

ANNUAL AWARD LUNCH

JANUARY

15

2019

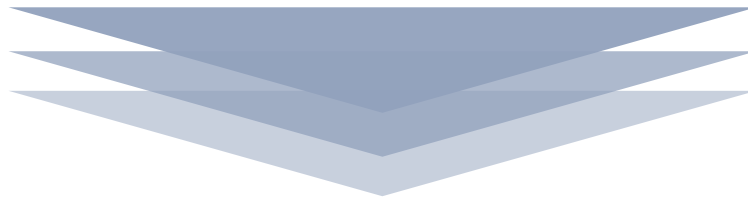


CONGRATULATIONS!!!

PLANNING PROJECTS

Comprehensive Plan Award – Sitka 2030 Comprehensive Plan

This award recognizes a comprehensive plan completed within the past three years that demonstrates public participation and innovative or visionary approaches. The Sitka 2030 Comprehensive Plan was built upon a robust and varied community outreach program and vigorous community discussion, which began in early 2016. Six points important to plan development and its use are worth sharing include: public outreach, addressing the surprise of internal resistance, identifying 11 land use and future growth challenges and opportunities, finding a balance between a readable, easy-to-use plan and the technical data that supported plan development, winning and using a 2017 EPA Smart Growth America Sustainable Land Use Code Audit Technical Assistance grant, and a strong start to plan implementation.



PLANNING LEADERSHIP

Planning Advocate of the Year – Sara Jansen

This award recognizes an individual, or an appointed or elected official who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena in a sustained or particularly effective manner. Sara currently serves as the Secretary on the Great Land Trust (GLT) Board of Directors, a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the land and waters we all love in beautiful Alaska. Sara's volunteer work with GLT has resulted in the acquisition and donation of the Settler's Bay Coastal Park. The GLT donated the park land to the MSB for development, operations and maintenance along with a grant for planning and construction. This park will be the first park of its size and kind for the MSB. Sara is also a board member of the Fishhook Community Council.

Planning Team of the Year – MOA Long Range Planning Division

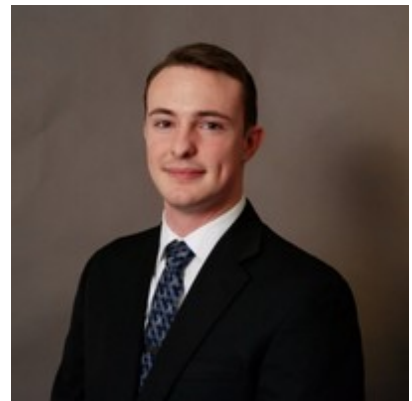
The award recognizes and honors a team of planning professionals who have collectively made outstanding contributions to the planning field in Alaska over a period of time, and who exhibit qualities which lead to the successful accomplishment of planning goals, programs, or projects.

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Long Range Planning Division has the first and foremost task is to implement the identified actions of the adopted Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2040 LUP) and Map. Team successes include the adoption of a new zoning district (R-3A), developing a Reinvestment Focus Area (RFA) program, and revising the R-2 zoning districts to address the 2.5 story standard. The team also staffs three Commissions: Historic Preservation, Geo-technical Advisory, and the Natural Resource and Watershed. These Commissions advise the Municipality and other agencies on various projects, proposed ordinance related to their subject expertise, make recommendations on mitigating potential life - safety issues, the preservation of historic buildings and protection of resources.

Emerging Planner of the Year – Ben Coleman

This award honors a new professional planner (with five or less years in the profession) that has helped elevate the planning profession and build public support for planning, and through current work demonstrates the potential of having a continual influence on the planning profession for years to come.

Ben is a Planner II – Transportation with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. He graduated from Cornell University with Master of Regional Planning in May 2017. Since joining the MSB in November 2017, he was created a GIS-based Storymap-version of the MSB's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Executive Summary, prepared a Commuter Rail Position Paper, prepared an Economic Opportunity Zones Proposal for West Meadow Lakes & Houston, and worked on the MSB's \$43 million Road Bond.



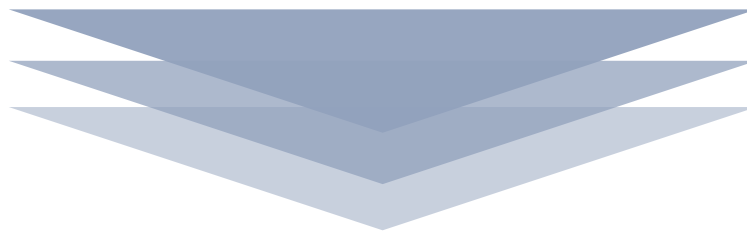
Planner of the Year – John Czarnezki

The award recognizes and honors planning professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the planning field in Alaska over an extended period of time, and who exhibit qualities which lead to the successful accomplishment of planning goals, programs, or projects.

John has a Bachelor’s degree in Resource Management and his Master of Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin, and worked several years for the UW Extension before coming north to Alaska in 1998. He is currently the Director of Economic Development and Planning for the City of Soldotna.



Some of the successes John has had while working with the City of Soldotna include establishing a new regulatory framework for Food Trucks, developing commercial marijuana regulations; and new zoning codes to allow for townhouse development, better landscaping standards, and spearheaded the first even Frozen River Festival (a popular outdoor winter beer festival which has more than 1,000 attendees). John is hard-working, strategic, and detail-oriented has made a real impact in Soldotna as he helps solve problems and create new opportunities on a daily basis for Soldotna resident and business owners.



GREAT PLACES

Great Street in America– Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK

APA’s Great Places in America celebrates places of exemplary character, quality, and design. They represent the gold standard of community involvement, cultural and historic interest, sense of place, and, most importantly, a legacy of exceptional planning. A collaborative effort led by city leaders, local business owners, residents, and planners, came the concept to change the way Cushman Street functioned and looked by reducing the number of car lanes from three to two, doubling sidewalks. The improvements to Cushman Street have done much to breathe new life into the once struggling downtown core and is helping create a stronger and more vibrant community.