Lee Battle, AICP, Candidate for Chapter President-Elect

Background

Lee Battle, AICP, LEED AP has almost twenty years of professional experience in municipal government working on a variety of planning initiatives, community integrity programs and development projects. He is currently the Assistant Director of Community Development for the City of Allen and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Previous service includes the MUP Professional Advisory Council at Texas A&M University, Treasurer of Texas APA, Chair of the Texas APA Conference Planning Committee, Section Director for the North Central Section, Section Director for the Central Section and Chair of the Student Representatives Council for National APA. Lee received a Master of Urban Planning degree and a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University.

Statement

It’s an exciting time to be a planner in Texas! We have experienced widespread changes in our communities, in our profession, and across our country, but no profession is better prepared to help communities meet the challenges of the future. Through planning, communities effectively solve problems, manage change and become great places. We must recognize the opportunity we have to lead the way.

Texas APA has a long tradition of providing leadership to the planning profession in Texas. As you work hard to solve problems and make your community a great place, so should APA, as your professional organization, work to support you. That work includes:

Providing valuable SERVICE to our membership. This includes developing and supporting affordable and locally accessible training, professional development and networking opportunities, and building on the successes of the annual conference. Great things are happening locally through our sections and local volunteers deserve support and recognition for their efforts.

Developing LEADERSHIP for the future. I continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm, energy and ideas that the many bright young planners in our state bring to the conversation. They should be engaged and invited to participate as the leaders of tomorrow. Helping them, and planning students, become better planners, makes planning a better profession.

Building effective COMMUNICATION systems. Utilizing new technologies and applications to not only provide important information and resources to planners, but also articulate the value of our profession. We are a big state with a diverse planning demographic which requires a multi-faceted communication effort.
Being an ADVOCATE for the value and importance of planning. This means engaging other professions and getting involved in the conversation about what makes communities great places. Texas APA must continue to advance professional planners as recognized experts and leaders who provide innovative solutions to the challenges of growth and sustainability.

Texas APA has a reputation as one of the most active and innovative chapters in the country. I am committed to continuing the strong traditions of this organization and advancing great planning in our communities. Thank you for taking the time to read these statements and casting your vote in this election. I hope that you will give me the privilege of continuing my service to Texas APA.

Kimberley Mickelson, AICP, Candidate for Chapter President-Elect

I am honored to be a candidate for President-Elect of the TXAPA Chapter. I knew I would practice land use law as a graduate and law school student. I first started this path with the City of El Paso, and then worked for law and planning firms in Texas and Illinois. I moved my practice back to Houston full time in 2007. As President-Elect of the Texas APA Chapter, I want to invest in the future of planning by focusing on professional development and community outreach.

GOALS:

- Identify and develop the next generation of leaders in Texas planning, by
  - Continuing to use the *Guide to Urban Planning* as a catalyst for mentorship and identify other opportunities and positions;
  - Actively working with the student planning programs to include students in Chapter programs;
  - Assisting Sections in identifying regional projects that would benefit from student work; and,
  - Implementing a statewide young professional networking group.

- Ensure and promote the continued relevance of the organization, by
  - Expanding topics and increase the frequency of the *Guide to Urban Planning*;
  - Facilitating a pro bono program for interested sections and planners;
  - Identifying and explaining the long-range benefits of good planning and the consequences of inhibiting good planning to citizens and legislators.

- Continue professionalizing the profession to enhance the relevance, respect, and knowledge of others.
  - Continue to work with other professions on shared interests.
  - Expand communication and education opportunities to all sections and encourage citizen involvement.

TXAPA SERVICE: At the City of El Paso, Planning, Community Development and the MPO were my clients. I learned the daily details of their operations, and the broad depth of the planning field. I became
involved with TXAPA, as West Texas Section Chair and Co-Coordinator for the 1995 TX/NM/Mexico Conference, and the statewide Planning and Law Section.

I have continued my APA involvement in the Houston Section since 1997. I received the AICP designation in 2000, and currently serve on the TXAPA Board in Government Relations—monitoring state government issues that affect planners and planning.

I also serve as the Editor to *The Guide to Urban Planning in Texas Communities*. Since the last print edition in 2008, this has gone online (txplanningguide.utexas.edu), and is in the process of a major overhaul to ensure its relevance and usability. I have actively sought to enjoin new faces with experienced professionals, especially young planners and FAICP members. The electronic journal format gives us great opportunity to expand topics, expand its use, and update it more frequently.

