and our goal this year is \$1,500! Entry fees are \$50 for a team of two, or you can register as an individual for \$25 and we can find a teammate for you. Need a competitive edge? Purchase a “Milligan” (in honor of Harry Milligan) and draw a random extra ability during one of your rounds. This is a fun new tradition, and the bragging rights are coveted! Visit the Emerging Planners Group table in the Exhibit Hall to learn more and to sign up.

Friday, March 8

MICRO-TIF: Statute Review & North Platte Examples

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Kurt Elder, Information Intelligence, City of Lincoln
 Senator Jacobson, Senator, Nebraska Legislature

LB 1021 (2020) allows any city outside of Douglas, Lancaster, or Sarpy Counties the option to participate in an expedited review of a Micro-TIF project. In this session, we'll hear from Sen. Jacobson to understand the legislative history and statute requirements. Staff from the City of North Platte will detail local efforts to complete projects using these tools. This session will also cover citizen input from a variety of positions. Kurt Elder with the City of Lincoln will provide an analysis of the potential impact across the state using both census and administrative data.

Case Study: On-site Stormwater Management & Water Wise Landscapes

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 7 | 1.25 CM

Chrissy Land, Western Community Forester, Nebraska Forest Service

A landscape renovation project was recently completed at the Community Ever Green House in Gering to address stormwater runoff issues. Join me to review the depths of the project including the planning process, how volunteers played a huge role, where the funding came from and how it was successfully implemented. What can you take away from this case study to make a difference in your community?

The Comp Plan Energy Element

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM (1 SR)

Christy Eichorn, AICP, Principal Planner, Sun Daisy Enterprises LLC

The Energy Element plays a crucial role in Nebraska's comprehensive planning process, enabling counties to adapt to the changing energy landscape and develop effective zoning ordinances. In this session, we will delve into the existing state requirements for the Energy Element, lay a solid foundation for addressing energy-related zoning issues, and explore the various tools available to help craft a comprehensive and robust Energy Element.

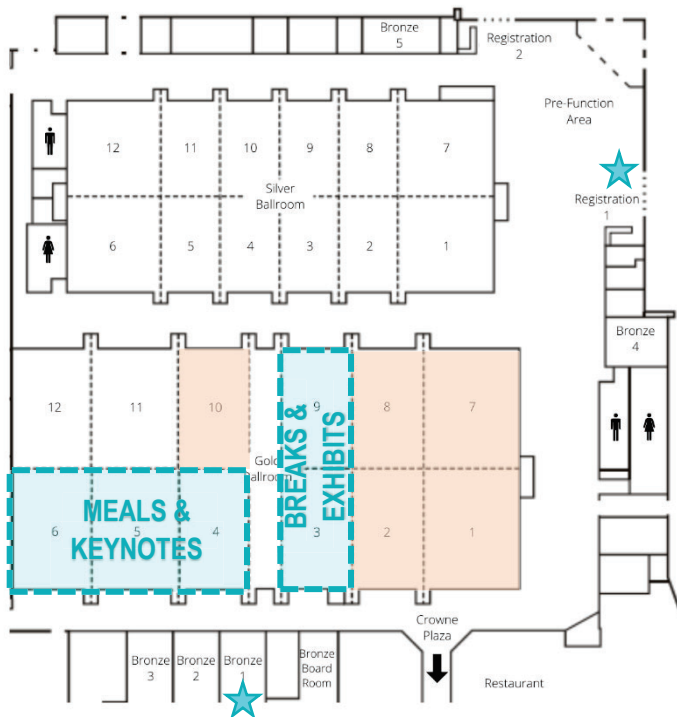
Retail: The past, present and future

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

John Dornoff, Planner II, City of Waterloo, Iowa

Retail has been going through many changes over the last decade, from closing malls to dealing with online sales. In this presentation, we look at what is genuinely happening in retail by looking through the history of retail from its beginnings to the rise of the malls, big box stores, and the internet. Is retail dead or is it going through a major transition?

Younes Conference Center North Map



the potential of GIS in shaping the planning of communities of tomorrow.

