

KANSAS PLANNING



American Planning Association
Kansas Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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2014 Executive Committee

President

Lisa Koch, AICP

April 2014

President's Message

Lisa Koch, AICP

Hello Kansas Planners! I am looking forward to the American Planning Association National Conference this week! I will be traveling to sunny Atlanta on Friday to attend Chapter President Council meetings on Friday and Saturday and then attend conference sessions on Sunday and Monday. This will be my first time visiting Atlanta! While there, I am looking forward to seeing the Atlanta Beltline (and trail/streetcar line that is under development) and I hear that there is a great city market called The Curb Market within a 15 minute walk of the conference site with many great food vendors! I also hope to see many of you there - if you see me, come over and say "hi!"

Our 2014 Spring Symposium was a great success (more info below)! The sessions were fantastic, the weather was reasonable (I only felt a handful of raindrops), and the company was wonderful! The APA-KS Executive Committee has already decided that next year's Symposium will be in Manhattan in coordination with KState! We are so excited to see this continue to be a partnership with our great planning schools!

You received a handful of email requests this month. The first was to take a survey regarding chapter dues. Please take the time to complete this survey (link below), as it is extremely important to how our chapter is funded! Thank you for your consideration of this important topic. The second was regarding the 2014 Kansas Planning Conference Call for Sessions. We would love to have many sessions to choose from! If you have any ideas, big or small, we would love to hear from you (details below)!

Until next month, happy planning!

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Membership Dues Survey - There's Still Time to Provide your Input

If you have not already, please take a few minutes to complete the survey regarding APA-Kansas membership dues and finances. Kansas Chapter membership dues have not increased since 1984 and the Executive Committee is currently examining dues levels and Chapter finances. Your input is an important part of the discussion. If you have additional questions or feedback about membership dues or Chapter finances, please contact any Executive Committee member. The short survey located here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/APAKSDUES>

Thank you for your time on this important subject and for supporting APA-KS!

Call for Sessions for State Conference - Might You Have Something to Share?

Bonnie J. Johnson, AICP
Professional Development Officer

The State Conference is October 2 - 3 in Wichita. Anyone is eligible to submit a session, presentation, or planning commissioner training proposal, whether or not he or she is a member of APA. If you have a particular expertise or have recently completed a planning initiative that others may learn from, we encourage you to submit a proposal. Our members are particularly interested in case studies with usable take away points. We are interested in session proposals with 3 to 4 speakers or in individual presentations that can be combined with other presentations to create sessions. We will combine presentations into logical sessions so don't worry if you don't have enough for a whole session. This year we are trying something new and that is planning commissioner training. If you have a session, presentation, or workshop that would especially benefit planning commissioners, please submit it and help launch this new initiative to be of assistance to our planning commissioners.

The deadline is June 7th. Send those proposals to Bonnie Johnson, Professional Development Officer, email: bojojohn@ku.edu. The submittal form was emailed previously, and you can request another copy from Bonnie at the above email address.

Spring Sustainability Symposium - Success!

On March 28th, we held our Spring Symposium - "Sustainability: Doing it the Kansas Way." Forty-five planners and planning students from across the state came to Lawrence to hear about how to create sustainable communities that are more equitable, economically viable, and environmentally sound. The symposium included presentations, a bus tour, and a walking tour. It was approved for a total of 4.25 CM credits.



Here are some highlights and how you can learn more: Christina Holt, Associate Director of Community Tool Box Services presented how anyone can use the Community Tool Box to promote community engagement - <http://ctb.ku.edu/en> . Kirk McClure, Professor of Urban Planning, KU talked about "The Sustainability of Housing Markets in Kansas". Ruth Ann Atchley, Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology explained how nature can help us recharge from the stresses created when technology and us are always "on". Steve Vukelich, Senior Associate with Gould Evans gave us a walking tour of the Lawrence Public Library as it is expanded and becomes LEED certified - <http://www.lawrence.lib.ks.us/renovation-construction/> . Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator for Douglas County and Lawrence showed us urban gardens for residents and for farm entrepreneurs as part of the Common Ground program - http://www.lawrenceks.org/common_ground . Lastly, Jim Modig, University Architect/Director of KU Design & Construction Management showed us the bio-swale on West Campus and the new pervious surface parking lot - <http://www.dcm.ku.edu/campus-master-plan> . Also, people got the chance to see a display called - "1 Kansas Farmer" which is a 6 poster display using art, science, and history of the Dust Bowl to better understand the environmental realities facing Kansas and Kansas farmers today. The posters were based on research by KU and KSU professors - <http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibitions/1-kansas-farmer.shtml> .

The Next AICP Exam Window

The next AICP exam application window opens June 3, 2014. The Early Bird Application deadline is June 17 and the final deadline is July 24th. Check out the AICP website to get details and access the online form: <http://www.planning.org/aicp/>

I will be auditing the exam in May so will be better able to help people prepare after having experienced the exam anew! (I took it in 1997 and have blocked out a lot of it!)

More of the 2013-2014 Chapter Presidents Council Study Manuals for the AICP Exam on CD-ROM are coming soon. The cost is \$10.00 and you can purchase one from me, just drop me an email.

One easy thing to study that we know if on the exam is the code of ethics available here: <http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm> .

Professional Development Committee - We Have New Members!

We have some returning and some new people on the Professional Development Committee. This is the committee that helps put the sessions together for the state conference and helps with any other educational opportunities. Returning members are:

- Jennifer Schmitendorf, Assistant Program Manager for the Center for Professional Education Programs, University of Kansas
- Steve Zilkie, AICP, Senior Planner in the Community Development Department, City of Manhattan

And new members are:

- Amy Kynard, AICP, Senior Planner in the Planning Division, City of Olathe
- Magi Tilton, AICP, Development Services Administrator in Community Development, City of Lenexa, and
- David Neal, AICP, Planning & Zoning Director, Saline County

Thank you all for pitching in!

