



# PSS News

*Puget Sound Section, Washington Chapter, American Planning Association*

*April-June 2003*

## 2003 Planning Law Conference a Huge Success by Gabe Snedeker, AICP

Over 250 planners, architects, lawyers, and public officials turned out for the 2003 Planning Law Conference on March 6<sup>th</sup> in Everett. The participation was the strongest we have seen in recent years. The event was convened by the Puget Sound Section and the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association. Peter Dykstra and Gabe Snedeker were the conference co-chairs. The hard working conference committee also included Richard Hart, George Steirer, Lyn Keenan, and Jim Colburn. Sponsors included Buck and Gordon, Snohomish County Economic Development Council, Reid Middleton, Hillis Clark Martin & Petersen, Foster Pepper & Shefelman, Huckell/Weinman Associations, and American Tower. A special thanks goes out to our sponsors for allowing us to hold the line on registration fees, despite rising costs, while ensuring a high quality event.

The highlight of the event was a well-received speech by Former Mayor of Seattle, Paul Schell during lunch. Mr. Schell's speech reflected on the full range of issues associated with creating livable and sustainable communities, from education, to transportation, to neighborhood planning. His holistic view of planning and community development emphasized the need to draw diverse public and private interests together to address our growing problems and ensure that the Puget Sound remains a place where people want to live and work.

Always a visionary, Mr. Schell emphasized the need to rethink our failing approach to regional government. He also unveiled the concept of the Seattle Station, which was detailed in a recent article he co-wrote in the Seattle Times. Essentially, the idea is to use the existing bus tunnel as one large downtown station and shuttle to which all our transit systems feed. By turning the tunnel's five stations into "Seattle Junction", we could connect all the different lines and transit technologies into a better-integrated system. The article asserts that

this proposal would save money, save the downtown from adverse impacts, and allow us to build new lines faster and extend them out farther. Mr. Schell obviously enjoyed talking with the crowd and answering questions. He ended by calling on citizens to consider political office, not as a permanent career, but rather as a way to serve your community for a limited period of time to invigorate government.

After a filling lunch, a diverse set of sessions on Best Available Science, Group Homes, and Permit Streamlining kept things rolling. The afternoon coffee break re-energized folks for the healthy debate prompted by the Growth Management Hearings Board session, along with sessions on Hearing Examiners and Hazard Mitigation Planning. The Washington Chapter of APA Board Meeting rounded out the event. Both the Puget Sound Section and the State Chapter really appreciate the contributions of all the speakers, panel moderators and presenters. Thanks to everyone who helped make this conference a success. See you next time!



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## 2003 Elections for the Board of the Puget Sound Section of the American Planning Association

Members of the Puget Sound Section, the time has come to cast your vote for new officers of the Board of the Puget Sound Section of the American Planning Association. The following positions are open: **President-Elect, Treasurer, and Snohomish County Representatives**. The President-Elect will hold that position for one year, then hold the position of President for one year, and then be on the Board as Past-President for one year. The Treasurer and Snohomish County Representative are elected to two-year terms.

The candidates' statements are included in this newsletter. Write-in candidates are allowed. Below is a ballot. May 9, 2003 is the deadline to cast your ballot. Each Puget Sound Section member is entitled to one vote per candidate.

Please send ballots to Liz Arnesen at:  
9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040 fax: 206-236-3599  
or by e-mail: [liz.arnesen@ci.mercer-island.wa.us](mailto:liz.arnesen@ci.mercer-island.wa.us)

### 2003 PSSAPA Board Member Elections

Name of Voter: \_\_\_\_\_

President Elect:

\_\_\_\_\_ Karen Langrock  
\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Hart  
\_\_\_\_\_

Snohomish County Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_ Hiller West  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **President Elect:**

### **Karen Langrock**

In addition to twelve years experience with planning and design firms in business development and project management support, I recently completed a Master of City and Regional Planning degree with an emphasis in transportation planning.

I strongly believe in bottom-up participation in professional organizations and bring enthusiasm and energy to work in the local arena for APA members. As President-Elect of the Puget Sound Section, my goals would be to:

- Promote educational and networking opportunities including the Planning Law Conference, Brown Bag Sessions, and the annual Holiday Event.
- Provide a strong presence on the WA-APA chapter board.
- Strengthen coordination with activities of other local chapters of professional organizations.
- Support the WA-APA Annual Conference.
- Improve communication within Section membership.
- Encourage planning student participation.

Let's work together to strengthen our profession and share our vision!

