



Planningram

January 2002

From the Secretary/Treasurer ...

January is almost over and I promised myself that I'd have a newsletter out before the end of the month!



Our December workshop on Growing Smart went very well. Over 60 people attended the conference, and a fair number hung on to the very end to participate in the Focus Group. We should have a report on that group soon, which will serve to guide the NDPA on this subject. The next conference is set for April 30-May 1, 2002, at the Seven Seas again, so mark your calendars.

It's time to renew your membership in NDPA. The new dues structure has only two categories: Full Membership at \$40 and Organizational Membership at \$30 per listing. We also offer multiple Western Planner subscriptions to Organizational Members, for an extra \$20 each. This is listed below the cost of the magazine (\$30 per individual subscription).

Please make sure we have your name and address correct. Mailing lists have a way of becoming out of date very quickly.

Bills were sent out to all members earlier this month. If you did not receive one, please contact me. And if you wish to become a member (which we encourage!), this newsletter contains a membership form.

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Western Planner Resources, Inc. (WPR) and the Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS) are hosting the 2002 Western Planner Conference in Evanston, WY, July 16-19, 2002. The conference will highlight resource development, community image/tourism/historic

preservation, rural economic development and planning issues. Conference sessions will offer the opportunity to showcase the success stories of many communities throughout the West.

The WPR Board drove up to preview Evanston, WY, during the recent board meeting. Evanston is a community of about 13,000 people, but for a community that size it is amazing the number of things they have done. They have a historic district which is being revitalized, a Brown Fields site which is being redeveloped, amazing park system and facilities and progressive design code for new buildings. Most communities in our state could learn something from Evanston!

The WPR board would like to encourage NDPA members to attend this conference. We have a preliminary agenda, which Barb will fax to you if you are interested. Topics take on a new perspective when more states are involved, and we definitely share interests in the agenda.

Larry Weil

North Dakota Planning Association (NDPA) Takes A Look At GROWING SMARTSM

Issues such as extraterritorial regulation, zoning and planning in rural areas, portable housing, special assessments, and urban sprawl have been on the table for a number of years in North Dakota. The state is changing and members of the NDPA recognized the need to deal with these changes. Through its connections with the American Planning Association (APA), the NDPA was able to focus the December 6-7 annual conference on the GROWING SMARTSM program developed by the American Planning Association.

GROWING SMARTSM is a five-year effort directed by APA's Research Department, which is based in the organization's Chicago office. The project's goal is to analyze the best of current planning law in the United States, offer alternative approaches where desirable, and produce a compendium of annotated models for use by states. There are two main products: the Growing Smart *Legislative Guidebook* and a national statute clearinghouse for state legislative materials dealing with planning and management of change.



More than 60 people attended the conference!

Stuart Meck, principal investigator for the APA's GROWING SMARTSM project, introduced the concept and explained its development. Several states have used this model to review their planning and zoning laws, and are taking steps to revise those laws to stay in step with public needs. Mr. Meck explained Montana's approach to its planning and zoning law, and described the steps they are taking as a result of their study. Mr. Meck and Jason Jordan facilitated a focus group to begin the process of looking at North Dakota's planning and zoning legislation. Mr. Meck will summarize the results of the Focus Group, and the NDPA plans to use these results to evaluate GROWING SMARTSM for North Dakota.



Jason Jordan & Stuart Meck

Mr. Jason Jordan, the manager of the government affairs activities for the APA, talked about the 2001 legislative priorities and the agenda for the 107th Congress. He talked about the changes brought about by the Sept. 11th tragedy, and the various legislation in progress, including the Community Character Act, the Farm Bill, TEA-3 (2002 legislation) and affordable housing issues (the Millennial Housing Commission and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund proposals).

Thursday evening's entertainment involved a bus trip to Garrison, with a Victorian meal at the Stoney End restaurant, a sample of the Dickens' play *A Christmas Carol*, and a visit to the Victorian-style bed and breakfast.



At the Stoney End Restaurant, with the main characters from *A Christmas Carol*.

NDPA's Spring Conference is set for April 30 – May 1, 2002 at the Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center in Mandan. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar!