

Introduction

The Short Course on Local Planning has been a service of the Planning Association of Washington State (PAW) to the citizens of Washington state for more than 30 years. Over 25,000 people have attended PAW sponsored training sessions, and many have benefited from the Short Course training and materials. The Short Course has always been the work of dedicated volunteers. This edition of the Short Course mirrors the objectives originally identified 30 years ago to provide:

- An introduction to planning and the planning process, which will demystify planning and make the process more understandable and, therefore, more accessible to the public.
- A guide for planning commissioners and council members, who, in formulating their local plans and regulations, must confidently be able to follow established procedures for hearings and decision-making.
- A source of practical problem-solving information, giving insight as to how a commissioner, council member, or citizen participant can be successful in the planning arena.
- A resource guide that will aid in understanding technical planning issues and guide further research.
- A guide that may be used to teach planning issues, using selected chapters as teaching outlines.

This Short Course is dedicated to you, the devoted men and women who serve our communities as planning commissioners and city and county representatives, who give so much to make our communities a better place to live.

Planning Association of Washington

Chris Parsons, AICP

President