AICP Exam Prep Social Justice and Public Participation

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February 4, 2012

Background

- Social Equity begat our profession
- ☐ **The Gilded Age and the Haves and Have Nots – migration,**
- **infrastructure failure, hygiene**
- ☐ **The Progressives, especially Henry George –** *Progress and*
- *Poverty* **and the popularization of the concept of economic**
- **equity**

Social Equity and the AICP

What does it mean to us?

Part A of the AICP Code of Ethics states, in part:

- We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.

- We shall give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them. Participation should be broad enough to include those who lack formal organization or influence.

AICP Code of Ethics

We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies,

institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.

We shall educate the public about planning issues and their relevance to our everyday lives.

We shall increase the opportunities for members of underrepresented groups to become professional planners and help them advance in the profession.

We shall contribute time and effort to groups lacking in adequate planning resources and to voluntary professional activities.

John Rawls and Social Justice

In 1971, John Rawls offered his notion of justice as fairness as an illustration of a political conception of justice. In its mature form this notion affirms the following principles:

I. Each person has an equal right to a fully adequate scheme of equal basic liberties which is compatible with a similar scheme of liberties for all

II. Social and economic inequalities are to satisfy two conditions. First, they must be attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity; and second, they must be to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged members of society.

What is Rawl's Second Principle?

It means that society may undertake projects that require giving some persons more power, income, status, etc. than others, provided that the following conditions are met:

(a) the project will make life better off for the people who are now worst off, and

(b) access to the privileged positions is not blocked by discrimination according to irrelevant criteria.

Rawl's Difference Principle

Difference Principle. We may reasonably assume that the "least advantaged" have the greatest needs and that those who receive special powers (hinted at under "social inequalities") also have special responsibilities or burdens.

However, the merit principle that the use of special skills should be rewarded is also included in the Difference Principle.

The Difference Principle does not permit a change in social and economic institutions that makes life better for those who are already well off but does nothing for those who are already disadvantaged, or makes their life worse.

Advocacy Planning

- What if planners weren't apolitical technicians?

- "Advocacy Planning" was first proposed by Paul Davidoff, practitioner, planning and attorney

  - Forget about the unitary plan; have a myriad of plans presented by competing parties

  - Expose your biases and present plans that reflect your politics or the interests of a party you represent

Advocacy Planning

- Represent positions you don't care for or agree with
  - (Defense attorneys don't always think/believe that their clients are innocent but recognize their need for aggressive and appropriate counsel)

- Structure of Planning
  - Political parties
  - Special interest groups (chambers, affinity groups)
  - Protest groups (NIMBYism)

Challenges of Advocacy Planning

- Employment options for "political planners"

- Rise of mega-developers and their influence over planning decisions
  - Desperation to revitalize and ascendance of neo-liberalism in American politics leads to dominance of a free-market approach to planning

- Increase in variety and quality of data sources
  - Pro—more data can be used to inform planning decisions
  - Con—data is not necessarily equally owned by competing groups

- Who's going to pay for it all?

Public Participation

- Required by federal law (for use of federal funds in planning) through the Housing Act of 1954

- Reaffirmed through the Model Cities Program (Demonstration Cities Act) created by Lyndon B. Johnson

- Institutionalized through local planning offices
  - Community Boards (NYC)
  - Area Neighborhood Councils (DC)
  - Neighborhood Planning Units (Atlanta)

Models of Citizen Participation

- Town Hall Meeting – Most traditional form of planning meeting where plans are presented by public officials and/or developers for public comment

- Surveys – Planning commissions/departments or their contractors may poll residents by mail/online surveys to identify public needs and priority issues

- Needs Assessment – Planning departments or their contractors may conduct independent empirical research to determine and understand community needs (e.g. schools, retail amenities, crime reduction, market demand for new housing, etc.)

Models of Citizen Participation

- Charrette – intensive design-process that usually results in design or model of physical design

- Visioning – dynamic planning exercise that involves some gaming or open discussion to facilitate strategic planning
  - SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)
  - Delphi—pooling reactions to statements
  - Swirling—organizing ideas on boards by theme/topic
  - Swap-Sort—creating priorities from ideas presented
  - Force-Field—responses to plan showing those external forces +/-
  - Positive-negative/ PINC Filter—responding to proposals by looking at pros and cons

Practical Issues to Consider

- Architecture and geography of seating – to facilitate the full and most equitable engagement of the entire meeting

- Refreshments and other material resources – to ensure that participants are comfortable and able to remain within the meeting

- Advance notice and publicity – participants need to have ample notice and opportunity to attend and participate

- Timing – meetings held during work hours or in direct conflict of other important community events may self-select participant group

