

THE PALMETTO PLANNER



A Publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association

Richland County wins Award of Merit

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CONNECTing our future

By Steve Allen
SCAPA Director-
At-Large

On June 4, 2013, at the Charlotte Convention Center, over 400 participants, 80 volunteers and 7 speakers from the 14-county, bi-state CONNECT Our Future region came together in a day long exercise to help assist with the preparation of future growth scenarios. The exercise had a specific focus on projecting the future location of housing, jobs, transportation, and opens space in preparation for the crush of anticipated regional growth



Participants representing 14 counties in the Charlotte region came together in June to think about how they would like for the area to grow.

through 2050. The event was sponsored by the Centralina Council of Governments and the

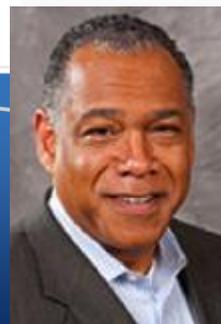
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Welcome new members

- Kristen Crane, Town of James Island
- Mary Casto, AICP, Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers
- Sarah Hanson, City of Goose Creek
- Melissa Moeller, Student
- J. Leslie Bell, AICP, Brunswick, GA
- Amy Carr, Student
- Anthony Lato, Student
- Nicholas Colangelo, Student

Mitchell Silver: How Planning Got Its Groove Back

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How planning got its groove back

By Mitchell Silver
Courtesy of citiwire.net

The field of city planning emerged in U.S. at the dawn of the 20th century and helped shape a rapidly urbanizing nation. Between 1900 and 2000, the nation's population grew by 205 million, and its land patterns transformed from 20 percent to 80 percent urban. It is hard to imagine how the American landscape would have evolved if Congress had not authorized the Zoning and Planning acts in the 1920s. Those acts empowered local governments to protect the public health, safety and welfare through planning, zoning and capital investment. Planning had a noble purpose, and our nation benefited. But fast-forward to the 21st century. Does city planning still



Silver

hold a vital role as we continue to grow and urbanize?

In New Orleans in April 2010, I learned I would be the next president of the American Planning Association (APA). I knew my two-year term would be different. The planning landscape was changing. The recession was in full swing, and the mood of the country was glum. Wall Street was beginning to rebound, but Main Street was still suffering. Businesses were being dubbed "job creators," and government was being blamed for Great Recession and the slow recovery. Planning departments were being merged, downsized or eliminated. Conspiracy theories were increasing – like the one that the United Nations Agenda 21 agreement means the U.N. taking over local government – and the property rights movement reached a broader audience.

If that

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President's Message

Florence was the gracious host of our summer conference in July. The downtown venue set the bar high for future conferences and clearly showed how locally owned and operated facilities can compete and succeed in today's economy. Thanks to the local host committee for their efforts.

As most of you know, the 2014 APA National conference will be in Atlanta in April and we'd love to

have a strong showing from the Palmetto State.

The annual conference will be held in downtown Spartanburg October 16-18. The host committee is



Moody

working with Ernie Boughman, Programs Chair, to make this a memorable event.

A new initiative that the Executive Committee funded in this year's budget is a "High School Contest" to promote planning in the Palmetto State. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on this ad hoc committee.

The feature article above, "How Planning Got Its Groove Back," is by Mitchell Silver, Immediate Past-President of APA. Many of you have had the pleasure of hearing Mitch speak and I think this article captures that strong planning

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Silver

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climate wasn't bad enough, planners drew criticism from traditional allies. Design professionals accused planners of lacking a design focus. New Urbanists blamed planners for being facilitators of urban sprawl, and neighborhood leaders accused planners of being too focused on the built environment instead of people. Was planning losing its relevance? Had the planning profession lost its sense of purpose? Well, not exactly, but a wake-up call was clearly in order. Something had to change.

In February 2011, APA's leadership forged a new strategic direction and embarked on a crusade to revitalize the planning profession through a renewed sense of purpose.