The Vacant Property Registry: Reversing Donut Development

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CLE | 1.25 CM (1 L)

Bobbi Pettit, AICP, Owner/Planner, Five Rule Rural Planning
Doug Christiansen, Program Manager, Five Rule Rural Planning
Jon Thomas, Attorney, Svehla Law Offices

The Vacant Property Registry became legal for all municipalities in 2018. Since that time, Five Rule Rural Planning has engaged with 6 communities across the state to implement a Vacant Property Registry Program. In partnership with our client communities and with Svehla Law Offices, our company has managed ___ vacant properties. Five years later, we have learned hard lessons, developed best practices, and witnessed the positive impacts a registry can have for a rural community.

Findings of Fact

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE | 1.25 CM (1 L)

Dave Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting
Jeff Ray, AICP, Senior Planner, JEO Consulting Group

How should planners express the reasons for saying yes or no to a planning request? Yes or no to a variance? How do you express the specific facts that support your decisions and recommendations? Come find out the proper way to make solid findings using the facts needed to support the decision based on state law. Proper findings of fact are critical to a successful court challenge or a losing one. As an annual session, this covers material similar to what has been presented in past years, and is intended for new practitioners or those who feel they could use a refresh.

Breakout Session: The Housing Supply Accelerator

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Angela Brooks, FAICP, President, American Planning Association

Learn how APA is working to support planners tackling the nation's housing crisis. The Housing Supply Accelerator is a joint partnership between APA and the National League of Cities working to bring everyone together to improve local capacity, identify critical solutions, and speed reforms.

Social Hour

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, HOSPITALITY ROOM (BRONZE 1)

Join other conference attendees before the Banquet in the Hospitality Room at Younes Conference Center North.

Banquet

6:00 PM, BANQUET HALL (GOLD 4/5/6)

The NPZA and Nebraska APA Awards Banquet will recognize individuals and organizations for excellence in the field of planning in Nebraska.

Time to Unwind – Hospitality Room Open

8:00 PM – 11:45 PM, Bronze 1

Wednesday and Thursday night after the conference activities have concluded, the hospitality room will open up in the Bronze 1 room right in the conference center. Stocked with a variety of free beers, wines, and snacks, the hospitality room lets you catch up with old friends or lose horribly in a card game against some crafty veterans.

Cornhole Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser

8:00 PM – 11:00 PM, Break Room & Exhibitor Hall

Participate in the second annual cornhole tournament to raise money for the Community and Regional Planning Alumni and Friends Graduate Student Scholarship Fund, a recently endowed scholarship fund for planning students. Last year we raised \$1,400,

Wednesday, March 6

Welcome

7:45 AM, GOLD 4/5/6

David Ptak Institute for Legal Issues in Nebraska Planning

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 1 | 6.25 CLE | 6.5 CM

David Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

This session will cover legal foundations of planning and zoning in Nebraska. Mr. Ptak, attorney DHP Consulting spent over 30 years engaged in the general practice of law including representation of the cities (Battle Creek and Stanton) and villages (Meadow Grove and Oakdale). Mr. Ptak also served as Deputy Madison County Attorney, Norfolk City Attorney, Hastings City Attorney, and Hastings City Administrator. He is a past president of NPZA. Mr. Ptak has presented several workshops and institute courses for NPZA and Nebraska APA over the past 30 years. His working knowledge, understanding, and experiences working with land use law and its applicability will provide you an excellent learning experience. The discussion ranges from issues on zoning, subdivision, annexation, incompatible uses, non-conforming uses, responsibilities, conflict of interest, and more.

Harry Milligan Institute for Planning Fundamentals

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 7 | 6.25 CLE

Andrew Willis, Partner, Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP
Chad Nabity, AICP, Planning Director, City of Grand Island

An interactive presentation and discussion focused on the basic knowledge of land use planning. This full-day institute is focused on the practical application of land use planning legislation carried out by planning commissioners, administration, attorneys, and elected officials. This program provides an excellent opportunity for community representatives to gain a better understanding of their responsibilities; understand the legal principles of planning and its application; become better aware of community planning's decision-making process; and interact with community neighbors. As an annual session, this covers material similar to what has been presented in past years, and is intended for new practitioners or those who feel they could use a refresh.

