



2011 ALAPA Awards

Kenneth J. Groves, Jr. Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

This award recognizes an individual for his/her significant/sustained contributions to the planning profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing.

*Alabama Chapter of the American
Planning Association*



2011 ALAPA Awards

*Dana O. Hazen,
AICP*

*City Planner, City of
Mountain Brook*

Nominated by Sam Gaston



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Planning Association*



2011 ALAPA Awards

- Bachelor's degree 1986 – University of California
- Early Planning years – City of Newport Beach, California
 - Current Planning and Zoning Administration
- Planner - Office of Land Development – Jefferson County
- AICP 2000
- MPA from UAB – 2007 : Graduated with distinction
- Induction into National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration
- 25 years in Planning Profession
 - Distinguished practice
 - Teaching/mentoring
- Mountain Brook's first City Planner – 2007



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- Acceptance of new position - risky
 - Demonstrated value of staff Planner
 - Demonstrated knowledge, experience and capability
- Challenge: “Yikes! I’m the whole Planning Department”
 - Lean on own knowledge/experience
 - When things go right = all the glory
 - When things go wrong = “guess who’s to blame?”
- Educated Mountain Brook Citizenry keeps her on her toes
 - Mountain Brook - 8th in nation % adults with college degree (81%)
 - All councilpersons have legal backgrounds and/or are practicing attorneys
 - Must “know her stuff” and be ready for “cross-examination” from board members and public



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Staff/Board Level:

- Built Planning Department from ground up
 - Won favor and cooperation (staff and board level) when met with initial resistance to “change”
 - Disarmed those who felt threatened by potential diminished power
 - Developed new planning processes and procedures
 - Educated council/board members on sound planning practices
 - Improved decision-making process
- Heads up/participates in various committees:
 - Zoning Ordinance Review Board
 - Parking Committee
 - Economic Development Committee
 - Village Beautification Committee



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Community Level:

- Streamlined planning process : made more user-friendly
- Made planning information convenient - City's website
- Firmly, directly and professionally administers zoning regulations
 - effecting cooperation from all and building community support for planning practices
- Controversial Lane Parke PUD – largest development proposed in Mountain Brook's history:
 - Took golden opportunity - educate public about importance of planning process
 - Involved the public in outcome that would shape community for decades to come.



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- Annual guest speaker for UAB's MPA program:
 - Local Government Planning course
 - State and Local Government Administration course
 - UAB/MPA program's newest adjunct professor, teaching full course in Local Government Planning.
- Speaker - "Planning and Sustainability" - AARC Training Conference
- Speaker - "Complete Street Networks" - RPC Annual Conference
- Trains college level interns
- Invests in the next generation of planners by working with high school and elementary students on a variety of planning projects.



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- Active role in tangible projects throughout City:
 - Installation of uniform newspaper racks
 - Installation of way-finding signs
 - Village beautification/pedestrian orientation
 - Enforcement of sign and banner ordinances
- Instigates contemporary, smart-growth zoning amendments
- Guides local design professionals through new form-based overlay regulations



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- Mountain Brook – proud beneficiary of Dana’s contributions
- Her efforts/diligence held in high esteem among elected and appointed officials, local design professionals, fellow educators/planners and the community she serves.



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*Accepting
Dana O. Hazen*



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