Planners have always evolved and adapted to the challenges of the times, and 2010 marked another turning point in the history of city planning. The message was simple. Planners must embrace their roots, plan for emerging trends and make an economic case for planning.

What is the purpose of planning? The answer can be found in the 20th-century zoning and planning acts and the planner's code of ethics. Both served the profession for more than a century. Planning allows for the orderly growth and development of communities. Planners faithfully protect the public interest. Planners shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all. Planners are guardians of our common future and plan for the needs of present and future generations. Planning was intended to focus on "place" and "people."

Planners not only manage growth and change, but deal with uncertainty about the future – the "what's next?" We don't have a crystal ball, but emerging trends, growth patterns, generational and cultural values offer clues as to what may come.

I am often surprised how many people are unaware of, or in denial about, the emerging trends we are facing in the U.S. and abroad. Among them are climate change, extreme weather, droughts, availability of water and energy, and they will affect how we live. As APA president I urged planners to watch emerging trends the way a stock broker watches the market, so that we can prepare our communities for change. The 21st century presents our planet with challenges we have not confronted before, and these changes have serious

implications for how we plan our communities today and tomorrow.

Changing demographics – the graying and browning of America and the changes to family and household composition – will be among the most significant challenges the United States will confront over the next 50 years. No state, city, region or small town will escape the implications of demographic change, because each generation has different needs, values and aspirations. Planners will be on the front lines for these changes, and they must plan for people, not just for place.

If planners want to be valuable, they must show their value. For planners, that means focusing on job creation and the economy. An APA poll last year asked the American public what planners should be working on. "Jobs and the economy" was the public's top priority.

Planning is economic development, but for some reason, planners lost ground in the 1980s when the specialized field of economic development emerged. Over the past few years, economic planning is surging back in planning circles. New planning concepts to aid decision-making, like "return on Investment" (ROI) – which looks at how long would it would take pay back a public investment like a road with new property and sales tax revenue – are changing how planners look at managing growth and change in a fiscally responsible way. Planners like Joe Minicozzi, Charles Marohn and organizations like the APA, Urban Land Institute and Smart Growth America are issuing reports on the value of ROI to manage growth, operating and capital budgets.

Planners are discovering a renewed sense of purpose. Preparing for emerging trends, planning for people and making the economic case for planning are all gaining traction. Planners are forging new alliances with allied professionals.

Change is coming, and a renewed planning profession will benefit us all. The uncertainty about the future and the game-changing trends facing our generation will demand a profession with a renewed sense of purpose. The 20th century gave planning its roots. Now it's time to soar.

Mitchell Silver, AICP, is chief planning and development officer and planning director for the City of Raleigh, N.C. From 2011 to 2013 he served as APA president.

Vested rights extended again

Courtesy of Josh Rhodes
South Carolina Association of Counties

up at landfills as a result of the e-waste landfill ban. An amendment to add the contents of H. 3290 discussed above is also pending on this bill.

A summary of the legislative update provided during SCAPA's summer conference:

Solid Waste Flow Control - H. 3290, S. 203. These bills represent the attempt by national solid waste companies to dilute the South Carolina Solid Waste Act by hindering local governments' ability to control and regulate the disposal of solid waste.

There have been various versions of this proposal and all of them have contained provisions that would negatively impact local solid waste management initiatives. One central theme of the proposal is to prohibit local ordinances that designate facilities at which waste is to be processed or disposed. Nullifying these ordinances will greatly impact county solid waste operations and hinder the county's ability to plan and react to solid waste issues through the normal means. H. 3290 is on the Contested Senate Calendar and S. 203 is in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

E-Waste Solution - H. 3847. This legislation is pending concurrence or non-concurrence in the Senate amendments and is on the House calendar. The electronics manufacturers and others have come up with a potential solution to the electronic waste piling

Permit Extensions - H. 3774, R. 123. This

Joint Resolution extends the effective date for development permits through the end of 2016. Section two of the legislation provides a list of the type of permits that are extended to include water and air quality permits, subdivision permits, OCRM permits and permits

issued pursuant to erosion and sedimentation control plans. Section three provides that if a governmental entity has already issued a permit, and the permit has expired for not more than one year, it must extend the permit at no additional cost.

