

State Urban Planners Visit Lake Worth

By Helen Vogt Greene

On September 11-14, The American Planning Association (APA) held its State Conference. The Treasurer Coast section, including Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, of the APA, served as the 2018 Conference host. They selected West Palm Beach as the host venue.

Three members of the Lake Worth community, played an active role in the conference. Wes Blackman, AICP, 35 year member, Principal Planner for the CWB Associates, William Waters, AICP, Director of Community Sustainability for the City of Lake Worth and resident Fredrike Mittner, AICP, Historic Planner for West Palm Beach. Each conducted state APA approved 'mobile workshops'.

Blackman, owner of CWB Associates and current president of the Cottages of Lake Worth did a bus/walking tour. It was called 'Manhattan to Mayberry.' Beginning at the West Palm Beach Convention Center, it featured an historic walk down Lake Avenue and a visit to the newly restored Historical Museum of the City of Lake Worth. The Museum is housed in the City Hall Annex, one of two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Blackman, as President, gave his tour an up close visit to the uniqueness of the Cottages of Lake Worth. Each member on the

Blackman Tour received a copy of the table book called *Cottages of Lake Worth* as part of their registration fee. They also earned credits to rectification in the APA.

William Waters and others of his team, conducted a tour of Lake Avenue. Their group explored "Memorable Places: What are the Urban Attributes that define them?" Included in their tour were the historic buildings and the importance of 'Art in Public Places.'

Frederike Mittner, long time Lake Worth resident and Past Chair of the Historic Resources Review Board of PBC, conducted a bus tour of Historic West Palm Beach neighborhoods.

Founded in 1978, The American Planning Association (APA) is the "largest membership organization of professional planners and planning resources." The State Conference, held in each state, provides the urban planners the opportunity to exchange new ideas, solutions to problems, ways to improve, through education, the communities in which they live and work,

The current up-to-date topics of the different perspectives on planning, including disaster planning, risk assessment, social justice and revitalization were driven home by the speakers, business meeting, educational seminars, social contacts and the 100-plus activities planned and approved by the APA State Conference.



Wes Blackman, A.I.C.P. and William Waters, A.I.C.P conducted "mobile workshops" for the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Assoc.

The key speakers were: Craig Fugate, "One of the world's leading expert in Emergency Management." Fugate was the former administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Leigh Gallagher, Senior Editor-at-Large of *Fortune Magazine*, whose opinions have been respected for years on many issues. Mustafa Santiago Ali, Currently, is senior vice president of Climate En-

vironmental Justice and Community Revitalization for Hip Hop Caucus. He is a former senior advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which among other projects focuses on Environmental

Justice. Special thanks to Wes Blackman, William Waters and Frederike Mittner for keeping Lake Worth on the 'cutting edge' of Urban Planning and its importance to the people of our community.

Gang Awareness Education In Greenacres

Greenacres Leisure Services held a Gang Awareness and Prevention Techniques event in the Community Center to educate and create awareness among local students on the issues pertaining to gangs. The Leisure Services Department, provided interactive activities to educate students on benefits of not becoming a gang member and the importance of making the right choices. Greenacres Fire Rescue explained how they get involved when someone gets shot or injured from gang activity and a PBSO Gang Unit officer was there to explain different gangs and the consequences of being a gang member. Afterwards, students were treated to a talk by an FBI agent who survived his mother's murder at the hands of a gang while she was pregnant with him, and the choices he has made through his life. Students were then treated to a performance by Digital Vibes Dance Team.

