Information Only Items

1. Briefly describe committee activities since your last report.

Co-Chairs assigned for Conference (Joe Janish and Eric Weiss); Co-Chairs assigned for programming (Raya Esmaeili and Mike Palermo), Co-Chairs for mobile tours (Scott Mareck and Angie Stenson). Conference Committee kick-off meeting planned (January 22). Tentative meeting to tour facilities (January 19).

Conference and Programming Co-chairs have discussed tentative theme, keynote, and session tracks ideas. Theme and keynote ideas have been generated using 2015 conference evaluations and co-chairs experiences with past conferences and needs/interest of the field. Session tracks reflect desire to move conference from topic oriented tracks, sessions, and presentations to learning objective oriented tracks, sessions, and presentations. These tracks also reflect a 2016 goal of moving a number of presenters to consider unique, engaging sessions that consider adult learning techniques.

POSSIBLE THEMES

1. “Bridging the Gaps” – generational gaps (work place differences, differences in how generations interact with their community, etc), racial and economic gaps (equity and the role of planners), knowledge gaps (planners lacking certain skills, understanding, and expertise in certain areas) and geographic gaps (the metro-Greater MN divide and how we can come together as a state).
2. “Making Cities Great” – Building off of St. Cloud’s efforts to rebrand itself from the Granite City to the Great City.
3. “Reinventing Planning” – what does it mean to be a planner in the 21st Century? How is the role of a city planner changing? Who is a planner?
4. Some sort of combination of the above

POTENTIAL KEYNOTES – would strongly reflect the selected theme

1. Nakima Levy Pounds (racial equity)
2. BridgeWorks - Scott Zimmer (generational differences)
3. Magda Peck (public health and planning)
4. Group of planners to speak to the theme
5. Entertainment/funny

SESSION TRACKS (attempt for more hands on seminars)

- Skill building (communications strategy, community engagement, hard skills like finance, computer software, writing zoning ordinances, etc.)
- Problem Solving (project-based action-oriented learning)
Items for which you are requesting action by the Chapter Board

Please describe the type of action you are requesting (letter of support, approval of a budget line item, approval of workplan, etc.) Please provide background information for each item on which you are requesting Board action.

1. **Action you are requesting of the Chapter Board (should be one sentence):** Feedback from full Board on initial conference theme, keynote, and session track ideas.
   a. **Background information for your request:** See above.

2. **Action you are requesting of the Chapter Board (should be one sentence):**
   a. **Background information for your request:**