Creative Uses of GIS in Varied Scenarios

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM

Jeff Spiehs, AICP, Senior Planner, Lamp Rynearson
Marc Marean, GIS Specialist, Lamp Rynearson

GIS has a wide range of purposes. This presentation will share how GIS data-collected through community engagement and publicly available data has shaped projects for communities, non-profit organizations, and private development. We'll explore different data visualizations, community messaging and analysis, and models for community informed decision making.

NDOT Vulnerable Road Users

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Kyle McLaughlin, Transportation Planner, Olsson
Chris Rolling, Planning & Mobility Team Lead, Olsson
Don Butler, State Highway Safety Engineer, NDOT

This session will cover the new NDOT Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) report section of the State Highway Strategic Plan. The presentation will detail what a VRU is, how this report impacts cities and towns (particularly small and rural towns where the highway serves as the Mainstreet), how they can leverage the report for potential funding programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and specific opportunities to improve VRU safety and related mitigation strategies. The session will also provide an overview of how cities can engage NDOT in

planning and project development processes and the resources available them.

Budgeting for Public Trees

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Sarah Buckley, Sustainable Landscape Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service & Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Chrissy Land, Western Community Forester, Nebraska Forest Service

Trees are a largely untapped resource in Nebraska communities. Historically they have been assigned solely to Parks & Recreation departments, but some communities are taking a new approach to expand ownership of public trees across municipal departments. Shared ownership better distributes the responsibility (fiscal and physical) and improves communication between departments who all benefit from a healthy community forest.

Networking & Refreshments

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Community Organizing for Housing Advocacy

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM

Allie Christianson, Senior Community Organizer, Civic Nebraska

Sam Meier-Bates, Community Organizer, Civic Nebraska

The Collective Impact Lincoln team will share how we chose housing as our policy priority with practices and tools for centering community voice in housing decisions. We will present our Equitable Development Scorecard, a uniform evaluation tool to determine if housing developments will ultimately benefit our community and address its needs for affordable housing. City staff, developers, and community members can use this scorecard to assess any proposed development. We will also provide our Renters Rights Booklet, a guide on renters rights in Lincoln that includes renters rights and responsibilities. The team will discuss how we have worked to build bridges between resident leaders and decision makers to inform policy change.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Shifting into Drive

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 2

Bridgett Petzoldt, Product Manager, Alternative Energy Solutions, OPPD

Chad Pinkelman, Program Manager, Electrification, OPPD

This session will provide an overview of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and associated technology.

Networking

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Fair Housing & Equity: Hot Topics

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM (1 EQ)

Kurt Elder, AICP, Information Intelligence, City of Lincoln

Jamie Reyes, Director, Lincoln Commission on Human Rights

LCHR continues to strive to prevent, respond to, and eliminate all forms of illegal discrimination. LCHR receives, settles, investigates, issues findings, conciliates, and holds public hearings on complaints alleging discrimination based various protected classes. Additionally, LCHR provides community education and assistance to community groups, businesses, schools, and governmental entities for the purpose of providing education regarding our legal rights and responsibilities, as well as promoting diversity, equity and inclusion throughout our community. Join us to learn about best practices in the development and delivery of this important work. Special attention will be given to housing issues.

arise in relation to the use and administration of TIF by municipalities.

Affordable Housing Study Panelist Discussion

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM

Amy Haase, AICP, Urban Planner, RDG Planning & Design

Jennifer Dam Shewchuk, Planning Director, City of Fremont

Derek Miller, Comprehensive Planning Manager, City of Omaha

Chad Nabity, AICP, Planning Director, City of Grand Island

Mark Stursma, AICP, Deputy City Administrator, City of Papillion

Judy Clark, Planning Administrator, City of North Platte

Chad Bunger, Development Services Director, City of Hastings

Wynn Hjermsstad, Community Development Manager, City of Lincoln, Urban Development Dept

A group of several community representatives will present how their communities implemented and carried out their housing study and what benefits this has had or what they have learned from the studies. Confirmed panelist members include Jennifer Dam (Fremont), Derek Miller (Omaha), and Chad Nabity (GI/Hall County). Others TBD.

