

Creating Thriving Communities – Reconnecting the Economy, Environment, and Affordability

September 11, 2009

8:30 – 3:45

Boulder Ridge, Lake-in-the Hills

Speaker Biographies

Damon Dance is currently the Development Manager at the Bond Companies. In his role, Mr. Dance is responsible for the financial modeling, entitlements, construction management, tenant coordination, and property management of all company projects based in Chicago.

Mr. Dance received an MBA in Real Estate, Finance, and Operations from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University. While at the University of Michigan, he was the President of the Habitat for Humanity Ross School of Business Chapter. Mr. Dance is a member of Urban Land Institute, International Council of Shopping Centers, and Young Real Estate Professionals. He also holds the designation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional.

Dennis Dreher is the Director of Conservation Design for Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd., a regional engineering and natural resources consulting firm headquartered in Itasca, Illinois. He was formerly the Director of Natural Resources for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission where he managed a variety of water and natural resource projects for over 25 years. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Purdue University and the University of Illinois, respectively. Dennis also is the chair of the Water Resources Committee of the McHenry County 2030 Plan Commission and is a leading advisor to the County's Land First Initiative which recently developed a conservation design ordinance for the County.

Doug Farr is the President and founding principal of Farr Associates Architecture and Urban Design whose mission is to "design sustainable human environments." The 16-person firm works in multi-disciplinary teams and employs sustainable design to create beautiful, valuable places and buildings for its developer, municipal, and private clients. Farr Associates has designed three LEED-Platinum buildings: the Chicago Center for Green Technology, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and Christy Webber, with another Platinum building on its way. An architecture graduate of the University of Michigan and Columbia University, Doug is on the board of the Congress for the New Urbanism and chairs the LEED for Neighborhood Development project now in its pilot phase. Doug coined the term Sustainable Urbanism, and gave the movement life, by writing one of Planetizen's top ten books of 2008-- Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature.

Mark Fick is the Senior Loan/Program Officer with the Chicago Community Loan Fund (CCLF). Mark's work at CCLF is focused on lending to affordable housing, community based organizations, housing cooperatives and community arts organizations. Mark also coordinates the CCLF technical assistance and training program which provides workshops, technical resources and referrals to community developers. He currently serves as a volunteer board member of the Northside Community Federal Credit Union and the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation, a development assistance group serving small to mid-sized housing cooperatives across North America. Previously, Mark was the Associate Director of the Chicago Mutual Housing Network and the Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator with Housing Action Illinois.

John Katrakis, founder and President of J. T. Katrakis & Associates, Inc., has over 28 years experience in the design and upgrade of buildings for enhanced energy and environmental performance. His services include engineering of

high performance mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; field diagnosis, measurement & verification of performance; energy and lighting simulations and analysis; and training on all aspects of building energy management. John holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Bachelor Science in Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois, an accredited LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) professional and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, ASHRAE and the City of Chicago Energy Code Committee that developed the City's first building energy code.

John Norquist's work promoting New Urbanism as an alternative to sprawl and antidote to sprawl's social and environmental problems draws on his experience as big-city mayor and prominent participant in national discussions on urban design and school reform. John Norquist was the Mayor of Milwaukee from 1988-2004. Under his leadership, Milwaukee experienced a decline in poverty, saw a boom in new downtown housing and became a leading center of education and welfare reform. He has overseen a revision of the city's zoning code and reoriented development around walkable streets and public amenities such as the city's 3.1-mile Riverwalk. He has drawn widespread recognition for championing the removal of a .8 mile stretch of elevated freeway, clearing the way for an anticipated \$350 million in infill development in the heart of Milwaukee.

He is the author of *The Wealth of Cities* (Addison-Wesley, 1998) and has taught courses in urban planning and development at the University of Chicago, Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Before he was elected Mayor, John Norquist represented Milwaukee in the Wisconsin Legislature. Norquist earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

Gina Olszowski, 26, left her corporate job in the advertising industry to write this book on sprawl, which captures the stories of changing communities and the people who live there. Gina graduated in 2001 from Drake University, and currently works as an artist and barista at her local independent coffee shop, Graham's 318.

John Rogner was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn in July 2009 as Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Prior to that he served as Field Supervisor of the Chicago Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a position he held since 1997. He directed all of the Service's programs in endangered species conservation, environmental contaminants, conservation planning assistance, habitat restoration, and environmental education in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. During this time he also served as Chair of Chicago Wilderness, a coalition of over 240 organizations dedicated toward conserving the biodiversity of the Chicago region.

From 1983 to 1991 he worked for the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he held various positions implementing the regulatory program under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. He served initially as a project manager and later served as Chief of the Regulatory Branch. Mr. Rogner has undergraduate and graduate degrees in biological sciences from Northern Illinois University.

Joan Williamson has BFA from Millikin University and has recently earned an MFA in Interior Architecture from Columbia College Chicago. She is interested in creating sustainable community design through evaluating the economic, social, environmental and aesthetic needs of a group.

David Yocca is the Principal Landscape Architect/Planner at Conservation Design Forum and strives for the integration of human-scaled, ecologically-based elements and systems in all of CDF's work to benefit current and future generations. David has served as planner and landscape architect for dozens of high-performance, sustainable projects at the site, neighborhood, and community scale in a variety of contexts, including green building/sites, parks, streetscapes, villages, and campuses. David also works to promote and educate about sustainable practices, and is one of the green practitioners helping to develop the Sustainable Sites Initiative, a new planning tool based upon the success of LEED.