In 2018, the OAPA Board of Directors initiated a long-overdue overhaul to the Chapter Bylaws. While the purpose and core elements remain unchanged, we modernized the language and replaced outdated descriptions of our operations. These updated Bylaws reflect the organization as it functions today, offering clearer direction to guide our work while leaving flexibility to grow with the dynamic nature of the planning field.

Highlights of the Bylaws update are provided below, followed by the full text. The revised Bylaws are being presented to the membership for approval by vote. If you would like to make a side-by-side comparison, you may find the current Bylaws on our website here.

Along with your vote, there is space for comments and questions.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this overhaul and to you, our members, for taking the time to review and vote on the changes. A special shout-out to folks who did a lot of heavy lifting to make our Bylaws relevant again: Jeannine Rustad (initial update and edits for consistency with national APA bylaws), Stephanie Kennedy (organizational knowledge), and Theresa Cherniak (quality control review).

In conjunction with last year’s Strategic Plan Update, this Bylaws update strengthens our ability to track the effectiveness of OAPA and our programs in addressing our mission:

Relevant Resources, Better Planners, Exceptional Communities

Cheers,

Kirsten Tilleman, AICP
OAPA Board President
2019 BYLAW UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Modernized language**, including:
  - Deleting references to old technology like fax machines
  - Adding a Definitions section
  - Clarifying the different types of Board members, their duties, and their term lengths
  - Updating and clarifying eligibility to run for and hold Chapter offices and to vote in Chapter elections
  - Making revisions for consistency with national APA bylaws, including provisions for special meetings
  - Reorganizing sections and descriptions for clarity and to eliminate inconsistencies and redundancies

- **Replaced outdated descriptions** to reflect current operations, including:
  - Redefining regions of the state to match regions used in the membership survey
  - Simplifying membership structure and clarifying descriptions
  - Revising descriptions of how and when the Board sets and shares the annual budget
  - Updating descriptions of the Board, its composition, and requirements to serve on it
  - Adding descriptions for standing committees not previously described in the Bylaws (Emerging Planners Group, Membership Committee, Communications Committee)
  - Clarifying requirements to serve on the Chapter’s Professional Development Committee
  - Clarifying the Chapter awards program

- **Removed overly detailed language** to extend the functional life of the Bylaws (i.e., information that should not require a Bylaw update when it changes does not belong in the Bylaws), including:
  - Changing description of Board quorum from a specific number to 50 percent of voting Board members
  - Replacing dated language with cross-references to other documents where applicable, such as replacing the statement of Mission and Strategies with a reference to the Strategic Plan
  - Adding flexibility to form new committees as necessary