Keep the Comp Plan on Your Desk, not a Shelf

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Joe Pepplitsch, City Administrator, City of Lexington

Jeff Ray, AICP, Senior Planner, JEO Consulting Group

Doug Bisson, VP of Urban Design & Planning, HDR

Lexington has been successfully implementing its Comprehensive Plan by using it as a daily and weekly guide to achieve their community goals. The city has been growing and creating public amenities as well as over 500 new housing units by following its planning tools. Their successes in funding assistance, encouraging local and regional developers to build new housing and leveraging local resources to enhance the quality of life in town is rooted in their utilization of the Comprehensive Plan as their road map to the better future.

Open Meetings Act

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE | 1.25 CM (1 L)

Dave Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

Christopher Solberg, Deputy Community Development Director, City of La Vista

The Nebraska Open Meetings Act guarantees that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public. This session covers the legal responsibilities of the public bodies--elected official bodies, planning commissions, and officials/staff who represent the local government--in order to create transparency in government by requiring advance public notice and an opportunity for public participation. Planners must consider how to provide adequate due process in public engagement and meetings, how boards and commissions record proper findings, conduct impartial reviews of applications in accordance with local regulations and state laws, read and interpret regulations, and draft staff reports, ordinances, and other documents. As an annual session, this covers material similar to what has been presented in past years, and is intended for new practitioners or those who feel they could use a refresh.

Ice Cream Social

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Mapping Excellence: Navigating Planning with GIS

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 7 | 1.25 CM

Shawn O'Shea, AICP, Client Service Manager, MSA Professional Services

Kurt Elder, Information Intelligence, City of Lincoln

Explore the role of GIS in planning. Discover how GIS enables seamless data integration, spatial visualization, and analysis, revolutionizing zoning, infrastructure planning, and park planning. We will provide examples of successful GIS implementations, delving into the use of GIS as a crucial tool for fostering smart, sustainable, and resilient urban development. Join us in unraveling

Community & Economic Development and Comprehensive Planning: Strategies & Tools for Implementation

11:00 AM - 12:15 AM, GOLD 7 | 1.25 CM

Tim Keelan, Community & Regional Planner/Principal, Hanna:Keelan Associates
Stephanie Fisher, City Administrator, City of Waverly, Nebraska

Amber Kuskie, Executive Director, West Central Nebraska Development District

The Community & Economic Development Piece of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed in detail, including the relationship of community and economic development activities associated with future land use and zoning, both development and redevelopment activities and the impact of selected community revitalization and business and industry decisions on the economics and general welfare of the community. Strategies and Tools for the successful implementation of pertinent community & economic development activities will be presented and discussed.

Coordinating the Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Regulations

11:00 AM - 12:15 AM, GOLD 2

Keith Marvin, AICP, President, Marvin Planning Consultant, Inc

John Shepard, AICP, Senior Planner, Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc

Mason Herrman, Community Planner, Marvin Planning Consultants

The session is intended as a beginner's course and/or refresher course for those citizen planners including Administrators, Planning Commission members, and elected officials. Attorneys are also welcome to join the group as well.

Conflicts of Interest

11:00 AM - 12:15 AM, GOLD 1 | 1.25 CLE

David Ptak, Attorney, DHP Consulting

As an appointed or elected official, the concept of a conflict of interest can be a tricky proposition. The official can often be asking themselves questions such as "What is a conflict of interest?" "If I have a conflict of interest, does that mean I can't participate?" "What does the law say about conflicts of interest?" and "What steps should I take to determine if I have a conflict of interest and how do I let the body know I believe I have one?" In this session, we'll cover the answers to these questions and more regarding conflicts of interest. As an annual session, this covers material similar to what has been presented in past years, and is intended for new practitioners or those who feel they could use a refresh.

