



Georgia Planning Officials Newsletter

March/April 2006

Professional Development and Training Opportunities

There is an increasing amount of professional development and training opportunities for planning officials in Georgia. Listed below are some of the opportunities available during Spring 2006.

If you have any programs you'd like to have added, let us know, as we will be updating this list periodically.

Georgia Planning Association's Spring Conference: March 23-24

GPA's Spring Conference will be held in Athens, GA. A variety of sessions covering current trends and planning issues in Georgia will be offered.

Topics include Transportation Planning, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), integrating the needs of minority communities into the planning process, developing training for planning officials, greenspace preservation, and many more.

Other highlights include:

- Mobile workshops including tours of innovative multi-family developments, historic preservation, and a walking tour of downtown Athens
- A Quality Growth Advisory Clinic offered by the Department of Community Affairs

Please visit: www.georgiaplanning.org for additional information or to register.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs/Georgia Planning Association joint training : *Community Planning Institute* March 14-15

CPI is a two-day training program in planning concepts and procedures conducted by prominent planning and legal professionals. Sessions include:

- Community visioning
- Legal issues associated with Planning and Zoning
- Plan implementation methods
- Interactive exercises aimed at sound planning decisions

Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Planning Academy:

Training for Planning Officials : March 23, April 19, May 17

This three-day workshop is for new and veteran planning officials. The objective is to provide a comprehensive overview of the planning process and issues specific to the Atlanta region.

Financing Your Plan : April 4

The objective of this one-day workshop is to provide an overview of the tools and opportunities available for assistance in funding planning and quality growth plans.

Dear Planning Officials,

Thank you for your support in the inaugural edition of the Planning Officials Newsletter. Approximately 350 contacts were made, and only a few e-mails were returned. We hope to reach those who we were unable to in the January/February edition.

We also know that there are some planning officials we have yet to reach, so with your help, we can attempt to contact everyone in the state.

We hope that you enjoy the March/April edition, and encourage your attendance at the Georgia Planning Association's Spring Conference in Athens on March 23-24.

Kellie Brownlow
Robbie Hayes

Planning Officials Best Practices

Commissioners on Tour

Every year members and staff of the Bowling Green-Warren County, Kentucky, Planning Commission get aboard a bus and either drive off to see what they can learn from development elsewhere (as was the case with a visit to see new urbanism projects in Nashville) or take a tour of projects they previously approved.

"It's really good to see projects all the way through," explains Velma Runner, Chairwoman of the Planning Commission. "It gives commissioners more confidence to see the results," she adds.

According to Andy Gillies, the Commission's Executive Director, the annual bus tours are now in their fifth year. The bus outing usually runs two to three hours long, stopping by nine or ten sites. As Gillies observes, it's helpful to actually go out as a group and see how the project looks as built. "For example," he notes, "a project some commissioners thought was really dense, didn't seem as dense actually seeing it on the ground."

Velma Runner's final thought on the annual bus tour, "as planning commissioners, we really enjoy it!"

From: Planning Commissioner's Journal, Number 61, Winter 2006.
<http://www.plannersweb.com>

We want to hear from you! Please send us your thoughts, experiences and advice on being a Planning Official. E-mail or fax your submissions to Robbie Hayes at rhayes@atlantaregional.com or 404.463.3105