



American Planning Association
Kansas Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

**JANUARY 2021
E-NEWSLETTER**

President's Message

From everyone on the Executive Committee of the Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association, Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season was joyful, relaxing, and safe.

It goes without saying that 2020 was one for the books and frankly, a year I would rather forget. However, even with all of the massive disruptions caused by the pandemic and unrest to our communities, our profession, and at our homes; planners have proven we are a resilient lot that works hard to make our communities better. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication through a bonkers year!

The Executive Committee has spent the last several weeks getting organized and preparing for the year to come. The finishing touches on the Executive Committee's annual work plan are being completed and we will share it next month. However, here is a sneak peek of what we hope to accomplish in 2021.

- Develop a communication and public outreach plan to provide more information and content that will keep you informed and tuned in to the profession and the Chapter
- We got a new Chapter website! kansas.planning.org.
- The Spring Symposium on housing in Kansas will be held virtually. As much as we would like to meet face-to-face this spring, the Executive Committee felt it was safer to plan for this virtual event to be virtual. More information to come.
- With a bit of luck and good health, the fall conference will be held in-person in Topeka. We may experiment with a "hybrid" conference to be both in-person and virtual to provide maximum learning opportunities. Also, more information to come.
- We are beginning to formally organize an effort to keep an eye and ear out for important state and federal legislation and will be formalizing processes to keep you informed and to develop position statements for the Chapter to support or oppose these bills.

As always, these great projects need great volunteers. So if you are interested in helping with any of these projects, please let me or another Executive Committee member know of your interest.

Thank you for all that you do for your community, the State of Kansas, and the profession. This is going to be a great year!

- Chad Bunger, Chapter President

2021 Executive Committee Changes

2021 brings a new year with new Executive Committee members. Please welcome the following new members to the committee. The full list of committee members is listed at the bottom of the email.

- Treasurer – Bryson Risley – City of Topeka, Kansas – replacing Josh White
- Secretary – Rebeca Quiroz – Wilson & Company – replacing Annie Driver
- Kansas City Section Representative – Andrea Fair – City of Merriam, Kansas – replacing Martin Rivarola
- University of Kansas Student Representative – Maggie Wilcox

New Website!

Over the past few months, members of our Executive Committee worked to transition our website to the National APA website platform. Be sure to bookmark the new website address!

kansas.planning.org

Most of the content from the previous site should have converted to the new site and phased out soon. Please let us know if you see anything missing!

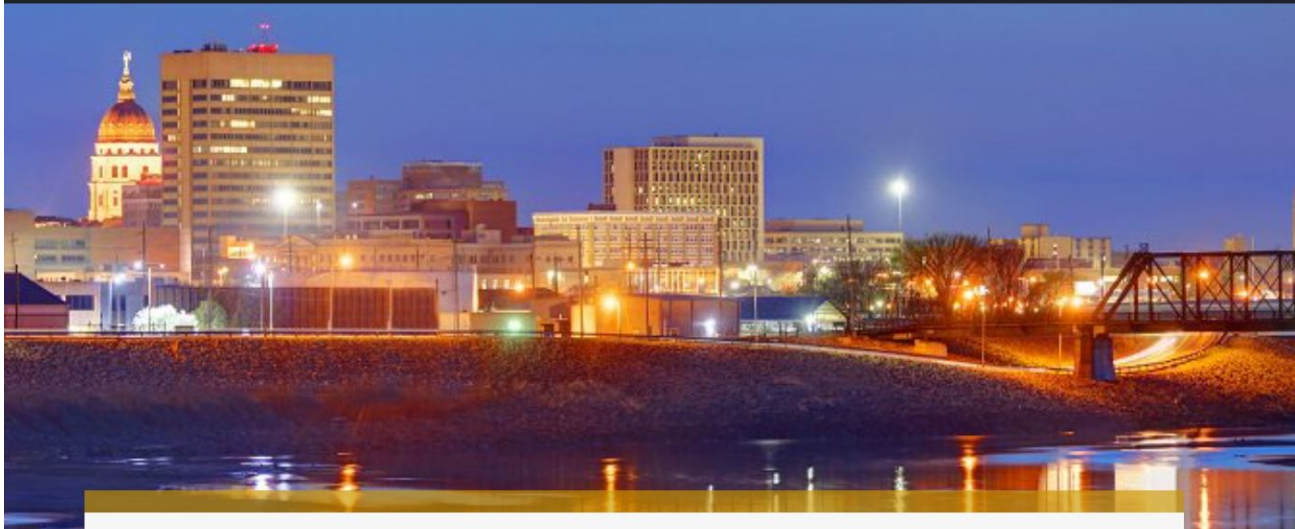
A cool new feature includes synchronizing with the national office on job announcements, RFP announcements, and events. If the national office has the information, it automatically populates on our webpage.

And we'd still love to see some of your community photos!

Please send photos to:

Stephanie Peterson – stephanie@flinthillsmo.org

Erin Ollig – Erin.Ollig@opkansas.org



WELCOME TO THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

About APA Kansas

The Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association represents public and private sector planners, planning academics, students, elected officials, and citizen planners throughout the state of Kansas.



This year as part of our monthly e-newsletter, we plan to spotlight one of our own planners, planning advocates, or other planning-friendly people. If you have someone you'd like to see in our spotlight please let us know!

Our first spotlight is Nathan Littrell from Dodge City.

Nathan serves on the APA Kansas Chapter Executive committee as the at-large member for Western Kansas. He is the Planning and Zoning Administrator for the City of Dodge City and also oversees the historic preservation program. When he is not busy at work he enjoys spending time with his kids, coaching youth sports and being active outdoors. He hopes things will get back to some normalcy and he can do some much needed traveling!

Upcoming Webinar - Building a Brownfield Inventory Using BiT

As you may see from our new website, we have an upcoming event on January 27th coordinated by K-State.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM CST

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Does your community have any brownfield sites? Do you know how many and where they are? This webinar is focused on using the KSU TAB Brownfield Inventory Tool (BiT) to quickly, easily and conveniently keep track of your brownfield inventory. The webinar will take you through using BiT, its new features, setting up a Project Area, entering site data, building area maps of the brownfield sites in your community and using the BiT/ACRES interface to report your EPA Brownfield grant data. At the end of the webinar, there will be an extended working session where you can ask additional questions or have a 15 minute one-on-one technical assistance session.

Find out more by visiting: <https://kansas.planning.org/events/eventsingle/9210671/>

Get Involved! Committee Interest Form

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of topics and committees. This is a great way to be introduced to the chapter if you have aspirations for higher office.

Topics include:

- Awards
- Sponsorships
- Spring Symposium Planning
- Conference Planning
- Student Engagement
- Communications
- Legislative Issues
- Professional Development
- Chapter Finances
- Other?

If you'd like to volunteer and get involved, please fill out the [Committee Interest Form here](#).

About APA Kansas

The Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Kansas) is a professional organization representing practicing planners, government officials, and citizens involved with urban, regional, and rural planning issues within the State of Kansas.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association is to communicate, educate, advocate, and celebrate our members, communities, and profession.

Follow us



2021 Executive Committee

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Chad Bunger, AICP

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Past President

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Nathan Littrell – Western KS

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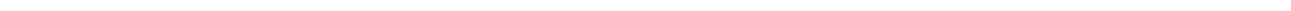
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