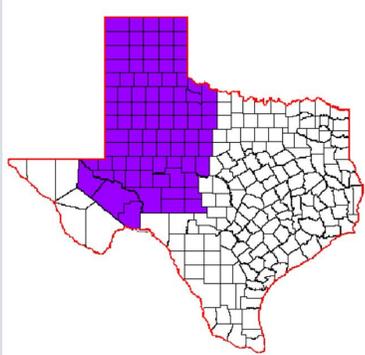


# NORTHWEST SECTION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
TEXAS CHAPTER | NORTHWEST SECTION  
WINTER 2018



The Northwest Section includes 88 Texas counties. Member cities currently include Abilene, Amarillo, Ballinger, Big Spring, Clyde, Levelland, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, and Vernon. For more information, visit [www.txplanning.org/northwest/](http://www.txplanning.org/northwest/).

#### Section Officers:

Director: AJ Fawver, AICP, CNU-A, CPM, City of Lubbock

Assistant Director: Jon James, AICP, City of San Angelo

Secretary: Kristen Sager, City of Lubbock

Treasurer: Zack Rainbow, City of Abilene

Newsletter Editor/Website: Jeff Fisher, AICP, City of San Angelo

Professional Development Officer: Cameron Walker, AICP, Permian Basin MPO



## Message from the Director

2018 has been a banner year for the Northwest Section. We ramped up the activity, successfully pulling off three CM credit educational sessions around the section area, an elected/appointed official training, bringing back the newsletter, creating new partnerships, reaching out to rural cities and towns to get them involved, and securing the largest grant in this section's history to date.

In 2019, we will challenge ourselves to bring even more content forward, virtually and in person. However, we need each of our members to make this successful. From volunteering to staying engaged, we cannot do it without you. At the first of next year, we will be sharing with you our plans for educational opportunities, initiatives, partnerships, and activities. Stay tuned!

Next year, we will also strive to have the Northwest Section represented in award applications (like Great Places in Texas), in

session proposals for the Texas Chapter Conference, in AICP candidate lists, and in awards given for excellent planning efforts.

We will also be exploring the possibility of creating committees to focus on specific projects designed to share and create resources. Know that those opportunities are in our future.

Lastly, on behalf of the Northwest Section Leadership Team, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season. It's been very rewarding working with - and for - you!

Happy Holidays!

-AJ

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 26, 2018 - How to Make Your Small Town Autonomous Vehicle Friendly ([live webinar](#))

Nov 28, 2018 - Changes in Demographics and Markets for Public Transportation ([live webinar](#))

Nov 29, 2018 - How to Advocate for Your City ([live webinar](#))

Jan 16-18, 2019 - Real Places: Preserving Historic Texas, Austin ([in-person event](#))

Jan 31-Feb 1, 2019 - Grant Writing for City Programs & Projects ([live in-person event](#))

teaching the students about the planning profession and engaging them in activities to teach them about zoning and design principles.



*City of Lubbock Recognition*



*City of Lubbock Planning Staff with Slaton ISD 4th & 5th graders*

## Featured Projects

With October being National Community Planning Month, we want to recognize the City of Lubbock, who celebrated the occasion, and educated citizens about the importance of the planning field. Here are some of the activities they put together.

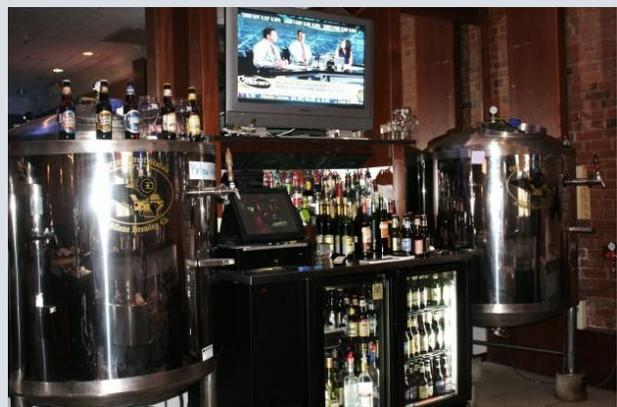
### *City of Lubbock*

The City of Lubbock's Planning Department worked with their Public Information Department to create a "Did You Know" feature on their social media pages sharing little known facts about planning in the community. They also coordinated with the City Council to have a recognition for the month of October, including the chairs from each of the planning-related boards and commissions. Bios and photos of each member of the department were shared via social media to highlight the people making planning happen. Lastly, they worked with Slaton ISD's 4th and 5th grade gifted & talented students to have a morning session devoted to

We also want to feature the work the City of Abilene has done, recognizing the need - as many of us have - for brewpubs to be addressed in their zoning ordinance.

### *City of Abilene*

The City of Abilene's Planning and Development Services Department brought forward amendments to the City's Land Development Code to allow "Brewpubs". Abilene City Council approved the amendments at their meeting of October 9, 2018.



The amendments included creating a definition of "Brewpub" and allowing them in certain zoning districts by right. They are defined as principal businesses selling food and beverages at the same table or counter where these items are consumed or within the restaurant building; and where malt liquor, ale or beer may be manufactured, brewed, bottled, canned, packaged and labelled and sold for consumption on or off the premises.

