



Georgia Planning Officials Newsletter

January 2010

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW YEAR

Flush with New Years resolutions, we seek new and better ways to carry out the same responsibilities from year to year. The same is true with sitting on the planning commission. The number and depth of issues about which planning commissioners are expected to stay informed is growing, and it's sometimes difficult to find quality tools and resources to help make the right decisions in our communities. This edition of the Planning Officials Newsletter is devoted to high-quality, cost-effective training opportunities and resources to help the planning commissioner get the job done.

DCA Community Planning Institute

A program of the State of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs, CPI offers the *Planning Commissioner Training* course, a two-day offering that covers topics such as the role of the planning commissioner, legal issues in planning and the importance of local plans. CPI holds regular classes throughout the state and offers valuable insight into local communities. DCA plans to offer this course in Savannah on April 13-14, in Helen on July 13-14 and in Tifton on October 12-13. Please see www.dca.state.ga.us for more information.

CPI is unveiling a new training course, *Building Your Plan*, this spring. This course will provide participants with a hands-on introduction to the process of producing a comprehensive plan for their community. With detailed presentations and meaningful exercises exploring the assembly of a community assessment, the execution of a community participation program, and the construction of the community agenda, this workshop will be indispensable for practicing planners, local appointees, and interested citizens. For more information on this course, contact Lydia Doyle at lydia.doyle@dca.ga.gov.

ARC Community Planning Academy

For those in or near the Atlanta region, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Planning Academy offers its *Training for Planning Officials* course. TPO is a two-day course and includes sessions on the background on planning in Georgia, legal concerns in planning, topical sessions on water planning and transportation planning, demographics of the region, and several sessions on how to handle planning commissioner responsibilities effectively and efficiently. *Training for Planning Officials* will be offered March 23 and May 18 in Downtown Atlanta. Online registration can be found at <http://tpospring2010.eventbrite.com>.

CPA also offers regular trainings on a wide variety of topics of interest to planners, elected and appointed officials and economic development professionals. This semester, CPA will hold trainings on Ethics in Planning, Planning for Healthy Communities and Legal Concepts of Planning. More information and online registration for all these course may be found at www.atlantaregional.com/cpa.

Web Resources

The Planning Commissioners Journal (PCJ) — www.plannersweb.com

The PCJ is a quarterly publication designed for citizen planners, including members of local planning commissions and zoning boards. Every effort is made to ensure that what is run is clear and understandable to elected and appointed officials and citizen planners.

Cyberbia — www.cyberbia.org

Cyberbia contains a comprehensive directory of Internet resources relevant to planning, architecture and built environment. This is a comprehensive site containing a directory of internet resources relevant to planning, architecture, urbanism and related topics.

Planetizen—Digital Source for Planning — www.planetizen.com

Planetizen is a public-interest resource for the urban planning community. The goal is to provide a daily, one-stop source for urban planning headline news, job opportunities, commentary and events.

Upcoming Events

Georgia Tech Book Series—Megaregions

January 27, 2010—Atlanta, GA

For more information visit www.georgiaplanning.org

ACCG Legislative Conference

February 8-9, 2010—Atlanta, GA

For more information visit www.accg.org

Community Planning Academy: Ethics in Planning

February 18, 2010—Atlanta, GA

For more information visit www.atlantaregional.com/cpa

Newly Elected Officials Institute

February 20-21, 2010—Athens, GA

For more information visit www.gmanet.com