

Columbia Section News

Columbia Section
of the Washington
Chapter of the
American Planning
Association.

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Special Points of Interest:

- Chapter General Meeting
- Proposed Bylaw Amendments
- Chapter Elections
- Chapter & Section-Only Membership

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Proposed Bylaw Amendments

During past Section Board meetings, the Board reviewed and identified several areas of the Section Bylaws in need of review for possible amendment. Proposed amendments were subsequently drafted addressing the following:

Amendment 1 – Would amend Article IV, Sec-

tion E to clarify the location of posted notices regarding the results of elections or ballots;

Amendment 2 - Would allow for elections and voting to be performed by electronic ballot; and

Amendment 3 - Would revise the Chapter's

election timeframe to align with the National and Washington Chapter election timeframe.

A copy of the proposed amendments and summary will be sent out to the members by e-mail prior to the General Meeting on April 23,

President's Message by Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP

What an amazing time to be a planner! There are very few times in history when extraordinary social change has pushed government land use policies in unexpected ways. But that is what has happened with the legalization of marijuana. Regardless of personal opinion on the subject, it has been a fascinating time to watch how

individual communities have addressed the State law, how the State has addressed the voter mandate and how the Federal government has responded to it all. Getting the details on the impacts or being a part of creating new regulations can be an exciting part of being a planner. One way to be at the heart of changes (including

planning policy, research, and new regulations) is through participation in the APA and its activities. This newsletter includes several announcements about open positions, membership options and request for planners. I hope that you will find a few moments to involve yourself in one or more of the activities.

Miscellaneous Tidbits by Gary Mabley, AICP



Photo by Gary Mabley, AICP—Twin Sisters, Wallula Junction

General Meeting Announcement — The Columbia Section Board voted to conduct the Section's General Annual Meeting at the Eastern Washington Planner's Forum in Moses Lake on April 23, 2014. The meeting will be held during the lunch hour. One of the primary agenda items is a discussion and vote on the proposed Section Bylaw Amendments. A copy of the proposed amendments will be sent out to the members by e-mail. We hope you will be able to attend.

Vacant Positions & Upcoming Election— The existence and success of the Columbia Section is heavily dependent upon the active participation of its members. Volunteering to serve in one of the various Section positions offers numerous opportunities and benefits including:

1. Building your resume and raising your profile in the planning profession;
2. Meeting and networking with a great group of people, and opportunity to put your stamp on the organization and help it evolve;
3. Contributing to raise the visibility and credi-

bility of the planning profession.

The various positions serve on the Section Board, and most do not require a significant time commitment. Typically, the involvement includes participation in Board meetings, and reviewing and responding to email correspondence. The Section has a pressing need to fill the following positions:

President-Elect (elected) - Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP was formerly President-Elect and assumed the Section's Presidency following expiration of Gary Mabley, AICP term as President;

Secretary (elected) - Christina Wollman, AICP & CFM is resigning as Secretary; **Treasurer** (elected, but will be filled by appointment for the unexpired term) - Joe Schiessl, AICP is resigning at Treasurer to focus on his new position;

Public Information Officer (appointed) - The position is currently vacant;

Communications Officer (appointed) - Nathan Gwinn accepted a new position with the City of Spokane which is part of the Inland Empire Section.

In addition to the above positions, the Section still

has a number of vacant positions for County Representative for Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Grant, Franklin and Klickitat counties which need to be filled.

The various Section positions and their current status can be viewed on the State Chapter's website at <http://washington-apa.org/sections/columbia/>.

Chapter & Section Only Memberships

Something you may not be aware of is that the Washington Chapter of APA offers a less expensive **Chapter-only Membership** for students and entry level planners. There is also a **Chapter-only Group Membership** available to Planning Commissions, County Commissioners/Councils, City Councils, Tribal Councils and board members of non-profit organizations and other professional organizations. The objective is to raise the visibility of the planning profession and provide access to valuable information to a broader population. This category of membership cost has recently been lowered from \$83 to \$50/person/year effective in July 2014 and entitles members to reduced Chapter conference registration fees,

Volunteering to serve in one of the vacant positions enables you to network with a great group of people, helps build your resume and raises your profile in the planning profession.