Section four applies retroactively and provides that if a developer or builder can demonstrate that it had a valid permit in effect on Dec. 31, 2012, the running of the period of approval is suspended until Dec. 31, 2016.

Section five states that the legislation does not affect the ability of a county to revoke or modify a permit pursuant to law and provides that demonstration of need permits for hospitals or landfills are not affected.



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Legislative update

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Road Bill - Act No. 98, R. 119, H. 3360. This legislation deals with the transfer of roads between the state and local entities, and also creates sources of revenue for infrastructure improvements. Section 1 of the act amends §57-5-10, authorizing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to utilize the State Nonfederal Aid Highway Fund and the State Highway Fund to maintain the state highway system.

Section 2 of the act amends §57-5-70 to state that a county or municipality and DOT may by mutual consent agree to transfer a road from the county or municipal road system to the state highway system. If the DOT determines that a road in the county or municipal road system is necessary for the interconnectivity of the state highway system, and the municipality or county does not consent to the transfer, DOT may initiate a condemnation action to acquire the road.

Section 3 amends §57-5-80 to allow DOT to transfer any road under its jurisdiction, determined to be of low traffic importance, to a county or municipality, a school, a governmental agency, a nongovernmental entity, or a person if mutual consent is reached between DOT and the party. A county or municipality shall have right of first refusal to accept roads into their maintenance responsibility when roads are considered for transfer to a nongovernmental entity or person.

Section 4 adds §11-43-165 which requires DOT to transfer \$50 million annually from non-tax sources to the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank. The transferred funds must be used solely by the bank to finance bridge replacement, rehabilitation projects, and expansion and improvements to existing mainline interstates.

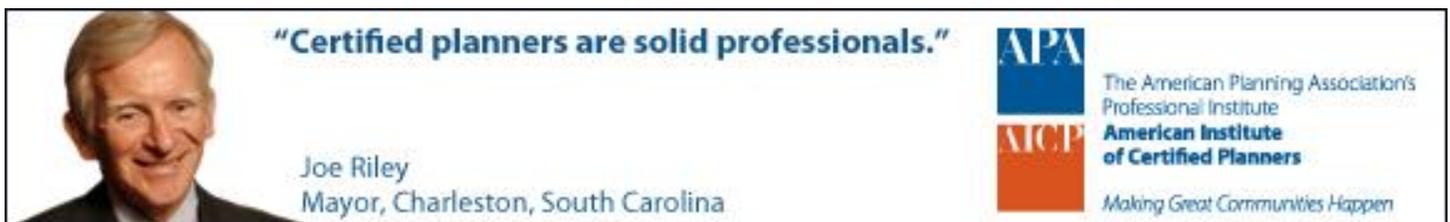
Section 5 states that revenue of the sales tax paid on a motor vehicle may be pledged to secure

highway bonds and adds §12-36-2647 to credits 50% of the revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles to the State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund and states that these revenues must be used exclusively for highway, road, and bridge maintenance, construction, and repair. Section 6 transfers \$50 million of non-recurring revenue to DOT for Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation. Sections 5 and 6 take effect on July 1, 2013. The rest of the act is effective on June 24, 2013.

Local Lobbying - S. 601. This bill would make the state lobbying statutes apply to activities before local governments. It appears that the bill would apply to actions taking by local boards and commissions including zoning boards. The bill is in the House Judiciary Committee.