Lunch

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, BANQUET HALL (GOLD 4/5/6)

Top Questions in a Livestock Zoning Hearing

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CLE

Steve Martin, Executive Director, AFAN

Amy Schmidt, Professor & Livestock Manure Management Engineer, UNL

Brad Edeal, Livestock Compliance Supervisor, NDEE

Livestock production has changed dramatically in the past twenty years and continues to change. Hear from experts in research, regulatory compliance, and recruitment about how modern livestock facilities operate, how they are regulated, and the science behind all of it.

Tax Increment Financing: Update, Implementation & Compliance

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM, GOLD 7 | 1.25 CLE | 1.25 CM

Michael Sands, Partner, Baird Holm LLP

Alison Borer, Attorney, Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather LLP

Andrew Willis, Partner, Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP

The session will provide the latest legislative developments pertaining to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and/or the Nebraska Community Development Law. It will cover the post-approval implementation and compliance requirements including TIF Note/Bond, cost certification, Notice to Divide Tax, tracking TIF payments, document retention, and annual reports. Additionally, it will provide information on common TIF issues and questions that

Supporting Mobility on a Dime: Complete Streets and SRTS Programs in Lincoln

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Stephanie Rouse, Transportation Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Dept

Roberto Partida, Transportation Planner, City of Lincoln

Creating transportation systems that are safe, accessible, and accommodate all mobility choices is becoming more important with an aging and diversifying population. Complete Streets are one approach to provide communities increased transportation choices and a more resilient transportation system. An aspect of a complete street is a safe routes to school program which provides enhanced pedestrian environments not just for students, but parents/guardians, school staff, and the surrounding neighborhoods, systemically improving safety of school zones. This session will focus on these two key programs as they improve mobility in Lincoln and highlight implementation on limited budgets using recent projects as examples.

Walkable Urbanism

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Doug Bisson, VP of Urban Design & Planning, HDR

This session will focus on how to design a community as people focused for a variety of scales and reversing decades of auto-centric design. Learn how communities around the country are focusing on their residents, visitors, and customers by creating walkable urbanism that benefits the health, safety, livability and bottom line of communities.

Lunch Keynote: Planning is Leading

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, BANQUET HALL (GOLD 4/5/6)

Karen Wolf, FAICP, President, American Institute of Certified Planners

Communities around the country are facing a number of challenges. AICP President Karen Wolf, FAICP, will discuss how these challenging times actually present an opportunity for planners to lead and move their communities forward.



Karen Wolf, FAICP, has dedicated her career to public stewardship and advancing the benefits of planning. She is the President of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) after serving 2 terms as the AICP Commissioner from Region V. She served as the Chair of the AICP Ethics and Exam Committees and is the former Secretary of the AICP

Commission. Karen has served on numerous AICP task forces, including the CM Equity Credit Task Force, which recently established the new Equity credit requirement. She is co-chair of the Washington APA Chapter FAICP Nomination Committee. She recently retired from King County, Washington where she served as a trusted advisor to elected leaders for more than 30 years. She has demonstrated her commitment to planning through mentoring planners new to the profession, as well as volunteering her time and teaching graduate students. Karen is also an affiliate instructor at the University of Washington (UW) in both the departments of Urban Design and Planning and Civil and Environmental Engineering. She serves on the UW Professional Council for Urban Design and Planning. Karen has served for many years as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for Children's Hospital of Seattle providing input on the development of the hospital campus. She has a Masters in Urban Planning and a Bachelors in Economics, both from the University of Washington.

How to Adopt a Great City Flag

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM, GOLD 8

Wade Wagoner, City Administrator, City of Colfax, Iowa

Luke Parris, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Norwalk, Iowa

Christopher Shires, Principal, Confluence

Attendees will be educated on the five basic principles of good flag design. Keep it simple, use meaningful symbolism, use 2 or 3 basic colors, no lettering or seals and be distinctive. The audience will then be walked through one community's journey and given advice on implementation/getting to the finish line.

Planning Trails in the Metro

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Craig Mielke, Senior Project Manager, Benesch

Trails planning in urban areas often requires innovative thinking and solutions to avoid impacts and maintain existing infrastructure already in place. This session will explore several recently completed trails projects, and several in the current planning stages, and discuss solutions that were developed to maintain traffic, connect neighborhoods, save costs/time, and improve connectivity.

