June Meeting Minutes

APA-MD Chapter: 6/27/14 Meeting

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Location: Ravens Conference Room, 10th Floor, 100 South Charles Street, Baltimore, MD

No Quorum at 10:00 a.m. A discussion ensued of general items not requiring a quorum

Jenny Plummer-Welker has not been able to schedule a meeting on changes to the Bylaws.

Board Nominations discussed by Jackie Seneschal. It was discussed that David Jenkins has agreed to serve as Southern Maryland Representative and Lauren Good as Statewide Representative.

This segued into a discussion about the Port Tour event: 44 people attended and were asked what activities they would like and there was an interest in a tour of the new casino in Baltimore City and maybe a tour of the neighborhood. Jackie prefers to have CM credits for these events.

Jackie Seneschal recommended having the Annual Meeting in late September at the Engineers Club and to focus on the work of the Sustainable Growth Commission; Rafey is in charge of planning for this event. Also discussed was the idea of hosting a once a month meetings at the Engineers Club with CM credits.

Discussion of Local government Exchanges (LGEs): Pat Haddon has just sent out the surveys and has had lots of positive comments. The Southern Maryland LGE had 50 people in attendance and they will make a profit. This LGE was approved for 5.25 CM credits. The Eastern Shore LGE was attended by 26 people. The Western Maryland LGE also made a profit. The Central Maryland (Baltimore) LGE did not – lost $200. CMs have not yet been approved.

Quorum declared - Meeting was called to order at 10:29 a.m.

Attendees:  
Jackie Seneschal – President  
Jacqui Rouse – Professional Development Officer (Minutes)  
Pat Haddon - Member-at-Large Southern Maryland  
Dr. Siddhartha Sen - Faculty Representative Morgan State University  
Jim Noonan - Treasurer  
Rafey Subhani – Vice President  
Kyle Nembhard - Member-at-Large Metro Area  
Andrew Bernish – MDP Representative and Webmaster

Old Business
Motion - Jim Noonan made a motion to approve Lauren Good as Statewide Representative – Pat Haddon seconded. This was approved unanimously.

Motion – Jim Noonan made a motion to approve David Jenkins as Southern Maryland Representative and Pat Haddon seconded. This was approved unanimously.

Jackie Seneschal discussed National Planning Month and what she wants committee to do – wants PSA’s and a calendar to publish with events on it. She would like a report in July from the Committee that she has appointed on activities planned;

Jackie Seneschal also stated that we had now dealt with all the Old Business and there was nothing else to discuss that she knew of.

New Business

Discussion of bills that are awaiting payment, including the web bill. Jim Noonan is checking on Planning Webcast payment; Need to add money to web account.

Motion - Pat Haddon made a motion which was seconded by Rafey Subhani to increase website budget by $200. This was approved unanimously

Treasurers Report: Jim Noonan described current finances and outlays.

Activities Report: – Rafey Subhani will re-schedule the committee meeting.

Website Report: - Andrew Bernish gave website report. Jackie Seneschal is forwarding his report to everyone on the call – visits were down – may have been because Andrew was on vacation; We have received the Kornish bill and we have not yet authorized enough money in budget with previous motion to pay him for his website services. Andrew has been using our twitter feed

Jackie Seneschal asked how much money the chapter will need between now and Dec 2015 to maintain website and it was decided that the chapter needs $1100 total. We have already authorized $200 and Rafey made a motion to increase the website budget to $100. Pat Haddon seconded. This passed unanimously;

Jackie Seneschal stated that we have many compliments on the latest newsletter

Maryland Department of Planning Report – Andrew Bernish stated that MDP is focusing on Infill, Redevelopment and Revitalization Initiative (IRR) and will first be focusing on Baltimore City. The IRR effort is being coordinated through the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. Information on the IRR is on the MDP website http://planning.maryland.gov/YourPart/773/infill.shtml/

Some not so good news is that MDP facing budget cuts and they will not be sponsoring the conference in October and are not able to pay for any attendees to the upcoming regional conference. Delaware is upset about this as they use conference profits to fund chapter activities.
Jackie Seneschal believes that the chapter needs to place additional emphasis on our work with MDP to re-inforce the importance of these efforts.

Jacqui Rouse asked if the chapter had adopted a budget at the last meeting and Jim Noonan said we have not. Currently the Maryland Chapter is still working from the interim budget that was adopted in September 2013. Jim Noonan said that we are getting a better handle on the chapter revenue and expenditures. Jackie Seneschal stated that APA is going to reduce our dues allocation by $1 per person which would be around $600 per year. The Maryland Chapter dues are among the lowest in the country.

Jacqui Rouse asked if our membership had decreased. Jackie Seneschal looked up numbers – in May report we had 519 – down from 573 in Feb 2014 and as of May 2014 the chapter membership was 530.

Jacqui Rouse suggested that we do a campaign to get chapter only members – Jackie S. does not want to do this as national APA would not like it.

Jackie Seneschal has asked David and Jim to put together a tracking method for chapter only memberships.

Jackie Seneschal also has told APA National that they need to be providing more services to members as membership numbers are decreasing. Jim Noonan does not see that National is providing services to local members. They should be giving us money not taking money from our dues. Chapter presidents are not represented on APA Board but generally feel the same. Jackie Seneschal feels there will be changes coming after the APA’s July retreat.

Jacqui Rouse does not agree that we should not recruit chapter only members. She does not believe APA National should drive our policy with regard to membership recruitment.

Dr. Sen spoke about guidelines for awarding money to the schools. This was discussed and modifications to his format were suggested. Jackie Seneschal suggested a change to add another category for group prizes and if anyone has any other suggestions please send them to Dr. Sen in the next week and we will put this on the next agenda for the next meeting in conjunction with the budget discussion.

Dr. Sen asked if the request from travel money to the conferences should also be included in his guidelines – Jim said yes. Jackie S. asked that process also be included in the guidelines. Jackie S. stated there will not be a dollar limit on what schools can request.

Next meeting will be July 25th at the Engineers Club.

Jim N. made motion to adjourn – approved unanimously.