FOIA - H. 3163. This bill substantially amends the Freedom of Information Act by mandating cost restrictions and compliance deadline. This bill is in the House Judiciary Committee. The bill still fails to address several issues:

- H. 3163 creates a “right” to receive documents in an electronic format, whether or not they were in an electronic format at the time of the request. Does this mean documents will have to be scanned rather than copied? Think about the amount of time it would take to scan a document that is 100 pages or more.
- H. 3163 requires voluminous amounts of records be available upon demand if they were produced by the body, distributed to or reviewed by any member of the body during a public meeting within 6 months. “Public body” covers more than county council and its subcommittees, including: advisory committees, study committees, boards and commissions. For example, Richland County has 57 boards and commissions; Greenville has 40; Spartanburg has 33 and all meeting documents would have to be posted to the web or made available for inspection upon demand.



“Certified planners are solid professionals.”

Joe Riley
Mayor, Charleston, South Carolina

APA
The American Planning Association's
Professional Institute
**American Institute
of Certified Planners**
Making Great Communities Happen

Jim Spencer is new department chair; Clemson undergoes accreditation review

By Cliff Ellis, Ph.D., MCRP Program Director

New Chair for the Department of Planning, Development and Preservation

James H. Spencer is the incoming Chair of Clemson's Department of Planning, Development and Preservation. The Department includes the graduate programs City and Regional Planning, Real Estate Development, and Historic Preservation. Jim began his term on August 1, 2013.

He comes to Clemson following a 20-year career that has spanned the non-profit world,

philanthropy, and academics. Most recently he was an Associate Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, and of Political Science, at the University of Hawaii, and he has held staff positions at the Ford Foundation and non-profit organizations working on community development. His current research focuses on international urbanization and planning issues, with a particular focus on water supplies, infrastructure, and inequality.

In addition to his university work, Jim is an active practitioner on planning issues, having served on the State of

Hawaii's Legislative Task Force for Sustainable Development, and he has provided technical support to the World Bank; the Urban Environment Planning Program in Viet Nam; the City of Compton, California; the Cities of Hue, Quy Nhon, and Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam); the Vietnamese and Cambodian Ministries of Construction; the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services,

among others.

He holds a B.A. from Amherst College, a Masters of Environmental Management from Yale University, and a Ph.D. from UCLA in Urban Planning.

Jim is enthusiastic about the possibilities for Clemson's Department of PDP to connect with practicing planners and decision makers in South Carolina, applying the training, research, and credentialing capacities of the University to

contemporary planning challenges. In the coming years his door (real and virtual) will be open to the planning community of South Carolina and beyond.



Clemson University MCRP Program to Go Through Accreditation Review in 2013-2014

Clemson's Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning will be going through accreditation review by the Planning Accreditation Board during 2013-2014, with the Site visit by the PAB occurring in February of 2014.

Program Director Cliff Ellis is currently preparing the required Self-Study Report with the assistance of the MCRP program faculty and university

staff. He will be working closely with SCAPA to define goals and objectives for the future of the program and to document the program's involvement with the professional planning community in South Carolina. Additional information will be provided periodically and Dr. Ellis will work with the Executive Committee to make sure that SCAPA is fully involved in this important process.

Student Chapter looking for guest speakers

By Chris Clauson
Student Chapter President and Web Site
Administrator

Links' Page Update

The Clemson Student Chapter of SCAPA is interested in bringing planning professionals from across the state to speak about the profession, career development, and topics of special interest at their upcoming chapter meetings on the Clemson campus. The Student Chapter is also interested in attending any local planning functions/meetings to experience their future field at work.

Any planning professionals that are interested in coming to Clemson University to speak to the Student Chapter or host the Student Chapter, please contact Julia Zweifel (Social Chair) at jzweife@clemson.edu. Scheduling and speaking topics are flexible. We look forward to learning from you!



We are in the process of developing a meaningful and useful links section on the SCAPA website and we need your help. Currently, we have created a listing of planning departments from across the state at the council of government, county and municipality levels. A few major state and national links have been included as well.

To make this site a success we will need your suggestions of websites you often frequent in your daily operations.

Please send any recommended sites, that you would like to see on this page, to the SCAPA Web Administrator at cclauso@clemson.edu.

