

**NJCPA Regular Meeting  
Tatum Park Red Hill Activity Center, Heath Room  
Middletown, NJ  
September 21, 2018**

**Member Attendance:**

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Affiliation</b> | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Affiliation</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| John Peterson        | Atlantic           | Harriet Honigfeld | Monmouth           |
| Frances Brown        | Atlantic           | Christine Marion  | Morris             |
| Ranae Fehr           | Atlantic           | Jason Miranda     | Passaic            |
| Ken Aloisio          | Bergan             | Vickie Pecchioli  | Ocean              |
| Andrew Levecchia     | Camden             | Steve Simone      | Ocean              |
| Katelynn Wintz       | Cape May           | Walter Lane       | Somerset           |
| Andrew Lloyd         | Mercer             | Laurette Kratina  | Somerset           |
| George Ververides    | Middlesex          | James Ruggieri    | Somerset           |
| Gerry Scharfenberger | Monmouth           | Katelyn Brennen   | Somerset           |
| Linda Brennen        | Monmouth           | Kamal Saleh       | Union              |

**Other Agencies/Guests:**

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Colleen McGurk       | NJ Office for Planning Advocacy |
| Allen Weston         | NJ Association of Counties      |
| Dr. Ashwani Vasishth | Ramapo College                  |
| Suzanne Ishee        | NJIT                            |
| Dr. Kevin Keenan     | Rowan                           |
| Dr. Karen Lowrie     | Rutgers                         |

**Welcome & Introduction:**

NJ County Planners Association President Linda Brennen called the meeting to order at 11:11am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Business**

**Executive Committee Report**

President Brennen reported the letter regarding the State Development and Redevelopment Plan had been sent to the Governor. She thanked John Peterson and Laurette Kratina and the Executive Committee for their assistance in drafting the letter. President Brennen also thanked Laurie Sobel for collecting comments from the counties for a letter sent to the State Agricultural Development Committee regarding the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Rule Amendment Proposal.

President Brennen stated an ACIP Certification Maintenance Law Presentation will be shown at October's meeting.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the July 20, 2018 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Peterson and seconded by Andrew Levecchia. Minutes were approved.

## **Treasurers Report**

No report was given.

## **Panel Presentations**

President Brennen provided a brief overview of the Trends and Innovations in Planning Education Panel Discussion. The goal of the panel was to highlight trends in the education of future planners and illustrate how more planners are coming from non-traditional planning training.

### **Ramapo College**

Katelynn Wintz of Cape May County, a graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey, introduced Dr. Ashwani Vasishth from the *Ramapo's School of Social Science and Human Services*. Dr. Vasishth's presentation was entitled *Innovations in Education for Sustainability: A Trans-Disciplinary Ecosystem Approach to Teaching Sustainability*. He explained RCNJ has both an undergraduate Major in Sustainability (SUST) and a Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies (MASS). These programs can be coordinated to provide undergraduate students a 5-Year Degree Option. He stated while RCNJ does not have a planning degree, both SUST and MASS are informed by a deep knowledge of sustainability planning from within a complex adaptive socio-ecological systems frame, offering a holistic ecosystem approach to Sustainability Planning. Dr. Vasishth reviewed an article by Rittel and Webber's, *Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning* and an article by Holling and Goldberg entitled *Ecology and Planning*. Both of these articles provide the foundation for using an ecosystem approach to sustainability planning.

### **NJIT**

Katelyn Brennen of Somerset County, a graduate of NJIT, introduced Suzanne Ishee, President of the Center for Creative Placemaking and oversees the NJIT/Continuing Professional Education Certificate in Creative Placemaking program. Ms. Ishee described Creative Placemaking as the intentional integration of arts and culture in community, social and economic development planning. The NJIT certificate program is a comprehensive and deeply immersive in-class course of study with additional practicum providing training for cross-sector professionals in the process and implementation of Creative Placemaking planning. The course is administered by three core faculty members along with nine additional specialists who provide expertise in the multiple disciplines required to lead and effectuate sustainable Creative Placemaking.

### **Rowan University**

Andrew Levecchia of Camden County, an adjunct Professor at Rowan University, introduced Dr. Kevin Keenan, Chairperson of the Department of Geography, Planning, and Sustainability at Rowan. He described how Rowan is creating innovative curricula that blend critical perspectives on the study of space, place, scale, and context with traditional planning concepts in an environmental planning and

design approach. The department developed programs that focus on studying the use of natural resources within existing economic arrangements, the problems and prospects of food systems planning, and the complexity and rewards of using advanced geographical information science techniques in planning including the use of drones. Rowan is a key partner in the development of the NJ Map project. The planning program also integrates concepts informed by urban geography and applied science to offer much needed critical thinking skills along with tangible outlets for application.

### **Rutgers University**

Steve Simone of Ocean County, a graduate of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, introduced Dr. Karen Lowrie who provided an overview of some of the new initiatives in planning education at Rutgers University. She highlighted new degree programs, the development of new courses that intersect health and planning, and the numerous continuing education offerings at Rutgers. Dr. Lowrie detailed how students have opportunities to engage with the planning profession and assist in critical planning research.

After the presentations, there was a wide ranging discussion regarding the future of the planning profession, planning trends such as creative placemaking, health planning and the basic skills new planners need to be successful. President Brennen thanked all of the panelists for their excellent presentations.

### **New Business**

#### **Waste Reductions at Meetings**

Andrew Lloyd led a brief discussion about ways the Association could reduce the amount of waste generated at the Association's meetings. Several ideas were discussed and there was agreement that the first steps would be for attendees to bring their own water bottles for meetings and using paper plates instead of Styrofoam plates. Additional suggestions should be sent to President Brennen and Andrew.

### **Agency Updates**

Allen Weston reported on several legislative bills. S2863 revised the requirements for grant recipients of the Transportation Trust Fund Authority local aid program. A4424 would allow counties and municipalities to bond for passenger cars and station wagons solely fueled by electric or renewable power sources. He also reported on the State's Water Infrastructure Plan, Pension Reform legislation and NJAC's Annual Year Event focusing on 911 Systems and Active Shooter Preparedness.

Colleen McGurk briefed the Association on the Office of Planning Advocacy's efforts. She reported she would be leaving OPA very shortly and was unsure who would represent OPA at future Association meetings. President Brennen thanked Colleen for her attendance at the Association's meetings and wished her success in her future endeavors.

### **Committee Updates**

On behalf of the Transportation Committee, Kamal Saleh reported on NJ Transit's and the PATH System's Positive Train Control implementation efforts, NJDOT Local Aid announcements and increased

freight volumes at Port Authority Terminals. George Ververides reported on the status of Gateway and Portal Bridge Projects, weight restrictions on the freight rail network impacting freight movement and the I495 Helix Project near the Lincoln Tunnel. John Peterson reported on the cancelation of NJ Transit passenger service on the Atlantic City Line.

Laurie Sobel submitted the Open Space Committee report that provided updates on the State's FY2019 appropriations for open space funding and the upcoming stormwater conference in December hosted by NJ Waterworks. Laurette Kratina reported on scheduled hearings regarding the State's Energy Master Plan.

The Education and Technology Committee did not have anything to report.

The Communications Committee report was given by Andrew Levecchia. He reported he has been working on updating the Association's website to provide a planning news feed. He requested suggestions for news items to be included on the feed. Counties are encouraged to send RFPs, job postings and photos for posting to the website.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by George Ververides and seconded by Linda Brennen. The meeting adjourned at 2:13PM.

Respectfully submitted by Walter C. Lane, PP/AICP, 10-19-18