



Free Questions for AICP by dumpssheet

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Question 1

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

An oil company is interested in building a refinery on several thousand acres of waterfront property that the company owns. The general plan classifies this area as recreational and residential. The oil company files a re-zoning application to change this area to a heavy industrial classification. The planning director opposes the rezoning amendment stating that the scenic area is a valuable natural resource. Assume that the planning agency acted legally in all respects (proper notice, etc.). However, the county commissioners approve the amendment.

A group of residents who live near the proposed refinery site take the case to court and subpoena the planning director to testify. The planning director provides some information to the citizens' group as they prepare their case and also testifies truthfully in court about the value of the property to the community. Under the AICP Code of Ethics, all the following are true about the behavior of the planning director EXCEPT:

Options:

- A-** The director was acting in an ethically responsible manner in trying to protect the integrity of the natural environment.
- B-** The director should not have testified in court. The Code of Ethics requires planners to accept the decisions of their employers.
- C-** The director served the public interest by providing information to citizens preparing their case.

D- The director exhibited a concern for the long-range consequences of the proposed land use changes.

Answer:

B

Explanation:

See Ethical Principle 1, Rules of Conduct 1 and 25. Members of AICP must comply with the law.

Question 2

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

A pro-development city manager tells you, the planner, that you must provide findings to support a shift in a natural resources boundary in order to accommodate a particular development. What might you do if your findings do not support the shift but there is pressure from the city manager to provide findings that are contrary to your findings?

Options:

A- With data on the regulations as well as on the potential long-term consequences of not complying with the regulations, go to the city manager to explain why you cannot approve the project or alter the facts. This information may be sufficient to resolve the situation. You might need to look for creative solutions that will allow for a modified project to move forward and bring these to the city manager. For example, alter the location of development and use the area near the natural resource as an open space amenity. You may need to remove yourself from the situation and refer it to your director. Suppose the city manager goes ahead and approves the project in spite of your findings. Before blowing the whistle, be sure to consult with other planners and other qualified professionals including, if appropriate, the city attorney, to exhaust efforts for reconsideration of the matter. If you should choose to blow the whistle, understand that this may have negative consequences, and so be prepared. Accepting such consequences will be more beneficial to you than behaving unethically.

It is very important throughout this process to document everything. Be sure to keep accurate records showing dates, places and content of any conversations, messages and meetings relative to the issue. Remember that a planner must accept the decision of employers, unless the decision is illegal or unethical. Remember that a planner's first obligation is to the public interest, and a development that will have negative environmental consequences is not in the public interest, but a development that will create jobs may be in the public interest (Ethical Principle 2)

B- With data on the regulations as well as on the potential long-term consequences of not complying with the regulations, go to the city manager to explain why you cannot approve the project or alter the facts. This information may be sufficient to resolve the situation. You might need to look for creative solutions that will allow for a modified project to move forward and bring these to the city manager. For example, alter the location of development and use the area near the natural resource as an open space amenity. You may need to remove yourself from the situation and refer it to your director. Suppose the city manager goes ahead and approves the project in spite of your findings. Accepting such consequences will be more beneficial to you than behaving unethically.

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interest (Ethical Principle 2)

Answer:

A

Question 3

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

A pro-development city manager tells you, the planner, that you must provide findings to support a shift in a natural resources boundary in order to accommodate a particular development. What might you do?

Options:

A- First, you should clarify all relevant policies and regulations. Suppose the relevant policies are in conflict or are difficult to interpret. You might ask the planning director the city attorney for assistance in defining the situation. Second, determine how the boundary was established and study how it might be shifted.

Suppose the data that are available for the analysis are unreliable, inconsistent, or out-of-date. You might ask the planning director, another planner, or another source (such as the state GIB library) for assistance in obtaining better data. You might verify the accuracy of the data you collect by learning how it was developed and how recently it was developed because sometimes data are in error and

natural conditions do change over time (Ethical Principle 7)

B- First, you should clarify all relevant policies and regulations. Suppose the relevant policies are in conflict or are difficult to interpret. You might ask the planning director the city attorney for assistance in defining the situation. Second, determine how the boundary was established and study how it might be shifted.

