



American Planning Association  
Texas Chapter | Midwest Section  
*Making Great Communities Happen*

## Minutes of the TX APA Midwest Section January 17, 2018

- I. January 17 meeting began at 11:30 am in conference room at NCTCOG.  
Present: Tamara Cook, Director  
Abra Nusser, Director Elect  
Jeff Whitacre, Immediate Past Director  
Travis Liska, Treasurer  
Jenny Crosby, PDO/Professional Development Officer (called in)
- II. Recap of Past Events:
- III. Future Events:
  - A. Future Cities Competition – January 27, 2018: Director informed Board about this event.
  - B. Annual Awards Banquet – Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 4:00 - 7:00 pm.
    1. Update on Registration: Board talked about the registration page for the Annual Awards and Facebook advertising. Director-Elect reported on registration/attendance to date.
    2. Planning/Planner Awards:
      - a. Director has reached out to 3 or 4 planning directors at several cities to encourage them to apply for the award.
      - b. Treasurer provided an update on the awards process and nominations. General discussion of the current process and ways to improve for next year, including possibly rebranding the awards and adding new award categories. Goal is for greater participation next year.
      - c. Director Award – Board discussed candidates for the award.
    3. Scholarship Awards – Secretary not present. Link to Student Scholarship application in newsletters starting December 1.
    4. Agenda: Director presented preliminary agenda.
    5. Food/Other Logistics: EPL Rep/Danielle presented information about the event planning as well as the following for discussion:
      - a. Happy-Hour – discussed providing drink tickets or open tap.
      - b. Visit Brewery – discussed if a preliminary visit to confirm event set up/staging is necessary.
    6. Ethics Training: Director confirmed that Carol Barrett, FAICP, will be the guest speaker and ethics CM credits will be available.

- C. Texas APA Executive Committee Meeting – February 2, 2018: Board talked about several other events going on including the State APA Executive Committee Meeting on February 2
  - D. Great Places in Texas – Deadline is February 2, 2018.
  - E. UTA Planning Accreditation Board Review – February 5, 2018: Director made Board aware of the Planning Accreditation Board Review meeting on February 5; announced that alumni and employers of planning program graduates are invited to attend.
  - F. Timeline of Events Discussion – continued discussion about:
    - 1. UTA SPA Joint Event
    - 2. Putt-Putt for Planning (Top Golf)
    - 3. National Conference (April)
- IV. Reports and Updates by Board Officers:
- A. Director: Tamara Cook - no additional reports
  - B. Director Elect: Abra Nusser – Presented the idea for a separate Midwest Section website; preliminary cost is \$1,500 to develop site; State approval is required.
  - C. Treasurer: Travis Liska – provided an update on the Section budget.
  - D. Secretary: Jenifer Reiner – not present
  - E. Communications Coordinator: Eleana Tuley – not present
  - F. EPL/Emerging Planning Leaders: Danielle Stellrecht – not present
  - G. PDO/Professional Development Officer: Jenny Crosby
  - H. Programs Chair (volunteer) – Vacant
  - I. UTA SPA President: Dhawal Kataria – not present
  - J. Immediate Past Director: Jeff Whitacre – no report
- V. January 17 meeting ended at approximately 1:30 pm.