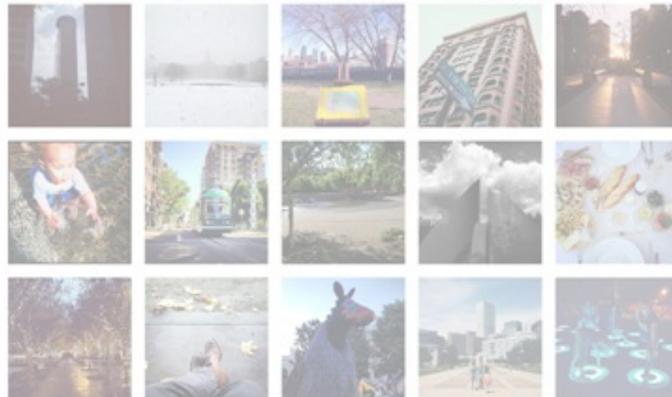
Contact me - - If you have questions about applying for the AICP exam, taking the exam, or getting your CM credits, let me know. Also send any conference proposals my way. Email: bojojoh@ku.edu or 785-864-7147. Bonnie Johnson, Associate Professor, University of Kansas, Department of Urban Planning, 1465 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 418, Lawrence, KS 66045-7626.



CAPTURING THE BUZZ

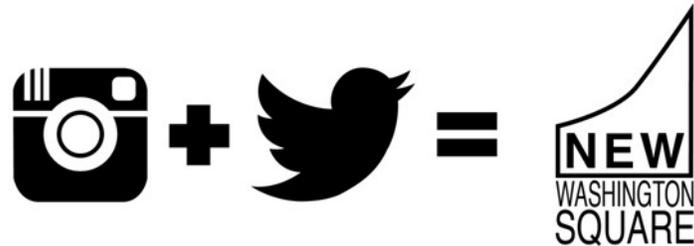
Social Media as a Design Informant for
Urban Civic Spaces

Mitchel Loring | Master's Report | 2014



Civic spaces are important nodes of community life. Especially in an urban context, civic spaces provide a necessary place that people can gather for events, meet others, and experience openness in an otherwise crowded environment. However, not all civic spaces are successful in providing these opportunities to city dwellers. Washington Square in Kansas City, Missouri is one such civic space that is currently underused and unsuccessful. Traditional methods of analyzing public spaces can be

supplemented by a social media-based methodology of analysis. Analyzing social media posts submitted within the geographic boundaries of a civic space offers rich insights into the public perception and usage of these places. The application of a social media-based methodology to Washington Square resulted in the development of solutions for addressing this space's dilemmas and Kansas City's goals for the area.



Instagram and Twitter posts were collected within the geographic boundaries of Washington Square and three other civic spaces—which have been identified as exhibiting characteristics of Kansas City's goals for Washington Square. Using a content analysis, experiential analysis, geographic analysis, and textual analysis, these posts are studied to discover the repeated themes that people are documenting in these civic spaces. This data was then synthesized to create solutions for the redevelopment of Washington Square.



This research demonstrates that a social media-based analysis can effectively inform planners and designers of the ways in which people use and perceive civic spaces. This information can be

utilized in the creation of a design and planning agenda for redeveloping an underperforming civic space.

Legislative Message

Ryan McKay, AICP

The 2014 Kansas Legislative session is drawing to a close and both houses are adjourned until April 30th which is the deadline to veto bills. By now, all proposed bills have been considered by both houses and several could potentially impact the planning profession throughout Kansas. Here is a list of those bills:

House Bill 2417, regarding the expansion of Rural Opportunity Zones would add several counties to the existing 73 counties designated as within the Rural Opportunity Zone. The state offers economic incentives to individuals relocating from out-of-state, to counties within the designated zone.

House Bill 2419 regarding the detachment of annexed land and fire districts would amend existing law to include land annexed by The City of Overland Park and would remove the time limit in which the agreement between cities and fire districts must be reached as well as the process required in cases where an agreement cannot be reached.

Senate Bill 304 proposes to restrict municipal-provided broadband services similar to the Google Fiber network. In essence, this bill would prohibit municipalities from incentivizing, or contracting with private business to offer, provide or carry telecommunications or broadband service to subscribers. This bill did not make it out of the 2014 session and could be reconsidered during the 2015 session.

Senate Bill 323 was introduced in this legislative session and would greatly impact Conservation Easements in The State of Kansas. If the bill progresses in the next legislative session, it would amend law to limit the duration of a conservation easement to 50 years, or if the grantor was an individual, would terminate upon the death of the grantor or upon a specified term of years specified at the time of the easements creation.

One last bill that created much controversy over the last couple of legislative sessions was **House Bill 2366** which proposed to prohibit any public funds by a state agency or municipality for the promotion, support or implementation of sustainable development and could have greatly impacted municipal, state and private planning professionals across the state. As the bill failed to progress out of committee in both the 2013 and 2014 sessions, the bill is now considered dead.

The Kansas APA Chapter will keep its members apprised of updates as the legislative deadline is fast approaching. Please visit <http://kslegislature.org/li/> for the latest on all legislative happenings. If there is particular bill or issue you would like

Kansas APA to track in the future, please let us know.



Save the Date
Kansas Planning Conference
October 3 - 4, 2013
Manhattan
Hilton Garden Inn

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