**EDUCATION:** I have three degrees from The University of Texas—my BA in Plan II, a Master’s of Public Affairs, and a law degree. Don’t hold that against me, I am an adjunct professor (Planning Law) for the MUP program in the School of Architecture at Texas A&M University.

Thank you all for your consideration and the honor of being asked to serve the Texas Chapter of APA in this capacity.

**Lyndsay Mitchell, AICP, Candidate for Chapter Secretary**

I am honored to be nominated to run for Secretary of the APA Texas Chapter. I have been a member of TxAPA and the Midwest Section since 2006, and last year served as the Publicity Chair for the state conference held in Fort Worth.

I have a wealth of board membership and secretarial experience as a founding board member of the North Texas Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU-NTX), where I served as Secretary between 2006 and 2011.

For the past five years, I have worked as a Planning Project Manager in the Strategic Planning Division for the City of Arlington. In that capacity I manage the City’s Urban Design Center, a sustainable design studio staffed with six graduate students from the University of Texas at Arlington. Additional responsibilities include transportation and corridor planning, policy and ordinance development, comprehensive plan development, and special project management. Prior to joining the City of Arlington, I worked as a transportation planner at the North Central Texas Council of Governments where I focused on sustainable and transit-oriented development projects.

I hold a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History and Architectural Studies from Rice University and a Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Arlington. I am member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the American Planning Association (APA), Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and the North Texas Chapter (CNU-NTX), and the Junior League of Arlington, where I served on the executive leadership committee in 2012.
My husband Ryan and I live in Arlington with our son Owen (8 months). I am enthusiastic about the planning profession and would be honored to serve the membership of the Texas Chapter if elected as Secretary.

**Brooks Wilson, AICP, Candidate for Chapter Secretary**

Brooks Wilson, AICP, is the Senior Planner for the City of The Colony who has prior experience in the Cities of McKinney and Dallas and also in the private sector. Brooks gets to wear many hats in The Colony – working in current development review, comprehensive planning and future land use planning. Using her interest in urban design and aesthetics, Brooks was instrumental in the complete rewrite of the Gateway Overlay District which implements the vision for the growing city.

Brooks has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Geography from UT/Dallas and a Master of City Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She likes to say that she earned her degree and a healthy respect for the “art of basketball” during the Michael Jordan years at UNC. While earning her master’s degree, Brooks served on the Appearance Commission, an appointed group that advised the Plan Commission on matters regarding aesthetics. Her master’s thesis was on the legality of aesthetics in zoning.

Brooks will be transitioning from Director of the North Central Texas Section to Past Director as of October 2013. Prior to her two years as Director, Brooks was Director-Elect and Secretary. While on the Board, Brooks spearheaded the creation of the Focus North Texas (FNT) Planning Symposium, an annual, one-day event that provides low-cost, high-quality training for elected and appointed officials and CM Credits for AICP-certified planners. In addition to FNT, Brooks encouraged the Section to foster a closer relationship with the local university students, establishing scholarships from the proceeds of the Symposums. Since its inception, $7,000 has been donated to exceptional students pursuing degrees in planning. Many of these students have volunteered at our events and gained a “leg up” in networking for that all-important first job.

Since her four daughters are grown, Brooks has ample time to devote to the Texas APA Chapter and the duties of Secretary. She would appreciate the opportunity to utilize her knowledge, skills, and life experience to assist Texas APA in the ongoing efforts to increase the quality and reach of the planning profession. Brooks intends to contribute to the Executive Board by shifting the direction of the organization to being one of service. This will involve presenting AICP-certified planners as experts, witnesses, teachers, and mentors; providing assistance to students of planning, new planners, elected and appointed officials, and citizen planners in their quest to gain knowledge, understanding, and experience; producing excellent conferences, seminars, and other learning options for the dissemination of new ideas and best practices; and continuing to assist the planning community in striving to attain the highest ideals of the profession.
Sharyn Goodpaster LaCombe, AICP, Candidate for Chapter Treasurer

Sharyn is a Senior Project Manager with HNTB Corporation. Sharyn is a former Assistant Director, and then Director, of the Houston-Galveston Section and also served as a Secretary for the New Jersey Chapter.

