



WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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OCTOBER 2008

Messages

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Winkley, ASLA

A year ago I started a new chapter in my landscape architectural career as President-Elect for WASLA. A journey that was ambiguous and extremely interesting at the same time. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but sometimes in order to achieve a goal a person needs to jump into the water without testing it to see if it's too cold. What I found out is that there are landscape architects and aspiring landscape architects in the State of Washington who are motivated to make positive changes to the environment and the profession.

This past year has been an eye-opening for me professionally, both at the job and in the legislative process. Prior to my membership with WASLA I was somewhat green as to what other landscape architects in this state and nation were up to and what their roles might be within the profession. Over the last year I was able to reach out and meet with many professionals within the landscape architectural field and what I found was that our state has some of the finest displays of design by some of the most talented landscape architects in the nation, but we still don't have a Practice Act. Our state has many unique and beautiful places that need preservation, conservation and rehabilitation, but we don't receive the adequate support that is necessary to accomplish these goals. It is all of our jobs as landscape architects to promote the profession in a positive direction and continue our stewardship of the ground that we are walking on.



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I see my leadership role within WASLA as a conduit and proponent for the profession, working towards passing a practice act that is overdue and promoting the stewardship of the "Evergreen State". WASLA has worked diligently on the practice act over the past year, but our efforts fell short in time sensitive session. We've also partnered with the National Parks Service to advocate for trails and conservation of our natural areas. This year we're back and motivated to see the practice act become a reality and our continuing efforts to preserve and conserve natural areas with our partners. This work will only happen with the support and efforts of all of our members and constituents. I ask that all WASLA members take the time to volunteer, whether it is on an ongoing basis or just a limited duration. Volunteering is very rewarding and helps get the word out about our profession.

I'm also excited about the newly formed WASLA section in Vancouver. This is a motivated group that is concerned about the profession and where it is headed. Our state is large in comparison to others and most times it is difficult with the increasing price at the pump and time necessary to commute north. That makes this an ideal situation for both the members in Vancouver and WASLA. Welcome Vancouver!

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve WASLA and the landscape architect profession over the next year. This is truly a privilege.

WELCOME 2008-2009 WASLA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Ed Winkley, ASLA
President Elect: Kellye Hilde, ASLA
Past President: Chris Overdorf, ASLA
Trustee: Don Benson, ASLA
Treasurer: Jasmine Aryana, ASLA
Secretary: Jocelyn Freilinger
Member at Large (Western Washington): Richard Hanson, FASLA
Associate at Large (Western Washington): David Hilgers, ASLA
Member at Large (Eastern Washington): Craig Anderson, ASLA

CALL FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VOLUNTEERS

We have plenty of opportunities for members to become involved with WASLA. The success of WASLA is credited to the extraordinary members that volunteer their time and efforts to help serve the community of landscape architecture in Washington State. If you are interested in chairing a committee or volunteering please visit www.wasla.org/committees.htm or contact Kellye Hilde at khilde@triadassoc.com for more information.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like to contribute to the WASLA Monthly Newsletter please send inquiries to Jocelyn Freiling at jocelynlf@mac.com.

Committee Reports and Public Relations

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Don Benson, ASLA, AICP, WASLA Trustee

The ASLA Board of Trustees meets twice a year. The first meeting is the Mid-Year Meeting in May in Washington, D.C. and the second meeting occurs at the ASLA Annual Meeting (this year in Philadelphia). The report below summarizes discussions and decisions at the second meeting in Philadelphia. Please contact me if there are any questions at don_benson@urscorp.com or 206-438-2027.

1. Executive Offices

The ASLA Executive Committee has met to discuss the continued progress of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, the final development and testing of the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System, and conduct a special forum on growing the profession. Outreach and liaison with other organizations continues as a strong focus. ASLA's Green Roof Program is a finalist in the Washington Business Journal and Greater Washington Board of Trade 2008 Green Business Awards.

2. Finance and Building Operations

The ASLA Finance Committee has reviewed the budget and operations for the next two years and due to the current economic conditions and payment of taxes owed related to a joblink audit, ASLA has had to make some adjustments. A more realistic projection of revenues from the next two

Annual Meetings was budgeted and some reductions in funding (mostly in staff training and travel) have occurred. After input from the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC), the ASLA Chapter Initiative Program will be suspended for a little while so that Chapter Presidents-Elect can continue to be partially reimbursed for travel to the Chapter President's meetings. Both the BOT and CPC felt it was important for the Presidents-Elect to be at these meetings. The time to achieve 50% of expenses for ASLA reserves has also been extended from an original target of 2013 to 2020. With these measures, ASLA feels the budget can be maintained. The 2008 and 2009 budgets and annual operating plans were approved.

3. Member and Chapter Services

Membership has slightly declined from 2007 but is still over 18,000 (fellows, full members, honorary and international members, students and student affiliates). A revision of the Emeritus status rules (membership) is under way. Database upgrades have occurred and a new website unveiled this year.

4. Government Affairs

Advocacy efforts have included: the Historic American Landscape Survey funding; recognition of ASLA in the Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods Act and the Energy Conservation Through Trees Act; and progress in ASLA supported legislation for the Complete Streets, the National Landscape Conservation System and No Child Left Inside Acts. Progress has occurred in ASLA's campaign for 50 by 2010 licensure. Legislative action is occurring in Illinois, Michigan, Washington and Wisconsin related to licensure upgrades. New Jersey successfully upgraded their Title to Practice Act in 2008. There is now only one state (Vermont) along with the District of Columbia without a Title or Practice Act. The Board of Trustees is currently providing input on ASLA public policies adopted at the meeting, those being Urban Growth and Development, Memorials, and Transportation Corridors and Facilities.