## **Treasurer:**

### **Richard Hart, AICP**

I am running for re-election to the position of Treasurer for the Puget Sound Section, APA Board. I have served in this position for the past two years and have provided sound leadership in the financial realm. I have worked closely with the other Board members to bring new ideas to the Board and represent all viewpoints of our region membership. During this time I have increased advertising revenues in our quarterly newsletter by 25%. I have worked with other Board members to find ways to

reduce costs of our newsletter publication by transitioning to on-line publication. I have carefully managed the financial resources of the Section to ensure that we have adequate resources to meet all obligations, fund future newsletter publications, support educational forums on relevant topics, as well as finance our traditional annual events of the Board Transition Dinner, the Holiday Party and the bi-annual Planning Law Conference. We currently have a Section financial balance of over \$6,000 to operate during the next two years. We are in sound financial shape. I would appreciate your vote to continue in this position the next two years, and I pledge to work with the new Board members using fiscal responsibility and integrity, and supporting our current bylaws and policies.

## **Snohomish County Representative:**

### **Hiller West**

My name is Hiller West and I have submitted my name as a candidate for Snohomish County representative to the APA Washington Chapter. I currently serve as Community Development Director for the city of Monroe. My professional background includes work with three cities, two counties and a council of governments. I'm a strong believer in the participatory planning process; and my specific areas of interest include capital facility planning and management of the building and planning functions. I believe good planning can be relevant and understandable to the public, and the planning process can be a means to involve residents in their community and improve their quality of life.

In addition to working as a planning professional, I have been a volunteer planning committee member of the North District Neighborhoods Planning Committee in North Seattle between 1996-2001, helping to prepare an Urban Village plan for the north area neighborhoods. I also worked as a planning consultant to public agencies for several years. I would like to provide my experience and energy towards representing Snohomish County our chapter board.

# DISCOVERING THE VALUE Encouraging Student Involvement in the PSS

by: Todd Hall  
PSS UW Student Representative  
2nd year Masters Student, UW Urban  
Design and Planning

What is the Puget Sound Section? What is the value of my membership? How can I become more involved in the local chapter and learn from its members? And (on a more personal note), what do you do as student representative on the PSS board? These are just a few questions that have been floating around Gould Hall as of late.

It is widely known that students often carry a heavy load, with limitless amounts of homework, countless hours in the studio, holding an internship or part-time job, and trying to fit in a personal life somewhere in the mix. Finding additional time to be a part of a planning organization can be a challenge, but worthwhile experience if students are shown and recognize the value.

Currently at the UW UDP department, we have an established Planning Student Association (PSA) which facilitates communication between faculty and students, works with the department's Professionals Council to create mentoring and networking opportunities, and organizes social events. This forum was created to keep encouraging students to participate and foster relationships with practicing planners. Often, these well publicized events are attended by many and have been a success.

Outside of the school forum, however, participation in

Section activities seems to be lagging. At the September state conference in Sea-Tac, I counted only three students (including myself) from the UW. Few students attend the many social events or brown bag seminars, mainly because of location. Most recently at the Planning Law Conference in Everett, I was the only student who attended this event. Each of these events are great learning and networking opportunities to connect with future colleagues.

Somehow this student apathy should be addressed. Students may be reluctant to join because of lack of time or the location of the event. Many don't even know the PSS exists! Most importantly, they might not recognize the VALUE. Some students don't see the value of joining the PSS or APA chapters because the only benefits they see are the national APA "Planning" magazines and the quarterly State newsletters.

PSS has recognized this as a concern and is searching for ideas to encourage student involvement. This can be in the form of increased leadership experiences, professional enrichment, or networking opportunities closer to students. Visibility should be increased so that students know what the Section does and how a student can participate. The Section could also investigate the possibility of establishing a scholarship program. PSSAPA would like to hear your ideas on this topic. Please forward your suggestions and concerns to:

Todd Hall  
tjhall74@u.washington.edu

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## Russian Urban Planners Visit Seattle

By Kandi Young of the Foundation for  
Russian American  
Economic Cooperation

From December 1 – 20, 2002, The Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation hosted ten urban planning specialists from Khabarovsk and Yakutsk, Russia. The delegation spent three weeks in our region on the US State Department-sponsored Community Connections Program, meeting their American counterparts and learning about urban planning in the US. This first Urban Planning Group hosted by the Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC) represented municipal planning organs, state universities, urban planning and civil engineering, public utilities agencies, independent press, and private sector enterprises in the Russian Far East.