What did you say? Heard at a Public Hearing and How to Respond

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Jeff Ray, AICP, Senior Planner, JEO Consulting Group

Andrea Gebhart, AICP, Planning & Engagement Department Leader, JEO Consulting Group

Give a citizen the microphone and they may say anything that they think will support their agenda. Come hear real examples from battled planners as they discuss their "war-stories", how they responded and maybe how they should have responded to keep decorum at the essential public hearing.

Networking & Refreshments

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE: The Why & The How

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM

Heidi Kerr-Schlaefel, Speaker, Consultant, Writer, HeidiTown Consulting

Guiding you through the process of a mindset shift that leads to loving where you live. This isn't economic development and this isn't tourism; it is that sweet spot that inspires pride in place so that when they come, whether as a new resident or as a visitor, they are happy to be there. Citizen satisfaction in their quality of life is also proven through Soul of the Community study to increase economic success.

Using Data to Further Pedestrian & Bicycling Investments

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Kevin Carder, AICP, City Planner, City of Omaha

Stephanie Rouse, Transportation Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Dept

Jake Weiss, Traffic Engineer / Transportation Planner, HDR, Inc.

Planners from Lincoln and Omaha will present on methods and technologies used to measure and evaluate use of trails and other walking and bicycling infrastructure in their communities. The presentation will include information and discussion of best practices and lessons learned regarding collecting, analyzing, and visualizing non-motorized transportation data for the purpose of measuring progress toward a community's goals and making the case for continued investment in active transportation and recreation facilities. The Market-to-Midtown Bikeway case study will highlight how a pilot project used data collection to help inform the permanent design and offer lessons learned along the way.

Improving the quality of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing in Lincoln: a demonstration project in Lincoln

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 8 | 1.25 CM

Wynn Hjermsstad, Community Development Manager, City of Lincoln, Urban Development Dept

Kurt Elder, AICP, Information Intelligence, City of Lincoln

Charlie Wesche, Chief of Staff, Real Estate and Construction Services, Director, NeighborWorks Lincoln/NWL Community Land Trust

Through public engagement processes, the priority housing issue identified in Lincoln is the quality of existing affordable housing. To address this issue, the City of Lincoln's Urban Development Department worked with community partners to develop a residential rental rehab demonstration project providing grants for improvements, funded with TIF, in exchange for committing to a period of affordability. This session will review the process, implementation, and outcomes of this project.

Action Planning!

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 2 | 1.25 CM

Chris Janson, AICP, Planning Team Leader, MSA Professional Services

Sarah Runkel, AICP, Associate Planner, MSA Professional Services

Join our insightful presentation where we'll dive into the art of strategic planning and the crucial step of having a well-defined action plan. Learn how a robust plan sets the foundation for success and discover the transformative impact of coupling it with a detailed action-oriented roadmap. We'll explore the key elements of effective planning, share practical tips on goal setting, and showcase examples of communities who have executed their plans meticulously. Don't miss this opportunity to gain actionable insights and empower yourself or your team for success through a comprehensive and strategic approach.

Powering the Future Together: Public-Public Collaborations for Resiliency

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM (1 SR)

Michaela Valentin, Government & Community Relations Manager, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD)

Mark Stursma, AICP, Deputy City Administrator, City of Papillion

Using the example of OPPD's need for near-term electricity generation in Papillion's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ); the presenters will discuss challenges, opportunities and considerations that will adequately prepare new and seasoned planners, city/county officials, and project personnel to negotiate the greatest community benefit in large-scale project collaborations. Topics covered will include: land use compatibility, fee and tax implications, permit obligations, infrastructure financing, and interest based negotiation strategy. At the conclusion of the presentation, attendees will have a best practices framework for public agency collaborations with the opportunity to ask questions.

Networking

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

Estimating Return on Transit Investment for Rural & Small Urban Communities

11:00 AM - 12:15 AM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Eavan Moore, Transportation Planner, SRF Consulting Group

Bill Troe, Project Director- Transportation Planning, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Public transit is a critical service for rural and small urban communities in Nebraska. As critical as the service is, communities and counties are challenged with balancing investing in transit with the range of other service funding needs. On behalf of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, SRF Consulting created a simple Excel tool to help public transit providers and local decision-makers estimate the return on transit investment in their region. The presentation will describe the methodology and intended uses of this tool, which takes into account access to healthcare, access to jobs, and aging in place.