5. Professional Practice and IT

Sustainable Sites and Landscape Architectural Technical Information Series draft reports (Ecological Restoration, Security Design) have been prepared. The Professional Practice Network has expanded their capabilities. Information Technology (IT) has upgraded the IT infrastructure and enhanced maintenance.

6. Education and Academic Affairs

The Council of Education has prepared survey and other data and discussed the issue of growing the profession with the ASLA Executive Committee. An open forum on this subject was held at the Annual Meeting. Work on the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System continues and the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board continues to work on a revision of the accreditation standards.

7. Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM)

LAM continues to help ensure that LAM helps grow the body of knowledge for the profession. It continues to listen to its readers and will expand on new departments such as Green Roof Case Studies, Stormwater Design, and Campus Profiles. It will also continue with its popular Firm Focus series.

8. Publishing and Resource Development

Marketing and advertising revenue has increased in 2008. The new ASLA standard for contract packages has been selling well. Fundraising activities are on going to support publishing and resource development.

9. Public Relations and Communications

ASLA has had a very successful year in public relations and communications with stories in several major newspapers and publications. Visitors to the ASLA Headquarters Green Roof continue to average about 35-40 per week, including schoolchildren, various groups or individuals and, in July, the First Lady, Laura Bush. Landscape On-Line is a popular forum, especially the Dirt blog. The ASLA Website has been redesigned to improve content and search capabilities.

10. Strategic Objectives

ASLA strategic objectives discussed at the Mid-year Meeting were voted on and approved in Philadelphia. There are 13 objectives with the top objective being to "enhance the image, visibility and understanding of the profession with client groups, public policy makers, allied professions, media and the general public." Other high ranking objectives included promoting adoption of laws and regulations enhancing the design, planning and stewardship of the natural and built environment and promoting licensure of the profession.

BEACON HILL TRAIL CONNECTIONS DESIGN CHARRETTE October 24-25, 2008

The Fat Tire Trail Riders Club and Beacon Hill Trail Group are teaming up with the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Avista, private landowners, the National Park Service, the American Society of Landscape Architects and a diverse group of local experts to design ways for integrating the proposed Beacon Hill Trail Network with the Spokane community.

Schedule:

Friday October 24, 3:00-9:30 p.m.: Orientation and welcome dinner.

Saturday, October 25 (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM): Landscape architects work along with locals to create trailhead,

community connections, and interpretation designs. The focus teams are access/trailhead concept designs; community & regional connections; historical/environmental interpretation; maintenance programming; and multimodal recreational opportunities

Saturday Evening, October 25, 6:00-8:00 PM: Open house presentation to the public

Announcements

"TRAIL OF TEARS DOCUMENTATION ACT" PASSES IN THE HOUSE

On September 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Trail of Tears Documentation Act" (H.R. 5335). The legislation, introduced by Congressman Zach Wamp (TN), directs the National Park Service to add routes to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The current trail remains unmodified since its original designation in 1987 and omits several paths of forced relocation taken by the Cherokee Indians.

Today the trail encompasses about 2,200 miles of land and water routes and traverses portions of nine states, including Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. In the years since 1987, scholars and historians have uncovered a significant amount of information identifying additional routes as well as landmarks along previously designated routes. Research about the "Trail of Tears" events and routes is ongoing, and the National Park Service works cooperatively with scholars, site managers, and others to learn more about trail-related stories and sites. Under H.R. 5335, these additional landscapes, sites, and landmarks would be included in the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

"The Trail of Tears" is the route taken by the Cherokee Indians in the 1820s and 30s, when they were forced to leave their homes in the East, and sent to reservations in the Great Plains. The trail reveals the historical significance behind many of the landscapes, telling a sad but important story of national tragedy and will recognize the many Native Americans that perished as a result.

SEEKING HELP WITH COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
PARTNERSHIP - SOUTHEAST SENIOR CENTER

If you are interested in a pro bono landscaping plan to help improve the Southeast Senior Center by January 2009 please contact MelissaM@seniorservices.org.

The total proposed landscaping area is approximately 3,950 feet (areas west and east of the center's front door and the east side of the building).

Our requested product is:

1. A landscape design at two different budget levels:
Minimum: \$0
(this is what the SESC has to give the project right now) and an attainable \$500 (a total based on modest fundraising goals)
2. Guidance on the City of Seattle permit processing or actually obtaining the permit
3. Guidance on the process for where to go next: identifying funding, places to obtain affording supplies and any other suggestions

This center is one of eight funded by Senior Services, a private non-profit agency which includes programs such as Information and Assistance, Meals on Wheels, Senior Rights Assistance, Community Dining and Minor Home Repair. Our goals with this project are to increase building visibility, help to beautify the neighborhood and create a more inviting environment for Southeast seniors. This includes ensuring that the building's signage is not blocked by foliage and enhancing the attractiveness of the corner of Holly Street and Rainier Avenue South.

Other projects the center is working on include a new building sign and a mural on the wall facing Holly Street. We also hope to discourage vandalism, graffiti, gang activity and littering on the center grounds and the nearby streets. We want a center that our seniors can be proud of.

For additional information please visit www.seniorservices.org.

AIA/WASLA HAPPY HOUR THIS FRIDAY

Join us for the AIA/WASLA Emerging Professionals happy hour
this Friday!

Friday, October 17
5:30 - 7:00 pm
The Portico Group
1500 4th Ave., third floor
Seattle, WA

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