

NEWSBRIEF

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association

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American Planning Association
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

NEWSBRIEF

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Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association

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Same Newsbrief, New Format!

In order to keep up with the ever-evolving ways that people receive and digest information, the APA Virginia Newsbrief will now be coming to an email inbox near you on a monthly basis. We will be delivering the same great content and information that you have come to expect from the publication, only now with more frequent, condensed editions. Newsbrief will continue to be the flagship publication for the Chapter, and will evolve into a more robust repository for in-depth analyses of issues and events, while general announcements of upcoming events and webinars will be advertised via our weekly/bi-weekly E-blast email.

If you have an interesting topic or case study that you think would benefit APA Virginia Chapter members, please consider contributing to the Newsbrief by submitting a request to have your article published. Contact Newsbrief@APAVirginia.com for all inquiries.

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NEWS *from* *the* BOARD

By Earl Anderson, AICP

Hello Virginia Planners,

I am writing this from my temporary work desk sitting in my living room. My wife and daughter sit at the kitchen table completely their work and school work. Many of you may be in a very similar situation and I hope this Newsbrief finds you healthy and well and practicing good social distancing. Welcome to the "new" Newsbrief. Our editor, Krissy, has been working very hard to revamp the newsletter and to bring you a more consistent document that will help you know what is going on in Virginia planning. I want to thank her immensely for her hard work and you will see how great a job she has done over the next several months.

It is hard to talk about last year, but we wanted to catch you up. We had two significant events last year that are highlighted in this issue: the 2019 Annual Conference and our symposium in Alexandria. Both had amazing sessions and tours from professionals around the state and we had some terrific networking sessions. A big thanks to Donald and the Hampton Conference Committee for everything they did to help us have a great conference and get to see and taste what the city offers. Also, a big thank you to Tony for showcasing Alexandria and helping planners to better understand how to implement affordable housing.

The Board and 2020 Richmond Conference Committee have been working hard to figure out how our 50th Anniversary 2020 Conference will work. Hopefully, you saw that we have postponed the conference until September 13 through 16. We will still be in Downtown Richmond, so be on the lookout for more information over the coming weeks, if you would like to register early, we will have some special pricing for hotel and registration. This conference is looking to be one of the best we have had and will literally, "Get You Moving".

Lastly, thanks to our Past President, George Homewood, FAICP you will soon be seeing the Chapter's slate for officers. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I know this new slate of officers is pretty terrific, so I know I will be moving to Past President with confidence that the Chapter will be in most excellent hands. Ballots will be out electronically in July 2020.

Stay safe and healthy.

With gratitude for all you do,

Earl

2019 Events in Review

2019 APA Virginia Annual Conference “Resilience”

Hampton, July 21—24, 2019

APA Virginia had one of its most successful and eventful conferences to-date at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in July 2019. The conference theme was Resilience: Values, Places, Holistic, and provided conference-goers with four days of top speakers, sessions, and mobile tours that explored all aspects of resiliency in regards to the environment, housing, economy, diversity, zoning, placing making, etc.

In addition to the educational components of the conference, there were also opportunities for Conference-goers to explore Hampton’s history, diversity, and coastal living as



APA Virginia Board of Directors Members (from left to right): **David Maloney**, AICP, **Donald Whipple**, AICP, and **George Homewood**, FAICP greet Chapter members before the first session of mobile tours during the 2019 APA Virginia Annual Conference in Hampton.



David Imburgia and **Lucy Stoll**, AICP from the City of Hampton’s Community Development Department provide an overview of the **Resilient Hampton Initiative**: the City’s approach to plan for and implement a process for coastal resiliency.

well as showcasing many fine craft breweries, distilleries, and cideries.