O'Neill awarded Debbie Lieu Scholarship

The Debbie Lieu Scholarship was established to honor our colleague and friend Debbie Lieu after her untimely death in 2004. As she was universally recognized for her passion and commitment to the profession, each year's recipient must also demonstrate these qualities. The Award Committee is pleased to announce that Mrs. Courtney Elizabeth O'Neill has been awarded this year's scholarship, which will be presented at the 2013 Fall Conference. Competing among multiple applicants, Mrs. O'Neill's educational and work efforts readily met the criteria for the award:

- A passion of planning
- A positive and enthusiastic attitude
- Works effectively behind the scenes
- Community volunteerism

Congratulations Courtney!

**SCAPA is forming
Young Planners' Group**
Deadline for proposals from
young planners about
organization of group is Aug.
30.

RFP information is at
www.scapa.org

Questions?
John Danford, AICP
843.915.7909
danfordj@horrycounty.org

Clemson Student Chapter fundraiser

Newly designed T-Shirts and Polo's for sale.
Order Now to ensure availability at the Fall Conference

The 2013-2014 Clemson Student SCAPA Officers are conducting a fundraiser by offering newly designed Polo Shirts and T-Shirts for sale at the Fall 2013 Conference in Spartanburg. The shirts will also be available for purchase upon request throughout the year.

Polo Shirt Prices

Pre-Pay: \$35

SCAPA Members: \$40

Non-Members: \$45

T-Shirt Prices

Pre-Pay: \$15

SCAPA Members: \$20

Non-Members: \$25

For Men's Polo Shirt Information Sheet [Click Here](#)

For Ladies Polo Shirt Information Sheet [Click Here](#)

For T-Shirt Information Sheet [Click Here](#)*

* Any polyester blend T-Shirt cannot be used

To download the order form [Click Here](#)

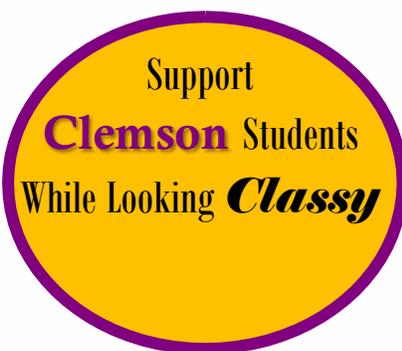
Send order forms to
cclauso@clemson.edu
by September 15th to receive at the fall conference



Polo Shirts with SCAPA logo embroidered



T-Shirts with SCAPA logo printed



SUMMER CONFERENCE RECAP

The South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) held its Summer 2013 Conference on Wednesday, July 17, 2013. The City of Florence hosted the conference at the newly opened Victor's Bistro at the Hotel Florence in downtown. Nearly 120 people registered for the conference, making it one of the most successful one-day SCAPA conferences in recent history.

The day began with a continental breakfast and a welcome by Mayor Stephen J. Wukela of the City of Florence. Two morning sessions followed the mayor. First, Ray Reich, Downtown Development Manager for the City of Florence presented a session entitled "Appearance, Appearance, Appearance & Partnerships are the Keys to Success." In this session Reich outlined the ongoing revitalization of Florence's downtown historic district and methods for applying Florence's successes to other communities. The second morning session was "Utilizing Low Impact Development and Buffer Zone Strategies in Urban Planning to Meet Existing and Future Water Quality Regulations." Geoff Smith, PE, Project Manager with URS Corporation and Jerry Dudley, Planner II with the City of Florence provided insights into low impact development techniques, buffer zones, and plant requirements.

