



# Planningram

February 2001

## From the President...

Greetings from the North Dakota Planning Association!! As we are looking at a new planning year, the executive committee has been busy doing some planning of our own. The post-legislative conference is scheduled for May 22-23, 2001. Mark your calendars now for this informative (with a little fun) event!!

It has been brought to my attention that the larger towns have professional planners on staff or have the funds available to hire professional consultants, while the smaller towns rely on lay persons who need to be brought up to speed before any planning can take place or learn using the "trial by fire" system.

It is my goal as president of NDPA to bring training and information that is helpful to *everyone* in the state. I want to concentrate on bringing the lay planner up to speed with issues that are affecting the small towns as well as the larger cities, while providing a stimulating environment for the seasoned planners with conversations on the new issues or how they are dealing with existing situations. I know that's a big order, but it provides us with much to talk about!

Together, we should all be able to learn and grow from our time spent together, bringing new ideas back to our individual communities. Hope to see you at the annual conference!



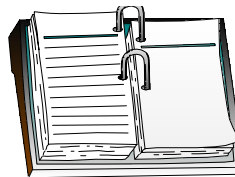
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**MAY 22-23, 2001 SPRING CONFERENCE  
SEVEN SEAS INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
MANDAN ND**

### Tentative Agenda

#### Real Life Planning

North Dakota Stats: Dr. R. Rathge will summarize the 2000 census and give us an update on legislative redistricting.

#### Small Towns: The Pain of Change

Rural community leaders will discuss planning issues.

So, You Want to Build It? A primer on capital improvement planning and tax increment financing.

#### Ask the Experts:

A panel of experts from cities, counties and townships will answer questions submitted ahead of time. (Put on your thinking caps!)

Membership Meeting: Update on the 2001 Legislative Session  
Discussion on new NDPA policies.

## **Update from the Secretary/Treasurer ...**



The new year is well underway. I have survived a change in office furniture, and now it's time to fill you in on NDPA activities over the last few months.

Last year our membership rose to 94 members. Renewal letters were sent out in January, and some have already replied. Please respond as soon as possible so I can keep the Western Planner subscription list up to date. And if you know of people who are interested in planning, share the information about NDPA.

NDPA became involved in a Housing Trust Fund project at the last annual meeting. A housing trust fund would be another tool to help develop affordable housing in North Dakota. Legislation is required to establish the fund and the funding source, and to set the parameters for the fund's operation. A committee formed to look into possible legislative language, funding sources and guiding parameters. After preliminary work, the committee decided that too many details remained to be worked on for a bill to be presented to the legislature during the 2001 session. Mary Brooks, a national consultant on housing trust funds, was at the January Housing Conference, discussing how housing trust funds could benefit North Dakota. At that time, the committee agreed that the primary goal is to educate as many people as possible on the subject and to widen the circle of those interested in advocating for a housing trust fund. More information is available if this subject is of interest to you -- please give me a call.

In Legislative action, House Bill 1410 was brought to our attention. This bill deals with eliminating the joint zoning board and would require that separate zoning boards act on each zoning proposal in an extraterritorial area. After consulting with city and county planners, we reached a consensus to oppose the bill, and our lobbyist (Michael Simonson) testified against it. Please continue to keep us informed of issues that arise during the session!

We are planning a post-legislative conference in Bismarck on May 22-23, 2001. It will be at the Seven Seas Hotel and Conference Center. Watch for more information soon.

***Barb Owens***

### *It was a great term!*

I would like to say goodbye as your President, and let you know that I intend to remain very active in the North Dakota Planning Association and support its activities as the past President. I believe that 1999 and 2000 were two great years for NDPA. Our membership grew as our vision and exposure grew. We were active in many different efforts the last two years, but I believe that our new President will have her hands full for the next two years. Planning is back in the spotlight. NDPA will need to reach out to many communities that will be seeking knowledge, expertise and planning networks. I believe that NDPA is once again a very strong organization with support from all over North Dakota.

I will be hosting a training session in late February on the Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning. I first sent out letters to a few communities that requested additional information on the process. To my delight, I received several calls from communities that heard of this workshop through word of mouth and wanted to attend the workshop. I actually closed down the workshop and had to tell some community planners that the session was full. This only adds to the already overwhelming evidence that there is a strong interest in community planning. I will be hosting two additional training sessions through 2002, and will keep the membership informed of the upcoming workshops.

Again, I would like you to know that it was my pleasure to serve as your President, and I look forward to the future of the North Dakota Planning Association.

*Michael Spletto*  
**Past President**