

APA Federal Planning Division
2021 Business Meeting Minutes
1 September 2021
(Via WebEx)

Minutes

FPD Chair, Andrew Wright, kicked off the annual business meeting at approximately 1500 CST, 1 September 2021. A brief overview of the FPD Executive Committee members was provided.

The overall state of the division was reviewed for all members (see attached slides):

- New Professional Development Officers Introduced
- Workplan Accomplishments
 - New website
 - Two newsletters: thanks to editor David Leonard
 - Enhanced Social Media Presence: thanks to Ras Cannady
 - 2021 Boston Virtual Conference
 - Huge Success
 - 40 Sessions over three days, more than 400 participants from around the world, very few technical issues
 - 17 sponsors and over 50 volunteers
 - Robust awards program
 - FAICP training session
 - Financial State: \$103,662 - \$28K more than last year, good position for in-person event next year
 - Scholarship – Thanks to Steve Baird and Alison Evans for leading our new scholarship program, met and awarded \$1K scholarship
 - FPD played an active role in APA’s Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee
 - Created New EC position: APA Engagement Officer, Jill Schreifer
- Review of current FPD membership was presented: 100 more members than year prior; highest ever, exceeding workplan goal of 500 paid members
- Elections: New division chair and vice chair were announced, begin roles in 2022
- FPD 2021 Student Scholarship recipient was honored
 - Lee Halasz Quabbin 2021 FPD Scholarship Recipient
 - Lee is currently a Master’s Candidate in Regional Planning and Sustainability Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and works as a Research Assistant with the University of Massachusetts Extension focused on Information Sources and Tools for Forest Conservation. He plans to use the scholarship to help complete his degree and build a resource library of relevant planning textbooks.
 - Congrats Lee!!
- Upcoming webinars series was announced along with the Fall workshop

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- The 2022 Annual Training Workshop was presented
 - It was noted that the workshop will be held in a different location from the APA National Planning Conference
 - The dates are early summer to allow members to attend both
- A call to action was given to help with FPD initiatives such as the workshop, need for a student representative, and to solicit members to contribute to the APA NPC by submitting presentations
- A demonstration of the new and improved FPD website was given

Following the overall presentation, the participants were divided into sub-groups. The purpose of the breakout sessions was to receive feedback from members on what has gone well over the past year, what can be improved, and what actions the EC should take. The following graphics represent the results of the breakout sessions.

The business meeting concluded at 5pm CST.



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What can be improved?

Outreach	Social media is challenging but is critical	Increase student outreach and involvement	bridging gap btw student and professional life	provide interview/job hunting workshops
Training Content	Find new formats for live sessions	Need to look beyond traditional session formats	Focus on Technology and Tools	Mobile, video and VR provide more immersive experiences
Diverse Membership	Need more non-DoD content	Diversify agency participation	NASA Space Force Transportation	Networking
Awards	Award - Blind Peer Review			

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Actions to take

Outreach	Members connect Almatr schools to FPD	Use technology and tools to lure students	Use a non-student as a rep	List of universities
Training Content	Webex night to reach out to schools	Provide events that appeal to students	Events for job seekers in schools	Connect to the technology division of APA
Diverse Membership	Connect with other divisions	Connect to the technology division of APA	Universities, Design Orgs	More federal voices in the room (bridge divide between contractors and govt)
Awards	Revisit Award Program	How do other divisions run awards?		
Networking	Virtual Networking 10-15 People	Themed Networking Room	Open the Room 15 early	Networking in a Virtual World
	Networking opportunities - ways to meet people who speak planning language	Infrastructure bill - big future theme	More information re: connections with APA/other divisions	