

April Fisher

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Professional Experience

June 2010- Present **Land Use Consultant, Fisher Planning and Development Services, Inc.**
Provide expert testimony in land use litigation and land use planning services for land development applications and comprehensive plan updates for local governments and private sector clients, prepare map amendments, geographic information systems (GIS) services, land development code analysis, and community/public meeting facilitation.

August 2011- May 2015 **Instructor, University of Central Florida**
Responsible for the instruction of undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Public Administration, primarily with emphasis in urban planning, geographic information systems (GIS), and governmental issues.

September 2008-June 2010 City of Saint Cloud, Florida
Planning/ Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Manager
Supervised current and long range planning staff, responsible for carrying out special projects, directing staff work efforts and promoting professional growth.

- Managed consultant contracts for the CRA Master Plan and City/County Sector Plan
- Completed the City Comprehensive Plan Public School Facilities Element
- Updated Comprehensive Plan Elements and the Capital Improvements Program
- Oversaw the processing of annexation, future land use, and rezoning applications
- Presented to City Council and various City boards
- Liaison to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MetroPlan Orlando), the Osceola County School District, City of Kissimmee and Osceola County
- Prepared and implemented the department budget
- Prepared professional planning reports- substantial Planned Unit Development (PUD) completion analysis, legislative summary, and CRA strategy white paper
- Prepared GIS maps for staff reports and planning reports to show data from a visual and spatial perspective
- Supervised work efforts of four staff members and provide leadership

Parks and Recreation Director

Responsible for a department of 25 employees serving the community with parks and recreation opportunities.

- Established an annual budget to meet programs needs while balancing fiscal constraints
- Provided leadership to staff, ensuring accountability and career progression
- Managed competing interests of sports groups and facility users to ensure all sectors of the community needs are represented
- Served as the community liaison during special events such as the annual Thanksgiving dinner, Holiday tree lighting, and public presentations
- Instituted and promoted policies and procedures as directed by City Council and the City Manager
- Evaluated capital improvement schedules to determine priorities for annual and five-year planning

October 2007-September 2008 Harling Locklin & Associates

Planning Director

Oversaw and performed planning duties for clients in the private planning sector

- Conducted zoning and comprehensive plan research per jurisdiction
- Prepared zoning analysis reports and applications

2003–2007

Seminole County Government

Assistant County Manager

Member of the executive management team of the County, reporting directly to the County Manager. Responsible for leading County programs and special projects as assigned by the County Manager as well as supervising six staff members.

- Oversaw the strategic planning process, managing the consultant contract and leading the efforts of the steering committee to complete the plan
- Program Manager over the legislative program, coordinating state and federal lobbyist work, monitoring staff analysis of legislation, and providing updates to the Board of County Commissioners
- Oversaw community outreach programs such as Citizen Academy and the Charitable Giving Committee
- Responsible for the Board agenda process, ensuring that all agenda items were accurate and comprehensive and that departments had their items in to the County Manager's Office in a timely manner for preparation for the Board meetings
- Chaired appeal/grievance procedures
- Served as the staff liaison to the Joint City/County Advisory Committee
- Prepared written correspondence to citizen inquiries for the County Manager's and Board members' signatures

Planning Manager

Division Manager responsible for success of the Planning Division. Interacted directly with the County Manager's Office, Board of County Commissioners, the County Attorney's Office, and other Departments daily, to coordinate County goals in the Division's work programs.

- Liaison to the Board of County Commissioners, development community, and constituent community
- Oversaw special projects and ensured timely completion, i.e., joint planning agreements, small area studies, referenda
- Guided staff in developing analytical abilities and effective customer service
- Participated in interdepartmental projects such as the County's Annual Report

Assistant Planning Manager

Supervised current and long range planning staff, responsible for carrying out special projects for the Department Director and County Manager's Office, directing staff work efforts and promoting professional growth.

