

**Southwest Section Council  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
11am to 12pm  
Westmoreland County Planning Office/Conference Call**

**Attendance:** Laura Ludwig (phone), Josh Spano (phone), Jeff Raykes (phone), Jordan Holloway (phone), Daniel Carpenter, Corey Young

**Update on Focus Areas**

- Jeff is still working on this and will try to get a handle on this prior to our next meeting.

**Spring Workshop**

- Start at 10:00 a.m. and finish around 2:00 p.m. with a networking/happy hour event afterwards at the Union Grille
- Speakers are confirmed and are as follows:
  - Issac Smith, Green Building Alliance
  - Chris Velasco, PLACE
  - Joel Morrison, West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund
  - Alanna Colvin, PennTAP
- Laura needs speaker bios ASAP for Issac and Chris so that she can file the AICP credit paperwork. Corey will send the bios to Laura ASAP.
- Laura will send out the final version of the flyer via email so we can all share and distribute in our inner circles.
- Laura will communicate with Rhiannon to get the Robly email sent out with the Eventbrite link to sign up and the flyer (to attach to the email).
- Can we put a link to the Eventbrite page on the Section website? Maybe Rhiannon will know this!
- Corey's team has a "day of" event crash kit that will have name tags, sign-in sheets, etc. They are also working on a pamphlet/handout for the event.
- We all need to hit up our own networks to spread the word on the event.
- Corey also suggested reaching out to the various Bar Associations across the Counties in our area. They will sometimes piggyback on these types of events and provide law credits for their members.
- **We will have another call on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Noon to discuss final details. Jordan will set up the call-in number for this.**

**Fall Workshop**

- Laura reached out to Chris Blackwell at Penn Hills. He provided additional contact info and suggestions. Laura will try to make some more progress on this by next meeting.

### **Mentoring Program**

- Dan and Jeff did a great job putting this together – big thanks!!!
- Please send any comments or edits to Dan by end of next week. You can make edits or comments to the google doc and send it back to Dan.
- Dan will send this out again to make sure everyone has it.
- The goal is to finalize the content and also to create a flyer that we can distribute at the April 10<sup>th</sup> event.
- Do we have a catch-all type of email address set up for general inquiries? Rhiannon – do you know this? If not, we may need to create one for general questions.

### **PDO Rep**

- Laura did reach out to Ashley Moore from Bethel Park but has not heard back yet. (Laura just reached out this week though!)
- Based on the discussion at the State Chapter meeting in State College, it seems many of the Sections state-wide are struggling to fill this position also. It needs to be someone that works in local or county government as a planning commissioner / planning official.

### **Updates from State Chapter Board Meeting**

- The Board seemed very interested in our Mentoring Program and asked for copies to distribute to the other sections. Once we finalize it, Laura can send to Kim Gusic and she can distribute.
- A new management firm was approved and will be hired to manage the Chapter after Susan Shermer retires. The firm is based out of Chicago - DRI Professional Services (DPS). Kim Gusic will become an employee of DPS and will still be based out of the Harrisburg area. She will be one of the main contacts moving forward with the transition.
- The State Board will advise the Sections on the transition as it progresses. Laura believes Susan is slated to retire at the end of April.
- The State is looking for a Southwest Section representative to serve on the Statewide Legislative Committee and also the Education Committee. Laura will compile additional information on these roles and will send out to the group.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- April 17<sup>th</sup> at IUP – Jeff gave an overview of the April meeting. He's excited to host in Indiana, PA! We will be meeting in the Planning Studio at IUP and will be able to get a tour of the department and peek into some of the classrooms. Students will be invited to our meeting. We should be able to get lunch (sandwiches) from the local 9<sup>th</sup> Street Deli. Jeff will also order pizza.

- May Meeting – Laura will send out a Doodle poll for this. Josh offered to host at SPC so long as he is in the office that day.