Thursday, March 7

Keynote: Overcoming Housing Obstacles to Make a Difference

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, BANQUET HALL (GOLD 4/5/6)

Angela Brooks, FAICP, President, American Planning Association

The nation is short nearly 4 million housing units. There is not one solution to the nation's housing crisis. Hear from APA President, Angela D. Brooks, FAICP, how planning-led housing reforms can make a positive impact on your community—even in small and rural communities. Dive into the various ways communities are approaching housing obstacles to make a difference.



Angela Brooks is the Director of the Illinois office of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. She currently serves on the Chicago Board of Zoning Appeals, the Illinois Affordable Housing Advisory Commission, and is co-chair of the national Housing Supply Accelerator helping communities meet the housing needs of

residents. Brooks is a native of Seattle and a graduate of Jackson State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, and the University of New Orleans, where she received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning. An active member of APA since graduate school, Brooks has held numerous leadership positions in the Housing and Community Development Division, Planning and the Black Community Division, Diversity Task Force, Washington Chapter, and co-chair of the Housing Policy Guide. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and The Links, Incorporated.

Networking & Refreshments

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM, BREAK ROOM & EXHIBITOR HALL (GOLD 3/9)

A Facilitated Discussion: Livestock Zoning in Nebraska, what's working, what is not working

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 1

Keith Marvin, AICP, President, Marvin Planning Consultant, Inc

There is a move in the state to refine the state statutes and processes involving livestock zoning in Nebraska as well as the permitting process. This is important enough that NPZA has formed a committee to work through these issues and in conjunction with people representing agriculture. This will be a round table discussion about procedures and steps that work and do not work.

UNL Master of Community & Regional Planning Student Project

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, GOLD 7

The presentation will feature students from the Master of Community and Regional Planning program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who will be showcasing their working projects. These projects encompass a diverse range of topics within the field of community and regional planning, including affordable housing, tourism planning, community development, environmental conservation, transit equity and community revitalization efforts. Each presentation will delve into the specific goals, methodologies, and findings of their respective projects, offering valuable insights into community and regional planning in Nebraska.

Techniques for Building & Repairing Relationships in Civic Life

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM, GOLD 10 | 1.25 CM

Daniel Bennett, AICP, Rural Civic Health Program Manager, Civic Nebraska

When conflict surfaces in the planning process, building a bridge in a relationship can be the difference between making progress and getting stuck. This session will provide an overview of network building and communication practices that can prevent breaks in trust, and practical techniques anyone can use to keep conversations productive when the tension gets high.

Ethics for Planners & Attorneys

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM, GOLD 1 | 2.0 CLE (PR) | 2.0 CM (1 ETH)

Karen Wolf, FAICP, President, American Institute of Certified Planners

Lee Greenwald, Partner, Baird Holm, LLC

This session should be helpful to all professionals who face many ethical dilemmas. An overview of the new AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct will be given along with a description of ethics principles, rules of conduct and ethics complaint procedures. The session speaker will share "real life" ethical situations and scenarios. Come and learn about ethical situations that your peers face in the region and on a national basis.

Time to Unwind – Hospitality Room Open

6:30 PM – 11:45 PM, Bronze 1

Wednesday and Thursday night after the conference activities have concluded, the hospitality room will open up in the Bronze 1 room right in the conference center. Stocked with a variety of free beers, wines, and snacks, the hospitality room lets you catch up with old friends or lose horribly in a card game against some crafty veterans.

Emerging Planners Group Networking Event

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, THUNDERHEAD BREWING, 18 E 21ST ST, KEARNEY

You are invited to the Emerging Planners Group (EPG) Social! The EPG is comprised of individuals passionate about the next 50 years of planning in Nebraska - whether you consider yourself an emerging planner (early in your career) or are someone interested in sharing their experiences, join us for a beer and conversation! Pizza and a drink ticket will be provided.