Miscellaneous Tidbits—continued

Chapter & Section Only Memberships—cont.

e-mail distribution of the Chapter & Section's newsletter, access to the soon-to-be unveiled "Members Only" section of the Chapter's website, membership in the Columbia Section and e-mail notices regarding planning-related events and activities. **Chapter-only Group Membership** has even a lower rate, \$150 for

each group of 10. However, **Chapter-only Membership** does not provide membership in the National APA organization or associated benefits. A membership recruitment drive is going to start in conjunction with the Chapter Conference. Chapter members who recruit new members during this window will be eligible for discounts on their conference registration fee. More information is forthcoming on the

membership page at: <http://www.washington-apa.org/about/membership>. Please encourage your entry level planners, planning commissioners and elected officials to take advantage of this opportunity to become Chapter-Only members. For further information please contact **Ferdouse Oneza AICP** at foneza@gmail.com

This is an excellent opportunity to engage entry level planners, planning commission members and elected officials in the topic of planning, and introduce them to the Washington Chapter and Columbia Section.

County Corners

Benton County – The Ridges to Rivers Group received the APA 2014 National Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative for the **Ridges to River Open Space Network Vision Plan - Mid-Columbia Basin, Washington**. Education and engagement are an important part of the Ridges to River Open Space Network plan and the Amon Creek Natural Preserve is a key place to get people outdoors. Rapid and uncoordinated development was destroying the Mid-Columbia Basin region's open spaces. Embarking on a six-year effort, citizens of the region took action to protect the open spaces, trails and valuable habitats. The citizens not only recognized the need for a regional plan, but also worked to fund the effort through volunteer work and grants. The steering committee included representatives from seven major

jurisdictions, 10 nonprofits, and the metropolitan planning organization. The result, Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Vision Plan, is a plan that is the only region-wide document that promotes open space and trail connectivity as a regional economic driver with health benefits and improved quality of life for residents.

The plan makes it possible for two counties and four cities to speak the same language, share the same maps, and use the same technology to approach planning for the region. It includes recommendations for preserving and enhancing open space in the region. To date, 10 of the 26 open space and trail recommendations are in varying levels of implementation; and nine of the 24 general recommendations have been or are in the process of being imple-

mented. As a result of the citizen work, comprehensive plans are being amended, hillside standards are being written and on-the-ground efforts are providing critical trial linkages.

(Note: Reprinted from the National APA website)

Chelan County - The County has opted to review marijuana permits, issued by the State, the same as other agricultural activities. It may be similar to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. New Federal guidelines on transportation modeling/planning are being reviewed by the regional transportation agency. As an alternative, a local group has mapped a desired bike trail from Leavenworth to Wenatchee. This draft map has been talked about for many years but now that it is on paper maybe it can get rolling.



Photo reprinted from National APA Website.

The Columbia Section co-sponsored with the Ridges to Rivers Group a one day training workshop conducted by Randall Arndt on Conservation Design.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Subject and Contact	Location
Wednesday, April 23, 2013 9:30 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Eastern Washington Planner's Forum <i>Contact Dee Caputo AICP (509) 389-1291 dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov</i>	Big Bend Community College, ATEC Bldg. #1800, 7662 Chanute St NE, Moses Lake, WA
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Columbia Section General Meeting—held in conjunction with Eastern Washington Planner's Forum. <i>Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP (509) 667-6586 Lilith.Yanagimachi@CO.CHELAN.WA.US</i>	Big Bend Community College, ATEC Bldg. #1800, 7662 Chanute St NE, Moses Lake, WA
June 5-6, 2014	Inland Empire Section Conference	Priest Lake, ID
June TBD	Short Course on Local Planning <i>Dee Caputo, AICP (509) 389-1291 dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov</i>	Ellensburg, WA
October 16—17, 2014	APA Washington Annual Conference	Spokane, WA
April 18-22, 2015	2015 APA National Conference	Seattle, WA



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