Following lunch, two more sessions were provided. "Rebuilding Florence's Distressed Communities: From the Residents Up" was a panel presentation by Phillip Lookadoo, AICP, Director of the City of Florence's Planning, Research & Development Department, Ernie Boughman, AICP, Southeast Regional Office Director for Toole Design Group, Inga Kennedy, President of Planners for Environmental Quality, and Warren Campbell, RA, Senior Project Manager with APD Urban Planning and Management. This group discussed a resident-focused neighborhood planning process that was employed to achieve great success in four of the City

of Florence's most distressed neighborhoods. Finally, Scott Slatton, Legislative and Public Policy Advocate with the Municipal Association of South Carolina and Josh Rhodes, Staff Attorney and Legislative Liaison for the South Carolina Association of Counties provided the session, "Planning Law: South Carolina Legislative Update." These gentlemen provided an informative and

entertaining update on the recently completed South Carolina legislative session and probable and emerging issues anticipated during the next session.

In addition to the one-day slate of sessions, SCAPA also offered a pre-conference encore ethics session on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 16th for those needing those all-important ethics credits. Those who attended the full one-day conference and the preceding encore ethics session were able to earn 6.75 continuing education units or certification maintenance (CM) credits. If you attended the Summer

2013 Conference and have not already logged your CM credits, be sure to do so.

Successful conferences are the direct result of active local representation. Many

thanks to the City of Florence and their Local Conference Host Committee of Phillip Lookadoo, Kendra Cobbs, Jerry Dudley, and Stacey Rowell for assisting with conference logistics. Also, thank you to our speakers and everyone who attended and made the day a tremendous success.

If your community would like to host a future SCAPA conference, if you would like to propose a session for a future conference, or if you have general conference questions, please contact Ernie Boughman at eboughman@tooledesign.com or (803) 479-9445.



The conference venue showcased one of Florence's successful redevelopment efforts.

FALL 2013
CONFERENCE



SPARTANBURG

OCTOBER 16-18, 2013

- Pre-Conference Mobile Workshop
- Opening Keynote
 - Rodger Lentz, AICP, APA Director, Region II
- Four Tracks
 - Economic Development/Community Development
 - Recreation/Heritage Tourism
 - Transportation
 - Southeast Student Planning Conference
- Law and Ethics
- Post-Conference Training Workshop



Registration Opens September 9, 2013

www.scapa.org

Your local planning resource

CONNECT

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Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Growth is a reality in the Charlotte region. Since 1970, the region has more than tripled in population from 760,000 to 2.4 million. The population in the region is expected to grow by 50% in the next 20 years and nearly double in 40 years by adding 1.8 million people with a forecasted 860,000 new jobs. Sustainable growth is important as we build a strong and diverse economy to attract new business and become more of a major economic force in the world economy. Unbridled or uncontrolled growth however, places undue strain on limited social and natural resources and unduly impacts the quality of life of the region.

RealityCheck2050 is a part of the [CONNECT Our Future](#) project which engages the 14-county region in a process to develop a regional growth framework that helps leaders and residents grow jobs and the economy, improve quality of life and control the cost of government. This public engagement event will begin the hands-on Scenario Planning Process and will help us begin to prepare potential options for regional growth, with a focus on accommodating the growth of housing and jobs through 2050. The results from this full-day event will be incorporated into the CONNECT Our Future process to develop alternative growth scenarios for regional growth. (<http://charlotte.uli.org/reality-check/>). Reality Check is just one of the first steps in a three year process to help develop a regional framework plan.

At the beginning of the event, participants gathered around 41 pre-assigned tables. Registrants had been previously asked to provide specific information regarding their professional background, residency, etc. This information allowed for the hosts to randomly distribute attendees to create the most diverse representation as possible. Each table was



Reality Check is just one of the first steps in a three-year process to help develop a regional framework plan.

assigned two volunteers; a scribe (My Role) to record notes and a group leader to ensure the table remained on task. Each table was given a 6 foot square digital map of the 14 county region displayed on a matrix of one inch squares, a box of 1000 yellow and red LEGOs, and colored yarn.