Brewpubs will be allowed in the six zoning districts where standard restaurants are allowed: Neighborhood Retail (NR); General Retail (GR); Central Business (CB); Mixed Use (MX); General Commercial (GC); and Heavy Commercial (HC), and require licensing from the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC).

## Featured Member

Hayden Brodowsky, Planner and Historic Preservation Officer, City of Abilene



Hayden Brodowsky has worked for the City of Abilene for two years, one year as a planner and one year as an intern to the Assistant City Manager. Originally from Lancaster, California, Hayden is a recent graduate of Abilene Christian University and is currently obtaining his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. Hayden enjoys project management or any projects that require public engagement.

Before the amendments, "Brewpubs" were essentially prohibited because the manufacturing component was only allowed in industrial zones and the restaurant component is not an allowed use in an industrial zone.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ABILENE'S BREWPUB STANDARDS

- Current ordinance prohibits brewpubs
- Allowed in six zoning districts where restaurants are allowed
- TABC License required
- Includes a principal business selling food and beverages to customers at same table or counter or within restaurant building
- May manufacture, brew, bottle, can, package, label and sell malt liquor, ale and beer on premises

For further information, contact Abilene Planning and Development Services at 325-657-6237

## What's Happening

In each issue, we will feature some news stories of interest from within our section. Here's a look at recent events:

*Vet school will happen, Texas Tech leaders and state legislators say*

*Public gives input on Lubbock's comprehensive plan*

*Auto dealers push back on proposed Lubbock zoning change*

*City council approves more temporary housing*

*City Wants to Address Food Truck Phenom Again*

*Council to vote on zoning amendments, TIRZ*

*Public hearing for electronic billboard zone change on P&Z agenda*

*City of Amarillo sponsoring North Heights Community Clean Up Day*

*Officials seek public input for new Lubbock-wide bike plan*

*City Seeking Input on Airport Master Plan*

*MPO calls for public input on Long Range Plan*

*Residents oppose modular home park*

## Commissioners Corner

Whether your city is large or small, if you have a Planning & Zoning Commission, you know the importance of commissioners. Keep in mind that they can also benefit from joining our section, as well as APATX.

### *Talking About Ethics*

An on-line event you don't want to miss is "[Talking About Ethics](#)", a 90-minute interactive session on ethics in planning decisions. The event will take place from 11:30am-1:00pm CST on Thursday, December 6, 2018. Sponsored by the APA North Carolina Chapter, participants will have the opportunity to examine real world case studies, and how to apply ethical principles in decision-making.

<https://planning.org/events/eventsingle/9163133/>

### *Save the Date!*

This year's Texas APA Conference in Galveston, TX held on October 17-19, 2018, at the Galveston Island Convention Center was an incredible success! The 2019 Texas APA Conference will be held in Waco on October 16-18, 2019 and featuring many prominent speakers with more training opportunities. Please explore their website at <https://www.apatx19.com/> and check back for more information.

## Reviews You Can Use

From technology to the latest reads, subscriptions to engagement methods, our goal is to continually review what's new that our membership might be able to utilize or learn from. In this edition, we focus on two user-friendly phone apps with a focus on mobility.



An excerpt from SeeClickFix

### [SeeClickFix.com Request Management](#) (\$ variable)

This app allows city governments to resolve customer issues in a timely manner from a centralized place. Citizens use the app to report a concern or ask a question, and questions are forwarded to an assigned individual who then sends the message to the appropriate official for action. Citizens can locate the issue or problem area on a map and upload their photos. Once the issue has been resolved, the customer and the city contact are forwarded the response. Citizens can share their responses on social media. The program also keeps track of case history. Cities can run reports for Council Members and the public showing the percentage of issues resolved. Request Management avoids duplication and separate emails as all communication and action can be taken from one central place.

#### *Final Thoughts*

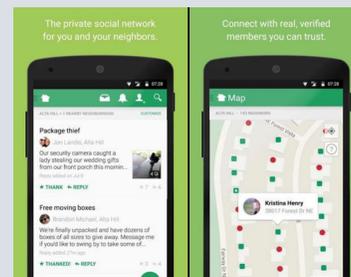
The free online demo displays a standard scenario from start to finish. The app appears user friendly and its centralized management system appears to provide a more streamlined approach to resolving municipal issues. Costs were not provided and the system requires an assigned individual(s) to regularly maintain and be available to respond to customer requests.

### [Nextdoor.com \(free\)](#)

The Nextdoor app is a neighborhood-specific, social media outlet that allows neighbors to share current issues in their area. Unlike Facebook or Twitter, all members must live in the specific neighborhood. This app can be beneficial to cities by allowing a city official to tap into the neighborhood mood on a particular issue and then be an advocate to resolve it.

#### *Final Thoughts*

This app provides a vehicle for city officials to connect with their constituents on a more personal level to resolve concerns. However, similar to other social media outlets, the app can be used by some to spread negative or incorrect information. It also restricts those outside the neighborhood from being able to communicate, limiting city officials from participating if they do not have an address within the specific neighborhood in question.



An excerpt from Nextdoor

Have an item you'd like us to review? Email your suggestions to [jeff.fisher@cosatx.us](mailto:jeff.fisher@cosatx.us).