Delegates had the opportunity to observe all aspects of urban planning on its administrative, academic, and practical levels and to discuss these concepts in depth with experts in those fields. Overall, the delegation came away from the visit with a first hand understanding of the vital role that growth management; roads and transportation planning; city, state and federal zoning and other regulations; and active community and individual involve-

ment play in improving the standards of living of all classes of the population. Above all, however, this learning process allowed for the delegates to gain an understanding of how to collaborate with American colleagues. FRAEC staff collaborated local organizations such as American Planning Association, Seattle Planning Commission, University of Washington's College of Architecture and Urban Planning, along with Seattle departments of Utilities, Neighborhoods, and others to present a complete picture of planning issues facing our region and sharing knowledge that delegates could incorporate into their work in Russia.

Khabarovsk city is the industrial, transport, administrative and cultural center of the Khabarovsk Krai, which is one of the largest administrative units of the Russian Federation. This city of 600,000 is the second largest in the Russian Far East and is located on the border with China. Yakutsk, a city of 200,000, is located in northeastern Siberia. Being the largest northern city in the world and built on permafrost, Yakutsk is faced with many unique architectural and utilities issues.

The delegates have tentative plans for further partnership with the University of Washington's College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

## RECAPS OF WINTER '03 BROWN BAGS

by Brown Bag Coordinator Steve Ladd  
AICP

### A Highway Runs Through It 1/29/03

The engineers are "out of the box!" The Context Sensitive Design (CSD) initiative allows them to seek unorthodox highway solutions. Safety is still king, but community, the environment, and aesthetics are right up there too. States have run pilot programs. A *Community Partnership for Best Practices* document has been published (NSHRP 480). CSD puts more *process* in the design process. Transportation plans still need some grounding in engineering realities. WDOT still has to comply with many laws and manage its liability. Unorthodoxies have to be carefully justified and documented. But at least your community has a chance for a solution tailored to its historic character, block length, parking layout, and business needs. It may be a roundabout, a U-turn pocket, even a "3-way couplet." Our thanks to speakers King Cushman, Eric Schmidt, Tim Bevan, and John Milton.



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## **Land Capacity Analysis 2/5/03**

We couldn't have done it without GIS. Michael Hubner and Steve Toy reviewed the Buildable Lands Reports recently completed for King and Snohomish Counties respectively in a flood of computer-projected maps and tables. The reports facilitate two levels of evaluation: whether city UGAs are sized alright, and ditto for the total UGAs of a county. Both counties reported healthy residential densities in post-1995 development, 7 units per net acre average in King County! The UGAs were generally large enough. Snohomish County ended up with capacity numbers based on two scenarios, one produced by the county government, the other by Snohomish Tomorrow (a multi-jurisdiction consortium). There's plenty for everyone to disagree on. It's amazing we've agreed on so much, and accomplished a complex task so well. Now to use the information in our comp plan updates.

## **Public Transportation, Land Use Linkages and Economic Development Opportunities 2/12/03**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has \$7.2 billion to spend on transit planning, capital facilities, and operational assistance. Former Seattle DCLU director Rick Krochalis now runs FTA's Region 10 office. Rick looks to his fellow city planners for good projects to fund – why not help him out? Washington spends little on transit compared to other states. We can help correct that by bridging the gap between transportation and land use planning and by helping our decision makers form a unified regional front on transit project priorities. In case studies focused on Portland, Everett, Bellevue, and Port Angeles, Rick demonstrated the multi-modal innovation his agency looks for.

## **Liveable Washington 2/19/03**

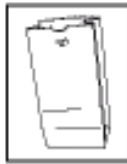
Lisa Verner and Jill Sterrett presented WA APA's position paper, a to-do list for improving growth management. The paper includes calls for new state-level planning initiatives, better state funding for local planning, and a requirement that state agencies observe local plans. Other priorities in Olympia appear to have dampened hopes of immediate legislative reform, but our WA APA and legislative committee are diligently publicizing this visually exciting, big-picture plea for reform. William Dietrich, Seattle Times writer, appreciated the paper's references to growth management success stories with a human face, and encouraged planners to contact him with story ideas at [thebigsqueeze@seattletimes.com](mailto:thebigsqueeze@seattletimes.com).

