

28 November 2023 | Annual Business Meeting

Meeting called by Ralph Willmer, Chair
Type of meeting Conference Call / Microsoft
 Teams Meeting

Attendees
Executive Committee:
Ralph Willmer, Chair
Paul Inghram, Vice Chair
Ben Bakkenta, Vice Chair
Nicole McCall, Secretary/Treasurer
Bridget Callea, Communications Officer

Members/Guests:
Beth Dawson
Elizabeth Ginsberg
Eddie Isaacs
Gabriel Ramos
Lee Schoenecker
Elizabeth Scott
Andy Taylor
Liz Underwood
Mark VanderSchaaf

APA Staff:
Isabel Fitzsimmons

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Welcome and introductions

Ralph Willmer opened the meeting

2. Review of past year's workplan and budget / Approval of the FY 2024 workplan and budget

Ralph and Nicole McCall reviewed the workplan and budget. The Executive Committee approved both items.

3. *Solicit ideas for new programs and research / Solicit ideas for additional webinars and regional forum at the National Conference*

A broad discussion of potential topics was conducted, including coordination with the Met Council for the upcoming National Conference.

Elizabeth Scott suggested a discussion about power and constraints in regional planning as it varies by political climate. She described push back on the abolishment of single-family-zoning in Minneapolis.

Gabriel Ramos suggested exploring how universities may be able to support regional planning.

Ben Bakkenta suggested exploring the pipeline of folks who are interested in regional and long-range planning. How do we encourage interest in the profession? Would like to learn more about what other regions are doing.

Lee Schoenecker noted that Mariia Zimmerman is from Minnesota. For two to three years, she was very active in putting on the regional forums. She is with the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. She might be interested in speaking. Ralph agreed that her perspective would be a good one to include.

4. *Call for Volunteers*

Ralph asked people who would like to be involved with developing the forum, or in other ways, to reach out to him.

5. *By-law Changes*

Paul Inghram explained that the AP is proposing changes to the corporate bylaws. These changes include significant, and potentially controversial, modifications to the composition, nomination, and election processes for Board Directors, in the role of Executive Director, and in the Nominating Committee.

More detail can be found here: <https://planning.org/leadership/bylaws/revisions/>

Paul noted that these are fundamental changes and engagement has been limited. The International Division has drafted a letter and requested other Divisions to sign on.

Enhance communication: Clearly inform members of the substance of the proposed amendment with significant impact, providing rationales for each of those amendments. This should encompass alterations in the composition, nomination, and election of Board Directors. We recommend presenting the content in the body of the notice or attaching it directly as a PDF to the email. For example, a table showing the differences to how the bylaws are currently written and how key changes will be made would make it easier for the general membership to understand what aspects of APA bylaws are proposed to change.

Postpone the deadline. Postpone the input deadline to February 2024 to allow sufficient time for interested members to review and comment on the proposed amendments. This extension will also facilitate Association units in discussing the amendments and preparing a collective statement, if necessary. It will also enable new Board Members to take appropriate actions on the matter.

Conduct a referendum. Consider separating amendments relating to the Board of Directors from the rest of the amendments, allowing a vote in general membership through an Association-wide referendum, even a non-binding referendum.

Paul understands that these changes have been motivated by leadership challenges in the past. Nonetheless, he is concerned that these changes could make it challenging for new, emerging professionals with limited contacts to seek opportunities to get involved.

The APA is currently accepting comments. Comments should include the APA member's name and member ID, Bylaws reference number (e.g., section x.x) and a concise statement specific to the proposed amendment. Comments should be sent to getinvolved@planning.org with the subject line "Bylaws Updates" by December 14, 2023.

Elizabeth Fitzsimmons suggested reviewing the following recording:

<https://planning.org/leadership/bylaws/revisions/#info>

Paul requested that the presentation from the video be shared because it may be easier to digest.

6. *Other Business*

Ralph thanked Isabel from the APA staff for joining the meeting. He also thanked Mark for the presentation before the meeting.