Sharyn’s career started with the City of Houston and Houston METRO in the early to mid 90s. In 1997, she became a consultant and has worked in cities across the U.S. on several major transit projects. Sharyn has advised clients on transit-supportive land use decisions, environmental stewardship, and regulatory streamlining. Her most noteworthy project examples include: the Charlotte LRT Blue Line and its’ extension; the Cleveland Healthline BRT; Newark Light Rail; the Pittsburgh Northshore LRT connector; and, the Norfolk Tide.

Sharyn has served as a mentor within her peer groups and enjoys helping others make the most of the opportunities through the educational and networking benefits of APA. Sharyn is a graduate of Marshall University with a B.S. and M.S. in Geography concentrating in Urban & Regional Planning.

Angela M. Martinez, Candidate for Chapter Treasurer

Angela has worked as a Project Manager and Urban Planner at Knudson, LP in Houston for 7 years. She received her BArch from the University of Houston and her MS in Land Development from Texas A&M University. Angela’s focus includes aviation, comprehensive, land use, regional, site, transportation and urban planning, project management, feasibility site analysis, land development entitlements and public outreach. She currently serves as Secretary of the APA Houston Section. In addition to being a member of APA, Angela is a member of Urban Land Institute (ULI) and Congress of New Urbanism (CNU), an Ambassador for the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce (EECOC) and Board Member of the Development Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC) for the MSLD Program at Texas A&M University. In addition to planning, she enjoys cooking, cycling and traveling with her partner and daughter.

Charles H. Lee, AICP, CBO, Candidate for TML Affiliate

I am a member of APA and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). I am a Past-Director of our professional association’s North Central Texas Section. I am a credentialed LEED professional through USGBC and Certified Building Official via ICC. I hold a Master’s of Public Affairs and GIS Certificate from University of Texas at Dallas.

We can expect continued legislative land use and transportation initiatives from Austin in the coming years, thereby having direct impact on our local and regional policies. As your APA-TML Affiliate, I pledge to keep our membership abreast of those initiatives along with potential impact on land use regulations in our state.

I have over 17 years of professional planning experience with a commitment to raise professional planner’s profile and involvement in evaluating public policies that impact Texas communities. Thanks for your support.
Current: Senior Planner, City of Wylie
1998-2005: Planner, City of Plano
2005-2006: City Planner, City of Longview
Plano’s MP3 2005
NCTAPA Director 2007-09
Leadership Wylie 2010
BPI Moderator 2009-2012

**Chance Sparks, AICP, Candidate for TML Affiliate**

**Chance Sparks, AICP** is the Director of Planning for the City of Buda, Texas. In the course of his career he has worked in all major aspects of municipal and state-level planning, particularly regarding local government regulation of development. He is a frequent guest lecturer at Texas State University regarding ethics in planning, the relationship between politics and planning, planning and media relations, and building constructive relationships between municipal planning staff and stakeholder groups. Prior to joining the City of Buda, Sparks served as the Planning Manager for the City of San Marcos and Planning & Development Director for the City of Bulverde, among other positions. He has also worked in the Texas Department of Rural Affairs as the Senior Program Analyst for the Disaster Recovery Division. Mr. Sparks is Director of the Central Texas Section with past APA service including Treasurer of the Central Texas Section, participating on the Section and State Awards Committees, and co-chairing a local host subcommittee for an APA National Conference. Sparks’ work in long range planning and development regulation as received regional, state and national recognition. Sparks is pursuing the TML Affiliate position based on recent experiences with the state legislature. The City of Buda was successful in securing passage of H.B. 3159 pertaining to the allocation of sales tax between cities and emergency service districts following municipal annexation. In addition, the City successfully sought passage of S.B. 1086, which mandates that utilities (particularly private investor-owned utilities) must provide adequate flow for fire suppression. While this was a bracketed local bill, it lays the groundwork for other municipalities experiencing similar problems. Sparks’ proximity to the Texas Municipal League offices makes coordination easy, and he currently maintains relationships with TML staff. Likewise, proximity to Austin improves the state chapter’s abilities to monitor legislation and testify when necessary. As Section Director, Sparks has focused primarily on legislative issues with the Chapter’s executive leadership.