Wednesday

7:45 AM	Welcome				
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	David Ptak Institute for Legal Issues in Nebraska Planning 6.25 CLE 6.5 CM	Harry Milligan Institute for Planning Fundamentals 6.25 CLE	Creative Uses of GIS in Varied Scenarios 1.25 CM	NDOT Vulnerable Road Users 1.25 CM	Budgeting for Public Trees 1.25 CM
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM			Community Organizing for Housing Advocacy 1.25 CM	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Shifting into Drive	
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM			Fair Housing & Equity: Hot Topics 1.25 CM (1 EQ)	Supporting Mobility on a Dime: Complete Streets and SRTS Programs in Lincoln 1.25 CM	Walkable Urbanism 1.25 CM
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Keynote: Karen Wolf, FAICP, Planning is Leading				
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM	David Ptak Institute for Legal Issues in Nebraska Planning	Harry Milligan Institute for Planning Fundamentals	How to Adopt a Great City Flag	Planning Trails in the Metro 1.25 CM	What did you say? Heard at a Public Hearing and How to Respond 1.25 CM
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM			LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE: The Why & The How 1.25 CM	Using Data to Further Pedestrian & Bicycling Investments 1.25 CM	Techniques for Building & Repairing Relationships in Civic Life 1.25 CM
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Ethics for Planners & Attorneys 2.0 CLE (PR) 2.0 CM (1 ETH)				
6:30 PM - 11:45 PM	Time to Unwind - Hospitality Room Open				
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Emerging Planners Group Networking Event				

Thursday

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Keynote: ANGELA BROOKS				
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	A Facilitated Discussion: Livestock Zoning in Nebraska, what's working, what is not working	UNL Master of Community & Regional Planning Student Project	Improving the Quality of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing in Lincoln: A demonstration project in Lincoln 1.25 CM	Action Planning! 1.25 CM	Powering the Future Together: Public-Public Collaborations for Resiliency 1.25 CM (1 SR)
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Estimating Return on Transit Investment for Rural & Small Urban Communities 1.25 CM	Community & Economic Development and Comprehensive Planning: Strategies & Tools for Implementation 1.25 CM	Coordinating the Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Regulations	Conflicts of Interest 1.25 CLE	
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch				
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Top Questions in a Livestock Zoning Hearing 1.25 CLE	Tax Increment Financing: Update, Implementation & Compliance 1.25 CLE	Affordable Housing Study Panelist Discussion 1.25 CM	Keep the Comp Plan on Your Desk, not a Shelf 1.25 CM	Open Meetings Act 1.25 CLE 1.25 CM (1 L)
2:45 PM - 3:15 PM	Ice Cream Social				
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	At Home on Main Street: Tools for Increasing Housing in Your Downtown	Mapping Excellence: Navigating Planning with GIS 1.25 CM	The Vacant Property Registry: Reversing Donut Development 1.25 CLE 1.25 CM (1 L)	Findings of Fact 1.25 CLE 1.25 CM (1 L)	Affordable Housing Breakout Session 1.25 CLE 1.25 CM
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Social Hour				
6:00 PM	Banquet				
8:00 PM - 11:45 PM	Time to Unwind - Hospitality Room Open				
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser				

Friday

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	MICRO-TIF: Statute Review & North Platte Examples 1.25 CM	Case Study: On-site Stormwater Management & Water Wise Landscapes 1.25 CM	The Comp Plan Energy Element 1.25 CM (1 SR)	Retail: The past, present and future 1.25 CM	Board of Zoning Adjustment 1.25 CLE
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Tackling the 10,000 Piece Drought Puzzle 1.25 CM (1 SR)	Urban Watershed and Stormwater Planning: Lessons Learned and Looking Forward 1.25 CM	Developing Bylaws & Rules of Procedure 1.25 CLE	Planning for Community Resilience 1.25 CLE 1.25 CM (1 SR)	Planning for Resilience: Hamburg Iowa 1.25 CM
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Final Questions & Answers	Zoning Administrator Q & A 1.25 CLE			
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Conference Closing				