Conference highlights included a Welcome Reception at the Virginia Air and Space Museum, an evening reception at the Vanguard Brewpub and Distillery, the 2019 Annual Planning Awards Luncheon, and speeches from three highly notable keynote speakers: Robert O’Neill, Jr., Senior Vice President of Public Finance at Davenport & Company; Kurt Christensen, FAICP, President of the American Planning Association; and Elizabeth Andrews, Professor of the Practice of Law, and Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center at the College of William & Mary.



2019 APA Virginia Symposium “Building Partnerships through Planning” Alexandria, October 20—21, 2019

On October 20 and 21, over 60 people gathered for the Building Partnerships Through Planning Symposium hosted by the City of Alexandria, the American Planning Association Virginia Chapter, and the Virginia Housing Development Authority. The two-day symposium invited planners, policy makers, elected officials and members of the business community to discuss how partnerships can make planning projects successful. This is APA Virginia’s second annual symposium.

Tony LaColla, AICP, Division Chief with the City of Alexandria’s Planning and Zoning Department and organizer of this year’s event, said that the symposium provided an opportunity to share some of the great planning in Alexandria. “The City is working on so many innovative planning efforts and has a lot to be proud of. We wanted to showcase our work and provide best practices to members throughout the region and the Chapter.”

He also noted that the symposium provided an opportunity to network with other planners working on similar issues. “With Amazon coming to Northern Virginia and the ever-growing population, sharing lessons learned can help everyone make better planning decisions,” LaColla said.

According to LaColla, this year’s theme related to projects that the City of Alexandria has undertaken with different partners — such as the South Patrick Street (Route 1) Housing Affordability Study—around the preservation of affordable housing as the area redevelops.

Working with partners such as the Alexandria Office of Housing, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the Alfred Street Baptist Church, local land use attorneys, developers, property owners and neighborhood residents, the City of Alexandria Planning and Zoning Department created a Small Area Plan for the corridor and instituted an innovative new zoning category that provides a major density bonus when a development project preserves the same number existing affordable housing units exist-



Staff from the City of Alexandria’s Department of Planning and Zoning and Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities lead a tour of the Alexandria Waterfront along the Potomac River.

2019 Events in Review...

ing on a site.

Another example of partnership that was highlighted included projects implemented by Rebuilding Together DC and the Alexandria Park, Recreation, and Cultural Activities Department. Rebuilding Together DC, while typically focused on maintaining affordable housing and creating homeownership opportunities, has been collaborating with Alexandria to improve parks and recreation facilities in underserved communities including the creation of a community garden and community teen center.

The symposium also included several mobile workshops to showcase some of the examples of projects discussed in sessions throughout the day. One such mobile workshop to the Ferdinand T. Day School,

featured a former six-story office building and adjacent parking garage from the 1990's that were historically repurposed to create one of the City's newest elementary schools. Educational and classroom uses span four floors of the office building and a new skybridge connects to the adjacent playground on the garage rooftop.

The importance of partnerships in planning was echoed throughout the symposium but stressed by an opening message provided by Alexandria Planning Director Karl Moritz, who said, "Success cannot be achieved without working closely with partners such as our neighbors and stakeholders. Working together with partners, our city is able to accomplish far more and with greater success."

WELCOMING VIRGINIA'S NEWEST FAICP INDUCTEES

The APA Virginia Chapter would like to congratulate and welcome two more Virginians to the College of Fellows for AICP for 2020! Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. Learn more about the FAICP nomination and induction process [here](#). The APA Virginia Newsbrief occasionally spotlights FAICP members from Virginia to commend these planners on their dedication to the planning profession and to inform Chapter members of the great work being done around the state by fellow planners. If you know an FAICP member who deserves a spotlight in an upcoming issue of Newsbrief, please drop us a line at Newsbrief@apavirginia.com.



Lorna Parkins, FAICP

Lorna has been a driving force for innovation and sustainability in transportation planning, notably in the Mid-Atlantic region, for 30 years. She has thrived in some of the most technically challenging areas of planning that link land use and transportation, including scenario planning, data-driven prioritization, and quantitative indirect and cumulative effects analysis. She has always strived to improve the voice and understanding of communities in transportation decision making. In her transit planning work, results have included improved ridership and access to jobs. As both an employee and mentor, she has been a champion for women professionals and work-life balance.

