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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Dubuque Unified Development Code Wins Planning Excellence Award

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque and JEO Consulting have been awarded a “Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice” for the City of Dubuque Unified Development Code by the Iowa chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-Iowa). The results of the 2010 APA-Iowa Awards will be officially announced at the Awards Lunch during the APA-Iowa State Conference, which will be held from October 27-29, 2010, at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs.

Each year, APA-Iowa asks its more than 350 members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in as many as fourteen categories ranging from planning excellence to distinguished leadership. Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners from the Nebraska Chapter of the APA, Dubuque, along with five other nominees, has been selected to receive a 2010 APA-Iowa Award.

In 2009, the City of Dubuque’s new Unified Development Code (UDC) went into effect. The UDC updates and consolidates zoning, subdivision, site development, historic preservation, and sign regulations into a single city code. The Dubuque UDC incorporates text, photographs, drawings, charts and diagrams for ease of use in an online illustrated version. The intent of the Dubuque UDC is to guide the physical, economic, and social development, redevelopment and conservation of the community. The UDC protects and enhances the historic, cultural, and aesthetic resources that make Dubuque a unique, identifiable, and vital community.

The Dubuque UDC incorporates sustainable design while meeting smart growth objectives. Sustainable design is the expectation. While traditional development is still allowed, it is now the exception. The UDC received strong support from City officials and citizens alike. This acceptance of sustainable design has continued through implementation.

Subdivision and site development regulations were extensively revised to promote sustainable design, such as conservation design, solar access, and low-impact development

measures. Access for pedestrians, bicycles, and public transit as well as design guidelines for historic districts, the downtown, and older neighborhoods also are now part of the UDC.

The four-year process for developing the Dubuque UDC incorporated three citizen advisory committees and an interdisciplinary task force of City staff working with JEO Consulting. The last 12 months of the process were devoted to seeking and responding to input on the draft UDC from developers, engineers, architects, neighborhood and business associations, sign contractors, City Boards and Commissions, and the general public prior to City Council work sessions and public hearings.

The American Planning Association-Iowa Chapter provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. APA-Iowa members consist of planners and other professionals involved in the development and sustainability of Iowa communities.

For more information on the City of Dubuque UDC, contact the Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210, planning@cityofdubuque.org, or read it online at www.cityofdubuque.org/udc.

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