

**DATE: June 5, 2015**

**TO: APA California Board of Directors**

**FROM: Steven A. Preston, FAICP, Chapter Historian – South**

**Larry Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian - North**

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT –**

**(1) HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVES PROGRAMS**

**(2) RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PLANNING PIONEER AND PLANNING LANDMARKS AWARDS PROGRAMS**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Adopt the language in Exhibit “B” of this report to clarify and consolidate the standards for Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards, and
2. Receive and file the status report concerning long-range planning for the Historian program. (A meeting will be scheduled this summer and a report provided at the fall conference meeting.)

**Historian Program: Long-Range Planning**

At your fall meeting, the Board approved a series of recommendations concerning improvements in the function and operation of the Chapter Historian program. A copy of our previous report and recommendations, which were adopted by the Board, is attached to this report as Exhibit A.

In addition, the Board approved the formation of a committee with the following members, which will be tasked to study and make additional recommendations regarding the Chapter history program and archives. The members of that committee, chaired by the Chapter Historians, will include:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hing Wong | *Chapter President* | Stan Hoffman | *PEN President* |
| Brooke Peterson | *Immediate Past President* | Marissa Aho | *Los Angeles Section Dir.* |
| Steve Preston | *Chapter Historian South* | Bob Paternoster | *PEN Board Member* |
| Larry Mintier | *Chapter Historian North* |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

In order to properly prepare for that discussion, we determined that:

1. We needed to obtain up-to-date information concerning the status of the archives;
2. We should contact the Archives staff to learn what their recommendations might be to improve and expand the archives program and better disseminate content;
3. We should provide an opportunity for those who were interested to receive a tour of the archives;
4. We should inquire of the archives staff whether they would be available to participate in a discussion with the Board at a future meeting.

As the first step in that process, Steve Preston arranged a tour of the APA California Archives for interested parties. Attendees included Chapter Historians Larry Mintier and Steve Preston; PEN Chair Stan Hoffman and PEN Vice President Robert Paternoster . The team met with Holly Lovich of the CSUN Oviatt Library’s urban archives staff, and then met with the Dr. Robert Kent and Dr. Craig Olwert of the CSUN Urban Studies faculty.

We are very encouraged by the Archives’ progress in assembling and curating the collection, with the majority of the collection now catalogued, sorted and archived. Four new boxes of material were transferred to the archive at the meeting, with one box being held by the historians temporarily for further review.

Since that meeting, Ms. Lovich has prepared an assessment of the collection; provided us with an updated Finding Guide; and provided us with a series of recommendations that the Committee will review this summer.

CSUN has expressed interest in either hosting a meeting on campus in connection with the Board’s fall retreat, or sending an archives representative to the Board meeting when the final recommendations are presented to the Board at the retreat.

**Planning Pioneer and Planning Landmark Award Programs**

During its deliberations on this year’s nominations for the Planning Pioneer and Planning Landmark Awards, the Chapter Co-Historians and the review panel discussed several concerns members have with the how the awards nomination and selection process operates and how the National and California programs relate to one another.

This has led to an ongoing discussion among an expanded panel of APA California members to develop recommendations for revising the program. This expanded panel includes Larry Mintier, Steve Preston, former Chapter President Janet Ruggiero, Northern Section Historian Juan Borrelli, Inland Empire Section Historian Gustavo Gonzalez, Los Angeles Region Planning History Group member Ken Bernstein, Vivian Kahn, and George Osner.

There is consensus among panel members that criteria for the Pioneer and Landmark Awards we are using in California for recognizing important achievements focus too much on national significance and not enough on California significance.

The Chapter Historians, with the support of panel members, recommend that the APA Board adopt specific CHAPTER criteria for the Pioneer and Landmark Awards focused specifically on California significance. This would still allow for winners in the California awards program to be forwarded to National to complete based on their national significance.

A simple editing of the National criteria to focus on California would accomplish this objective and could be implemented by the Chapter Board immediately, allowing for dissemination to the California Chapter membership for use in 2016.

Proposed language implementing this proposal is attached as Exhibit B.

**Planning History Video**

Following last fall’s Board meeting, Brian Mooney of the Mooney Planning Collaborative offered to take on production of a Chapter history video which had originally been authorized by the Board following the Chapter’s 60th anniversary several years ago, then was delayed when the original production entity failed to deliver a timely product and was dismissed.

Brian’s work on the video this year has been delayed by the pending merger of his firm with Rick Engineering, but we now understand that these corporate changes are now complete, and Brian is returning to work on the video project.

**Los Angeles Region Planning History Group**

Steve Preston participated as moderator for the Los Angeles Region Planning History Group’s colloquium on April 11 exploring the role of oil in the planning and development of the Los Angeles Region. An audience of about 50 individuals attended the event at the Signal Hill Community Center, which was followed by an informal tour of Signal Hill.