## **The New Hazard Mitigation Planning Requirement 2/26/03**

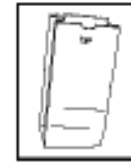
FEMA has increased its emphasis on loss prevention as opposed to rebuilding. Their new competitive grant program allowing governmental entities to prepare Hazard Mitigation Plans. Mark Carey of FEMA said \$130M will be spent nation-wide. The federal-local match is 75%-25%. Some of that money will be for planning, some for bricks and mortar to implement the plans. FEMA will accept applications April through June. Plans must include inter-organizational coordination, all-hazard risk assessment, and mitigation strategies. Jane Preuss of GeoEngineers showed maps of hazards identified in various communities. Risks are usually assessed via information that already exists, on GIS. The new HAZUS modeling software is an exciting new tool. Physical projects could include seismic strengthening, flood-proofing, protecting roadways from landslide, etc. Hazard mitigation is not a required GMA comp plan requirement, but the connection to critical area mapping and regulation is evident. Bottom line: you no longer need to wait for a disaster to get FEMA hazard mitigation assistance, but even with a disaster you now need a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to get such relief.

## **Fix Your Snarled Permit Processes! 3/5/03**

Steve Ladd has prepared Unified Development Codes (UDCs) incorporating Regulatory Reform for several cities. His UDCs streamline and clarify permit processes by integrating SEPA and all other procedures into one step-by-step sequence for each "permit type" as identified by process commonalities. The UDCs also integrate all administrative provisions pertaining to development regulations. See the separate article in this newsletter. George Newman of Triad Associates reviewed the history of planning in Washington as it affects permitting. As Snohomish County's Land Use Division (permitting) manager he created cross-functional review teams, built up a tracking system based on Amanda software, and put the code and application forms on-line. Now George partners with local jurisdiction planners to make high-density and infill projects happen. He's there not just as an advocate for the developer, but to help make the system work, and to build bridges wherever needed, such as between public works and planning. With his project tracking tools George actively facilitates the review process.



*announcing the*  
**Puget Sound Section APA**  
**SPRING '03 BROWN BAG SERIES**



**Print this schedule!** Come to the FREE session you need to do your job better. All events go until about 1:15. Contact Steve Ladd at [sladd@citybonneylake.org](mailto:sladd@citybonneylake.org) or (253) 862-8602 ext. 637 to RSVP and get directions.

**Great speakers! ↓**

Topic	Time	Place	Speakers
<b>Document Imaging / GIS Integration</b> Use GIS to link all the scanned signature documents, photos, etc. pertaining to an address or permit. A fun project for you and your community service volunteers!	Noon, Wed., April 23	Renton City Hall, 7 <sup>th</sup> floor (see below)	Steve Malone, world's 2 <sup>nd</sup> oldest Associate Planner ☺, City of Lynnwood
<b>Small-Lot Development</b> Is there a market and willingness for innovation in your community? Come see examples of higher density housing that broaden choice, are more affordable, and achieve growth management goals.	Noon, Wed., April 30	PSRC, 1011 Western Ave., Seattle, 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Kreager and Bryon Ziegler of the Mithun Partnership</li> <li>• Anna Nelson, Buck &amp; Gordon</li> </ul>
<b>All Bark No Bite?</b> Is there a credibility gap between you and your violators? Let these code enforcement specialists show you the state of the art in voluntary correction, hearing examiner adjudication, and tough legal bludgeons.	Noon, Wed., May 7	Renton City Hall, 7 <sup>th</sup> floor (see below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craig Flamme, City of Seattle</li> <li>• Jim Gough, City of Bellevue</li> <li>• Martin Nordby, City of Federal Way</li> </ul>
<b>Kemper Freeman Jr. on Retail's Role in Downtown Development</b> Downtown Bellevue's past, present, and future according to a third-generation businessman, civic leader, and public amenity advocate.	Noon, Wed., May 14	575 Bellevue Square	Kemper Freeman Jr., Kemper Development Co.  (Go S on Bellevue Way. At Borders Books, enter garage. Park on 5 <sup>th</sup> floor. Walk to new NE corner of 5 <sup>th</sup> floor.)
<b>Buildable Lands: Data Sources, Data Maintenance</b> The PSRC Regional Technical Forum (RTF) will discuss this topic in a noon-to-one prelude to their 1:00-to-3:30 meeting. If you don't normally attend the monthly RTF, take this opportunity to acquaint yourself.	Noon, Wed., May 21	PSRC, 1011 Western Ave., Seattle, 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	To be announced.
<b>Powerpoint for Planners</b> How to wield this tool on our audiences of choice: councils and commissions. How to choose slides, be concise, and make them want to give you a raise.	Noon, Wed., June 4	Renton City Hall, 7 <sup>th</sup> floor (see below)	Mike Katterman, AHBL

**Directions to Renton City Hall from I-405:** Take the downtown/SR167 exit, go north on Rainier Ave. to Grady Way, go east on Grady 1/2 mile to the new 7-story City Hall on the right, at 1055 S. Grady Way. Drive up to the free parking terrace.

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**Puget Sound Section  
Washington Chapter**

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