Models of Citizen Participation

- Community Organizing – fostering political awareness and activism among community residents

- Consensus Building
  - Way of bringing neighbors/communities together to resolve disputes and/or ideological differences that might inhibit effective planning
  - Requires planners to act as mediator/facilitator

- Capacity Building
  - How will we find the resources to execute the plan?
  - Exercises designed to bring groups together for neighborhood planning and management of the plan's execution
  - These events/programs are largely based on social events designed to build connections

Technology and Citizen Participation

- Online mapping
  - Google Earth
  - CommunityViz

- Neighborhood Crime Mapping/Reporting
  - Online police-based statistics
  - Web-based neighborhood crime reporting

- Neighborhood List-serves/Websites

Cindy Chang

"I Wish This Was" in Post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans

Photo Voice

Empowering Community Members to Document the conditions of their lives

Public Participation in English Avenue

Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (P.L. 79-404)

Regularizes the procedures of the federal bureaucracy. Its emphasis is on transparency, fairness, and access to the courts. Increases the accountability, fairness, efficiency, and acceptability of a wide range of government decision making.

- ❑ Freedom of Information Act, 1966
- ❑ Government in the Sunshine Act, 1976
- ❑ Federal Advisory Committee Act, 1972
- ❑ Privacy Act, 1974
- ❑ Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, 1996
- ❑ Regulatory Flexibility Act, 1981
- ❑ Paperwork Reduction Act, 1980 and
- ❑ E-Government Act, 2002

Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation

- Citizens control program or an institution.
- Officials give citizens power.
- Power is shared.
- Have-nots advise.
- Opinions sought.
- Advised of rights & responsibilities.
- Citizens "cured" through action.
- Citizens educated and informed through action.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means that:
(1) people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
(2) the publics contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
(3) their concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
(4) the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Groups and Constituencies Planners Think About

Typical constituencies and issues:

- **Race, gender, income access**
- **Physical disability issues**
- **Other access needs and issues**
- **Work hours**
- **Child or elder care**
- **Transportation and parking**
- **Cultures within cultures**
- **Minority and ethnic cultures**
- **Language issues**
- **Indigenous cultures**
- **Town versus gown**
- **Gays and lesbians**

Sample Questions

All of the following are know for their involvement in organizational approaches to citizen participation except:

A. Saul Alinsky

B. Patrick Geddes

C. Sherry Arnstein

D. Paul Davidoff

Sample Questions

All of the following are essential elements of a design charrette except:

      A. A problem to be solved or worked upon.

      B. A group of interested citizens willing to participate.

      C. Professional experts both from within the community and from the outside.

      D. The cooperation of the Mayor or City Manager.

Sample Questions

Advocacy Planning is associated closely with Paul Davidoff and Saul Alinsky. Which of the following was the significant element of the advocacy movement?

     A. Assisted single women with children to find employment.

     B. Caused social planning to move from back room negotiations into the public forum.

     C. Reduced the need for more environmental documentation.

     D. Created economic stability.

Sample Questions

In every project there comes a point in time when the public becomes involved. When would this take place?

A. At the start, before alternatives are developed.

B. In the middle, when a small or reduced set of options have been defined.

C. At the end, when a preferred choice has been selected.

D. At an appropriate time to be chosen based on a number of criteria, not by a set routine.

Sample Questions

An intensive, interactive problem solving process with meetings convened around the development of specific topics is described as:

      A. Alinsky's organizations.

      B. Advocacy Planning.

      C. A Charrette.

      D. Citizen Referendum.

Sample Questions

The planning code of ethics was a beacon to which planner pioneer(s)?

     A. Saul Alinsky

     B. Paul Davidoff

     C. Norman Krumholz

     D. Robert Simon

Sample Questions

Redlining is:

A. An area in the public right-of-way where no parking is allowed.

B. A systematic discrimination through the denial of loans or insurance.

C. Marking changes on a site plan.

D. A term used in land surveying.

Sample Questions

The planning director of a small city wants to get as much public input as possible on a city-wide study. Which of the following would be the **LEAST** effective method of stimulating citizen input?

A. Contacting neighborhood leaders, advising them of the study, and asking them to report neighborhood reaction.

B. Completing the study, printing the final report, and asking for citizen comments on it.

C. Preparing press releases that give the general scope of the study and asking for comments from the general public.

D. Offering to address interested neighborhood or other civic groups on the subject of the study.

Sample Questions

More open citizen participation and the preparation of environmental impact statements were two significant requirements established by which act?