The event kicked off with welcome and opening remarks from Tracy Dodson, Chair for ULI, Michael Johnson, Centralina COG, and Mayor pro-tem of Statesville, and Dwayne Marsh, Senior Advisor, Office of Sustainable Communities, HUD. Following these presentations, the Key Note Speaker, Ed McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow (Former Planner and Lawyer) with ULI provided his usual inspiring, humorous, and pointed discussion. As a planner, I can appreciate his candor and perspective on growth and development related issues. One memorable quote he provided, which certainly holds true today as we in the public sector enter the post-recession political realm of ensuring that we are always business friendly: “If we are afraid to say no to anything, we’ll get the worst of everything.” If we hold true to these higher standards, odds are that we’ll get better development or better results. Certainly this also applies to the contrary.

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CONNECT

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The rules of the exercise were simple; place all 1000 red and yellow LEGOs on the map, within the boundaries of a square, within the allotted 90 minutes, where the participants at the table believe growth, improvements, and open space should be directed by year 2050. Who doesn't love LEGOs?

The LEGOs, represented Residential (Red) and Non-Residential (Yellow) densities, which is counter to what we planners know as the appropriate color representation for residential and non-residential uses.

Each Lego represented a numeric density, one Lego representing the lowest, 48 stacked LEGOS representing the highest. Each square on the map consisted of approximately four square miles of land. The yarn represented miles of new roadways, new transit, and acres of green space.

To aid the decision making process, participants at each table were asked that they agree upon one or more of nine overarching guiding principles when considering how to direct future growth. For 90 minutes blocks and string were placed strategically on the map in varying patterns from table to table. After 90 minutes, the exercise concluded and the participants filed out of the room to their next events. Table volunteers prepared their tables for recordation of the results. Selected tables who demonstrated unique or more defined distribution patterns were photographed and later illustrated to the group. The preceding photo illustrates one of the Tables final results after completion of the exercise a rather dispersed pattern of growth.

After tabulating the data from the 41 tables four major patterns came out of the results: Dispersed (26%), Corridor (37%), Compact Urban Growth (7%) , and Multiple Urban Centers (30%).

Following the exercise attendees participated in an individual polling survey exercise using electronic polling devices. Participants were asked a number of questions related to the Lego Exercise. Results of the polling proved very interesting with some surprising results:



Ed McMahon, senior resident fellow with ULI, served as keynote speaker.

- When asked which of the four major patterns for regional growth most closely aligned to the guiding principles of the exercise, predictably respondents chose Corridor Growth and Multiple Urban Centers over 75% together, however, Dispersed Growth Patterns only received less than 10% of the votes, yet 26% of the tables resulted in a dispersed patterns outcome.

- Other outcomes included desire to prioritize transportation investments in more light rail and commuter rail; and, repair and improve existing infrastructure and increased capacity.

- The greatest challenges to success were lack of job creation, lack of access to alternative forms of transportation, and lack of cooperation among community leaders.

- The most needed efforts to overcome regional barriers were education; vision, leadership, and cooperation; and, public investment in infrastructure.

- Most importantly, nearly 90% of the participants were willing and ready to move forward and address the challenges.

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Richland County wins national award

Each year the American Planning Association (APA), County Planning Division (CPD) and its sister organization, the National Association of County Planners (NACP) gives out County Planning Project Awards. There are two types of awards, Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit. In addition, there are seven categories of awards; Planning Project, Comprehensive Plan – Large Jurisdiction, Comprehensive Plan – Small Jurisdiction, Best Practices, Grass Roots Initiative, Small Area/Special Area Planning and Special Focus Planning Initiative – Senior Livability.

This year, Richland County, South Carolina is the recipient of an **Award of Merit** in the Grass Roots Initiative category for the 8th Annual Neighborhood Planning Conference.

The Richland County Council and the Planning and Development Services Department has made it a priority to address the struggling nature of urban communities and rural neighborhoods throughout the County and created the Neighborhood Improvement Program to address those challenges head-on. "The Neighborhood Planning Conference" emerged from this effort as a grassroots level conference that extends beyond the traditional scope of planning, broadens public understanding of the planning process, provides neighborhood outreach initiatives and fulfills unique educational programs designed for special populations. The 8th Annual Neighborhood Planning Conference provided an unparalleled service to over 200 participants.