**Los Angeles Section Historian**

Since your last meeting, the Los Angeles Section has appointed its first historian, Johnny Aguilar, to the post. Mr. Aguilar and Steve Preston met in Pasadena a few months ago, and he is now working on proposals to develop the Section Historian role for Los Angeles Section.

**EXHIBIT A**

**Recommendations from**

**September, 2014 Board of Directors Report**

**ISSUE 1: CHAPTER ARCHIVES FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT**When the Chapter archives were established in 1998, it took several years of searching and negotiation to find an institution that would offer to manage our materials and collections. Bolstered by the efforts of the late Frank Wein, FAICP, who was then teaching there, California State University Northridge offered to fulfill that role.

For each of the past 14 years we have provided only $1,000 annually under our contractual relationship with CSUN. During the period of the late (Former Chapter Historian) Betty Croly’s illness, the Chapter fell behind on its obligations, but quickly corrected that issue upon being advised and has been paying on schedule for the past five years.

While valuable, that donation does not begin to provide a sufficient resource to allow the archive to be properly catalogued and managed. With recent changes in the management at CSUN, and an increasing number of resources being donated, we may wish to open a dialogue with the University to determine if an increase in our annual fee is warranted.

**Recommendation:** Open discussions with CSUN to update the donor-advised or gift agreement with CSUN, including consideration of an increase in the annual contribution that the Chapter makes toward its maintenance.

**ISSUE 2: CONSISTENT DELIVERY OF CHAPTER RECORDS TO THE ARCHIVES**

At present there is no consistent means for providing records to the Historian, meaning that the collections we receive are often haphazard or missing critical components.

Some records are available only online, but the archives are in fact a paper record of the Chapter’s dealings. Often the Historians receive these documents only on a piecemeal basis, or only in a draft form (rather than a signed, finished product).

There is, to my knowledge, no consistent collection of the Chapter’s minutes and other critical documents.

None of the Chapter’s affiliated organizations provide regular documentation to the Chapter Historians.

**Recommendations:** Develop a plan to ensure that appropriate records of the Chapter are consistently provided to the Historians for the archive and for our records.

Develop clear standards as to which documents the Chapter intends to archive.

Ensure that a complete set of the legacy documents are provided to the archive, and historical versions when those are available.

**ISSUE 3: PROMOTION OF THE ARCHIVES; DISSEMINATION**

The Archives play a critical role in documenting the history of California planning, but most members – even Board members – are not familiar with the either the Chapter Historian or the archives.

**Recommendations:** Organize a board meeting at a location that would allow the Board to tour, or receive a presentation concerning, the archive.

Establish a plan to better utilize the resources of the archive in developing material for research, presentations and conference sessions drawing upon its materials.

**ISSUE 4: ROLE OF HISTORIAN IN CHAPTER BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Several years ago the Chapter Historian was one of several positions that were asked to step aside during difficult budget times from regular attendance in Board meetings. As a result, the Historians do not receive materials that are being used to make organizational decisions that should be archived, and often learn about issues that would affect the program well after the window has closed to participate in discussion.

At the same time, PEN has expressed an interest in further developing its connections with the Chapter Historian programs. PEN has assumed the role that used to be played by the California Planning History Society, and the Chapter Historians remain active in providing information for PEN (and PEN remains interested in assisting the history program as well).

It might be a good time to reassess these relationships and determine whether there is a model moving forward that would put more firepower into the Chapter’s historical efforts.

APACA - Chapter Historian Report - 9-14

**EXHIBIT B**

**Proposed Revised Language for California Landmarks and Pioneers**

**Excerpt from National Awards Criteria (Revised)**

**Planning Landmark**

Recognizing a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be used or accessed by the public.

[Eligibility & Criteria](javascript:apa.ui.switchDisplay('landmark'))

**ELIGIBILITY:**   
Nominated landmarks must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline (August 26, 2014).

**CRITERIA:**  
*Historical significance:* Explain the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: pioneering work or a documented first; historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiative a new direction in planning that has had a lasting effect or other impact; having an impact on California planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space.

*State significance:* Document the effect or impact the nominated landmark had on planning in the California as a whole and creating communities or other places of lasting value throughout the state. Who were the significant planners or others who were involved or responsible for the accomplishments of the nominated landmark?

**Planning Pioneer**

The Planning Pioneer Awards are presented to pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in California planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, or theory with long-term results.

[Eligibility & Criteria](javascript:apa.ui.switchDisplay('pioneer'))

**ELIGIBILITY:**   
Open to APA members and nonmembers. Individuals cannot self-nominate. A nominated individual's contributions must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline (August 26, 2014).

**CRITERIA:**  
*Historical impact.* Describe the nominated individual's innovations or new models that directly influenced the future of California planning and explain how these developments significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, theory, or organization.

*National significance:* Describe the statewide impacts or effects of the nominated individual's planning contributions.