- Led controversial projects such as a Rural Lands Study, response to city annexation of unincorporated properties and subsequent land use amendments, joint planning agreements, and requests for Code Board lien reductions
- Directed staff analysis of zoning and land use applications and challenged them to think critically about analysis and recommendations
- Met staff needs with respect to direction, information, and resources
- Rural Lands Study won the Florida Planning and Zoning Association *2006 Award for Merit for an Outstanding Public Report*

Principal Coordinator

Led the long range planning team, ensuring timely progress and completion of comprehensive planning projects.

- Supervised five people and empowered their growth and development
- Supported goals and leadership of the Planning Manager and Planning Director
- Facilitated resources needed for projects and managed consultant contracts
- Presented to the Board of County Commissioners, Advisory Groups, and the community
- Oversaw comprehensive planning: Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), land use amendments, transportation planning, CIE updates, growth management legislation, and code enforcement

Senior Planner

Member of the long range planning team, responsible for special projects such as a Charter amendment, legislative analysis, and served as liaison to other government planning agencies.

- Managed a Charter amendment public information program relating to the Rural Area
- Researched and analyzed proposed state and federal legislation
- Monitored and analyzed proposed annexations and city land use changes
- Provided County representation and presentations at municipal meetings
- Prepared and assisted with negotiation of joint planning agreements
- Wrote a report with the SJRWMD regarding water quality status of the Geneva Freshwater Lens
- Charter Amendment public information program won the *2005 Excellence Award* from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO)

2002–2003 City of Delray Beach

Assistant Planner

Responsible for helping citizens understand land use regulations, process site plan applications, and review and approve applications in compliance with land development regulations.

- Reviewed and processed site plan modification applications
- Wrote staff reports and zoning verification letters
- Liaison to citizens and the development community with land use questions
- Queried land use, property records, and updated development applications status

2001–2002 Richard Connor Riley & Associates

Zoning Specialist

Responsible for zoning process evaluation, determination, and application for tower/antenna sites across the US with emphasis in the Southeast Region.

- Verified and completed submittal requirements within a two-week turnaround on a site-to-site basis
- Identified and investigated viable alternatives for difficult sites and work with jurisdiction officials to secure approval
- Traveled to respective jurisdictions in the markets to build relationships with zoning and planning officials and made public presentations before boards

1998–2001 American Tower Corporation

Zoning Specialist

Responsible for direct supervision and management of the zoning staff and implemented a process of efficient and effective zoning/permitting approvals, as well as carried out the responsibilities of a zoning representative, including taking tower sites through jurisdiction zoning and permitting review.

- Trained and mentored new zoning representatives while managing time-sensitive projects
- Reviewed site plans and participated in ordinance rewrite and development
- Coordinated and presented information for jurisdiction applications and public hearings
- Communicated with and educated the public on wireless technology
- Developed positive working relationships with other companies, clients, airport officials, engineers, attorneys, public and local jurisdictions
- Secured jurisdiction approval for tower sites and resolved site conflicts
- Received a "Towering Moment Award" for organizing and gathering information in a user-friendly presentation manner for a local planning board
- Received a "Towering Moment Award" for winning an "unwinnable" public hearing

Education

1996–1998

Clemson University

Clemson, SC

- Master of City and Regional Planning (project concentration in GIS)
- Graduate Thesis- *LULU'S and the Planning Process: the Case of Satellite Chip Mills in North Carolina*
- South Carolina American Planning Association Student Representative
- Recipient of Second Year Student Faculty Award
- Nominated for First Year Student Planning Service Award

1991–1995

University of North Carolina at Asheville

- Bachelor of Science- Environmental Studies Major
- Natural Resource Management Concentration
- Student Government Senator

**Professional
Association/
Community
Service**

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) #128898; American Planning Association; Florida American Planning Association (FAPA); Presenter 2009 FAPA Annual Conference; Continuing Education maintenance required to maintain AICP status; Osceola County Schools OASIS Bookmark Buddies volunteer (2014-2019); Osceola County Education Foundation Charter Board of Trustees member (2015-2018); GOAA Foundation Board of Directors (2019-2021)