Lorna currently serves as a Technical Manager IV / Vice President for Michael Baker International in Richmond, Virginia, and she has had an extensive career mainly in the private sector. Lorna has been on the Board of Directors for APA Virginia since 2016 and has served as the Chapter's Development Chair since then. Lorna holds a Bachelor's degree in Urban Affairs and Planning from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota.

2020 FAICP Inductees...

Outstanding Career Accomplishments

- Developing and applying innovative planning methods linking land use and transportation to improve long range planning, including scenario planning and data-driven prioritization processes
- Advancing the methods for quantitative analysis of indirect and cumulative impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to improve transportation corridor decision-making
- Breaking new ground for several states in the incorporation of community impact assessment in NEPA to improve the social and environmental sustainability of transportation investments
- Improving community sustainability through effective transit planning that better links jobs and residents and has increased transit ridership despite national trends of declining transit ridership
- Advocating for myself and other women planning professionals with results including improved work-life balance policies, mentorship, and retention

Liz Via-Gossman, FAICP

Elizabeth “Liz” Via-Gossman is currently the Director of Community Development for Manassas, Virginia. For the past 30 years, she has employed her professional skills and innate talents to better the Virginia communities where she has worked and lived. She is a trusted, effective leader and does not shy away from advocating for that which she feels is right. She believes in “make no little plans,” but is particularly skilled at prioritizing the smaller steps that are needed for project implementation. Her professional practice has produced lively and vibrant communities to the benefit of the people she serves.

Over the course of her career, Liz has worked as a planner in several municipalities throughout the Commonwealth, mainly in central Virginia. She has also held several leadership positions on the APA Virginia Board of Directors, including President and Vice President, and she has been an accredited AICP member since 1992. Liz holds a Bachelor’s degree in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College, and a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from George Washington University.



Outstanding Career Accomplishments

- Supported the implementation of commuter rail to Washington DC by advocating and planning for a rail stop in downtown Manassas restoring the historic train station (ca. 1914).
- Directed the revitalization of Historic Downtown Manassas with two action plans (1992 and 2008) that resulted in \$45 million in private investment and a 40% increase in tax revenue.
- Initiated the Manassas Neighborhood Services Program (2006 – 2017) that was recognized in 2011 by the Virginia Municipal League with a President’s Award for its’ innovation.
- Created a Community Conversations planning process that, in 2019, led Governing Magazine (Washington, DC) to name Manassas a Top Performer in Resident Involvement.
- Raised the profile of the Virginia Chapter with the publication of a primer on Virginia’s growth management tools that was presented before the Virginia General Assembly (2000).

2020 Annual Conference News

Join us in Richmond September 13 - 16 for the APA Virginia 2020 Annual Conference. This year marks the conference's **50th anniversary!** The conference has been rescheduled from its original date in July in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of this year's conference is "We'll Get You Moving!" and will focus on how transportation plays a key role in how communities and neighborhoods are designed and function. For more details on the conference and to register to attend, please visit the [Annual Conference website](#).

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY BIRD PRICING UNTIL JULY 31ST!

2020 APA Virginia Chapter Annual Conference **WE'LL GET YOU MOVING!**



A Message from the APA Virginia President

We look forward to seeing each of you in September. While there are currently many unknowns about the pandemic and many budgets are shifting, the APA Virginia Board of Directors made the decision to reduce all conference registrations by 20% (based on the 2019 fees). Additionally, we have worked to package hotel rooms with conference registration which increases the discount on registration to 25% and discounts the regular conference room night rate. We hope this will make the conference more affordable and accessible for attendees to join us in Richmond in September.

Earl Anderson, President, APA Virginia Board of Directors