Richland County Accepted the Award at the County Planning Division's Annual Business Meeting conducted at the APA National Conference in Chicago, IL on April 14, 2013. Left to Right: CPD President, Tim Brown; Richland County Neighborhood Planner, Tiaa Rutherford; Richland County Planning Director, Tracy Hegler

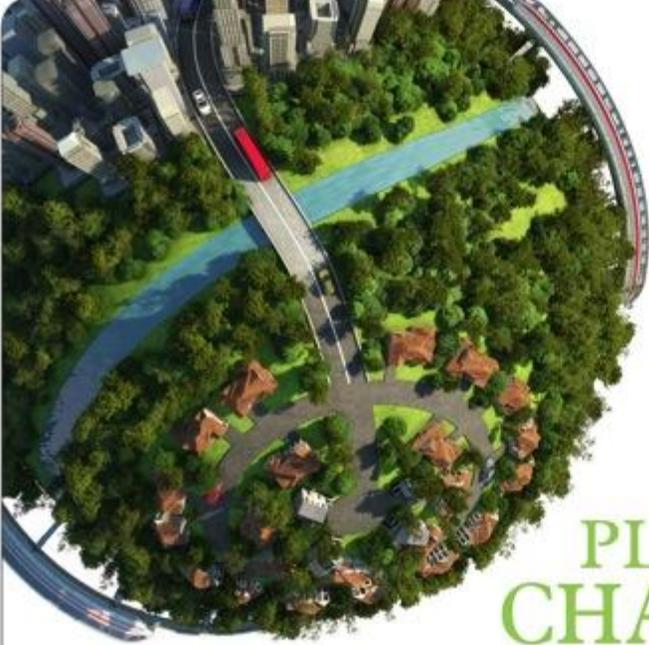
Proud of something you're doing?

Send a press release to
lyoungblood@cityofrockhill.com for
possible inclusion in a future edition of the
Palmetto Planner.

CONNECT

Continued from page 12

The purpose of this exercise was obviously more complex than just placing LEGOS and yarn on a map. The exercise pushed participants to see the connection between the choices they make and their unintended consequences. The day was a success, as it was the largest Reality Check event held to date in both level of participation and geographic scale. Hopefully the 400+ participants learned something valuable that can be translated into positive actions and results in their communities. However, this will only happen if regional collaborative efforts such as the Connect our Future initiatives are supported.



9th Annual
Neighborhood
Planning Conference

PLAN IT OR CHANCE IT

Planning for the Future of Our Neighborhoods



Ellen Dunham-Jones, author of *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*, is this year's keynote speaker.

Saturday, October 12, 2013
8:00am to 2:30pm
Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center

For more information and to register, call (803) 929-6000 or visit www.rcgov.us

President's Message

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voice that he espouses.

Finally, I've enjoyed taking time this summer to reflect on our profession and the allied professions—architecture, engineering, law and business—that support and complement the work that we do. I've especially enjoyed the resources at these websites and thought you would too.

- Strong Towns, www.strongtowns.org
- Planetizen, www.planetizen.com
- Prince's Foundation, www.princes-



foundation.org

- Better! Cities & Towns, <http://bettercities.net>

I also started a Twitter account and follow a variety of professional and entertaining personalities, feel free to check me out @Robby_Moody.

Robby

Robby Moody, AICP
President

Thank you



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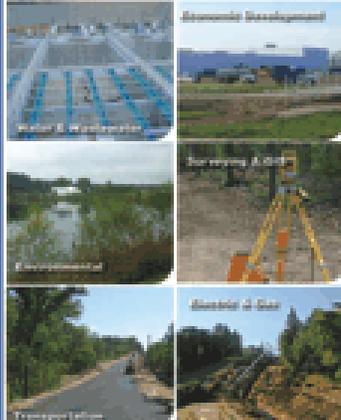


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