A. National Environmental Policy Act (1969)

B. Housing Act (1949)

C. Urban Renewal Act (1976)

D. Coastal Zone Management Act (1972)

Sample Questions

Cities in the U.S. were densely settled in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries. Each of the following is a consequence of this high density development EXCEPT:

A. Threat of communicable diseases

B. Great traffic congestion

C. Reform-mindedness

D. Massive federal aid to cities

Sample Questions

Which of the following best defines the public trust doctrine?

A. Certain natural resources are held in trust for the benefit of all the people
B. The public has the right of access between mean low and high tides
C. The government may take land for the public benefit
D. The government may not take land for the public benefit

Sample Questions

The Federal Highway Act of 1956:

A. Included funding for scenic byways and historic preservation

B. Was the largest U.S. public works program even undertaken

C. Extended the road system by 41,000 miles

D. Required public investment in the infrastructure to do as much
   as possible to favor those who are most disadvantaged

I. A and D

II. B only

III. B and C

IV. All

Sample Questions

Federal Statutes include which of the following?

A. Civil rights laws

B. Federal fair housing laws

C. Environmental laws.

D. A, B and C.

Sample Questions

When writing a planning report, which of the following is the most important consideration?

A. Audience
B. Graphics
C. Budget
D. Politics.

I. A and D
II. A only
III. B and C
IV. All

Sample Questions

The late 19th century photojournalist Jacob Riis authored which of the following books?

A. *City Slums*

B. *How the Other Half Lives*

C. *New Towns*

D. *The Children of the Poor*

I. A and B

II. B and D

III. B and C

IV. C and D

Sample Questions

Health and Safety Regulations give local jurisdictions the power to enforce:

A. Development standards

B. Eminent Domain

C. Exaction of development impact fees

D. Building Codes.

Sample Questions

The County Planning Department received a number of complaints that information is difficult to obtain over the counter, and that it takes too long to get served. Which of the following would be the BEST action(s) for the Planning Director to take?

A. Reduce the number of hours the public counter is open.
B. Place a complaint box on the counter and review the comments monthly.
C. Put a computer on the public counter to allow easy access to basic planning information.
D. Instruct planning staff of their special obligation to serve the public and work toward being more responsive to public inquiries.

      I. A and B
      II. B and D
      III. C and D
      IV. All

Sample Questions

The advantages of mail surveys include all of the following EXCEPT:

A. Low cost.

B. Very high response rate.

C. No training costs.

D. Convenient to subjects.

Sample Questions

Telephone surveys allow for rapid data collection and easy access to most households. However, from a statistician's perspective, telephone surveys:

A. Cost too much.

B. Have a greater probability of interviewer-introduced bias.

C. Cannot reach representative samples of some relatively isolated populations.

D. Are ineffective because of the difficulty in finding subjects at

home.

Sample Questions

Which arguments have been used AGAINST citizen participation?

A. Economic waste

B. Government inefficiency

C. Increased political conflict

D. Weakening of representative government

E. Parochialism

I. A and B

II. C, D, and E

III. All

IV. None of the above

Sample Questions

Which of the following ARE NOT significant societal values underlying citizen participation?

A. Protecting citizens' rights
B. Guarding the public interest
C. Maintaining the stability of society
D. Reducing the alienation of individuals
E. Allowing the most vocal and intimidating of the citizen participants to blow off steam in a controlled environment.
F. Providing an audience so that elected officials can give testimonials.

       I. A, B, and C
       II. A, B, and D
       III. E and F

Sample Questions

Benefits of citizen participation include everything EXCEPT:

A. Better quality of political life

B. Resolving social problems.

B. A stronger sense of community.

C. Services are often provided more quickly to neighborhoods with active citizen participation.

D. Total harmony and agreement among citizens and elected officials.

E. Significant reductions in local taxes.

F. Protection against alien invasions from outer space.

    I. B and D

    II. C and E

    III. D and E

    IV. E and F

Sample Questions

A technique in which the views of individuals and various interest groups, the local government, and the planning staff are presented in successive rounds of argument and counter argument working towards a consensus is called:

      A. Attitude Surveys

      B. Open Houses

      C. Public Hearings

      D. Citizen Representation on Public Policymaking Bodies

      E. Group Dynamics

      F. Delphi

Sample Questions

The purpose of citizen participation programs IS NOT to:

A. Convince the public

B. Defuse potential conflicts such as legal action

C. Educate the public about issues

D. Learn about the community concerns

E. Support informed decisions.

I. A and B

II. C and D

III. B and E

IV. D and E

V. All

Sample Questions

T Today, society expects citizen participation programs.

T According to the AICP Code of Ethics, a planner's primary obligation is to serve the public interest.

F Paul Davidoff warned against government planners getting involved in the political process as advocates for low income and minority groups.

T The Alinsky philosophy is that power is the basis for successfully negotiating for economic and political gains.

Suggested Readings

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