Who We Are

The Planning Association of Washington is a grassroots educational organization devoted to helping shape a vibrant Washington through effective and informed community planning. Our members and constituents are planners, planning commissioners, elected officials, tribes, special purpose districts, private sector firms, state agencies, students and interested citizens.
President Spotlight

Alex Wenger is the Acting Community Development Director for the City of Blaine. Having worked for the City of Blaine his entire career, Alex enjoys small town Americana and the many outdoor recreational opportunities that Blaine has to offer as a small maritime City with close proximity to Vancouver, B.C. and Bellingham WA.

Alex has always had a strong connection with the Salish Sea while growing up on San Juan Island and attending Western Washington University. As a Shoreline Administrator and Critical Areas Administrator for the City of Blaine, some of Alex’s favorite projects have been developing new public beaches and creating a new a nautical themed playground. Designing, permitting and managing the construction of the Marine Park Naturalization and Reconstruction project was a particularly fun City project, which included rebuilding and cleaning up over 400 feet of shoreline in Marine Park. A few years later, Alex oversaw the redevelopment of approximately 900 feet of shoreline on Semiahmoo Spit, a high energy shoreline with public access.

Happily married with three kids, Alex is energized when his family enjoys a new public place or his kids play on a new playground that he worked on as planner. It was a special moment at the Marine Park Playground Grand Opening and Celebration, when what seemed like the entire community of Blaine came out to christen the new 65-foot pirate ship playground, which was modeled after the tall ship Lady Washington and includes a 30-foot lighthouse play structure in the image of Blaine’s historic lighthouse.

Alex has been the President at PAW for four years and while his term is coming to an end, he has thoroughly enjoyed the experience and says the networking and new connections have been invaluable. Being part of an organization that is focused on bringing people together to talk about planning issues has proven to be a lot of fun, and to experience the robust statewide support for PAW has been very gratifying. Alex is thankful for all the friends he has made through the PAW and looks forward to seeing what the next round of PAW leadership is able to accomplish!
State Historic Preservation Plan Update Effort in Full Swing

The WA State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is well into its work to update the state historic preservation plan. Though DAHP is required to produce the plan by the federal government, the document is intended to give direction to the preservation community, stakeholders, and the public at-large to reach long-term protection of the state’s historic places. The current preservation plan for 2014 to 2019, Getting the Future Right (see the Executive Summary and the full text version at: https://dahp.wa.gov/preservationplan) lapses in Spring 2019 by which time the new plan for 2019-2024 will be in place. In drafting the plan, DAHP is satisfying a federal requirement to generate broad public support that will lead to implementation of goals, strategies, and tasks to achieve during the 5-year planning cycle.

To assist DAHP in drafting the plan, the agency has brought together a planning steering committee composed of a broad range of grass-roots supporters and professionals who are engaged and knowledgeable about historic preservation work in the state. Included on the committee are archaeologists, developers, historians, Main Street managers, Tribal representatives, as well as several planners. The Planning Association of Washington (PAW) is represented on the steering committee by PAW Board member Ted Gage of Anacortes. The work of the committee is to identify and prioritize issues that will shape the work of the statewide historic preservation community in coming years and to reach-out to a broad audience to participate in defining and prioritizing issues to be addressed in the plan.

To date, the public participation process has reached hundreds of members of the public through a series of meetings and workshops, but mainly through an on-line questionnaire accessed through DAHP’s website at www.dahp.wa.gov/preservationplan. Between the face-to-face meetings and on-line questionnaire, DAHP has received hundreds of comments representing a broad range of ideas and recommendations to include in the plan as well as identification of real (or perceived) threats to cultural and historic resources.
For planners whose work affects and/or is affected by cultural and historic properties in their community, there is much to glean from the data and actual comments. Many commenters stressed the need for preservationists to work more closely with planners and land-use managers to identify these resources and incorporate preservation in comprehensive plans and development codes. When asked “Who do you think should have a role in protecting historic places?” 92% of respondents selected “Local governments” followed by state government (88%) and private individuals (86%). Similarly, for the question “Who do you think is most effective at protecting/preserving historic places?” once again, “Local governments” was the top ranked selection at 59% of respondents followed by non-profit organizations at 55% and state government at 47%. Other data of note is when asked to rank the most important issues facing historic preservation work in the future, “Land use planning” was ranked third most important by all respondents at 36% following “Education & training” at 45% and “Sustainability” at 38%. Other ranked issues include: diversity, housing affordability, stronger relationships with tribes, disaster preparedness planning, and economic development. These survey results demonstrate a recognition by the public that preservation is a local issue shaped largely by public policy, land use plans, and decision-makers.

The on-line questionnaire will be available through the end of the year, so if you have not done so, you are encouraged to go to www.dahp.wa.gov/preservationplan and provide your input. The survey should take 10 to 15 minutes but you are encouraged to provide your opinions and recommendations to include in the next state preservation plan. Additionally, if you have questions about the plan, the steering committee, and/or would like to schedule a meeting in your community with DAHP staff, contact DAHP’s Greg Griffith at greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov or 360-586-3073.
Conference Sponsorships and Newsletter Submissions

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIPS

It’s not too soon to begin recruiting sponsors for the 2019 PAW Conference, happening May 1-3, 2019 in Chelan, WA. If you have an idea for a conference sponsor please contact the outreach committee by emailing newsletterPAW@gmail.com.

SUBMISSIONS

We want to hear from you! Have some good news, did someone in your office receive an award or make an exceptional effort you want to recognize, recently complete a major project? We want to recognize your accomplishments with member spotlights. Submit your good news moments to newsletterPAW@gmail.com so we can help acknowledge exceptional work in planning.

We are now seeking newsletter articles for the next newsletter the topic will be interesting ways you’ve incorporated technology into your planning. Whether it’s using live polling in public meetings, funding planning efforts through the use of smart technology in parking enforcement, or just reaching the public through social media – submit an article to tell us all about it! The deadline for article submissions is December 15th.
SAVE THE DATE

2019 BOOTCAMP DATES HAVE BEEN SET! MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

MARCH
22nd       BootCamp; Lacey, Washington

MAY
1st-3rd    PAW Annual Conference; Campbell’s Resort, Chelan

JUNE
14th       Boot Camp; Ellensburg, Washington

NOVEMBER
8th        Boot Camp; Spokane, Washington

NOVEMBER
15th       Planners Skills Camp; Mercer Island, Washington
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
PAW’s Employment page is a great resource for information on jobs, internships and other planning-related opportunities of interest for PAW members and friends. Employment opportunities can be advertised on the PAW website at a cost of $50 for PAW members and $100 for non-members.

RESOURCES AND LINKS
Washington State Association of Counties  http://wsac.org/
Association of Washington Cities  http://www.awcnet.org/
Washington State Department of Commerce  http://www.commerce.wa.gov/
Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation  https://dahp.wa.gov/
Municipal Research Services Corporation  http://mrsc.org/Home.asp
National Association of Regional Councils  http://narc.org/

JOIN PAW OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2019
If you haven’t gotten to it yet this year, this is just a quick reminder to renew your PAW membership and to encourage others to join.

Benefits of PAW membership include substantial discounts to all PAW events, including conferences and land use boot camps. Educational offerings with partnering organizations, quarterly newsletters, access to the Western Planner Journal and access to PAW’s new online discussion forum are other benefits.

Membership categories and rates are:
• Individual Membership: $75 One representative from any private organization or firm
• Student Membership: $20 All of the benefits of an Individual Membership at a reduced rate. A limited number of sponsored memberships are also available to students at no charge; contact the PAW office for more information.
• Professional Membership: $450 Unlimited representatives from any public or private organization or firm
• Officials-Elected or Appointed: $100 Unlimited elected or appointed representatives from any public agency or organization

The Professional Membership category has been highly popular. Unlimited representatives from any public or private organization or firm can enjoy the benefits of PAW membership for only $450.00.

Email us at info@planningpaw.org for more information about membership benefits and rates.
Board of Directors

Executive Board Members
Alex Wenger, AICP, President
Emily Terrell, Vice President & Education Chair
Lloyd Skinner, AICP, Treasurer & APA Board Liaison
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