Suppose the data that are available for the analysis are unreliable, inconsistent, or out-of-date. You might ask the planning director, another planner, or another source (such as the state GIS library) for assistance in obtaining better data. You might verify the accuracy of the data you collect by learning how it was developed and how recently it was developed because sometimes data are in error and natural conditions do change over time (Ethical Principle 1)

Answer:

B

Question 4

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

The local YMCA is proposing to build a swimming pool next to their existing facility in your medium-sized town. You are a planner and must review the development proposal. The wife of one of the senior planners is the YMCA director. The husband of the planning director is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the YMCA. Everybody on the YMCA board is a family friend to both the senior planner and the planning director. What might you do?

Options:

A- You have a job to do, and you are not tainted with the conflict of interest. It is important to be as open and transparent in review of the proposal as you would be with any other proposal. You are fortunate in that, according to the scenario, you have not been asked to favor the proposal. Proceed with your analysis and make a recommendation on the proposal as usual. You might disclose the potential conflicts that do exist in your report. You might have your work reviewed by an outside consultant rather than by the planning director. You might ask that all those personally involved in the situation recuse themselves from making the final decision about the proposal. Your only conflict might be in displeasing your boss. If you are going to shade the results in order to please your boss, then you have a problem.

B- You have a job to do, and you are not tainted with the conflict of interest. It is important to be as open and transparent in review of the proposal as you would be with any other proposal. You are fortunate in that, according to the scenario, you have not been asked to favor the proposal. Proceed with your analysis and make a recommendation on the proposal as usual. You might disclose the potential conflicts that do exist in your report. You might have your work reviewed by an outside consultant rather than by the planning director.

Answer:

A

Question 5

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are responsible for recommending contracts to the city council. Your immediate supervisor has asked you to prepare a recommendation for a large contract for an individual you know is a good friend of your supervisor. After reviewing the contract, you conclude that the contract amount is not commensurate with the scope of work provided. You believe the contract is a waste of taxpayer dollars if it were to be granted. What might you do if your supervisor pressures you for a favorable recommendation?

Options:

A- If you have any doubt about your conclusion, you might present the situation to a mentor or to a planner who is not involved in the situation (in another jurisdiction, for example) to discuss it. (Rule of Conduct 18) Planners are responsible to their employers; you might go to your supervisor with clear information on which your analysis was based, such as prices asked by other consultants for similar work, and point out your concerns. Your supervisor may appreciate your honesty and professionalism and accept your recommendation. Should you be required to falsify your recommendation, other options might be to "blow the whistle" or to go to an attorney. If supervisor is member of AICP, file an ethics charge against your supervisor (Procedure 5) or ask for an advisory ruling about your own conduct (Procedure 3)

B- If you have any doubt about your conclusion, you might present the situation to a mentor or to a planner who is not involved in the situation (in another jurisdiction, for example) to discuss it. (Rule of Conduct 16) Planners are responsible to their employers; you might go to your supervisor with clear information on which your analysis was based, such as prices asked by other consultants for similar work, and point out your concerns.

Answer:

A

Question 6

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are responsible for recommending contracts to the city council. Your immediate supervisor has asked you to prepare a recommendation for a large contract for an individual you know is a good friend of your supervisor. After reviewing the contract, you conclude that the contract amount is not commensurate with the scope of work provided. You believe the contract is a waste of taxpayer dollars if it were to be granted. What might you do first?

Options:

- A-** The first thing to do might be to carefully review the data and procedures used in the analysis for accuracy and completeness (Ethical Principle 1). You should document everything during this entire process such as the date and nature of your supervisor's request and the sources of data used to draw the conclusion that the consultant's price is too high. Then write your report and submit it to your supervisor.
- B-** The first thing to do might be to carefully review the data and procedures used in the analysis for accuracy and completeness (Ethical Principle 7). You should document everything during this entire process such as the date and nature of your supervisor's request and the sources of data used to draw the conclusion that the consultant's price is too high.

Answer:

A

Question 7

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

The owner of the local NFL football team tells the mayor through the press that he will relocate his team unless the city builds a new stadium and practice field. The mayor wants the team to stay because his campaign platform included a promise to keep the team in the community. He asks you, the planning director, to evaluate the costs and benefits of building a new stadium. The planning staff does the analysis and demonstrates that large-scale public investment in a new stadium makes no economic sense and may lead to bankruptcy. What might you do?

Options:

A- As with any analysis, verify the facts and assumptions made in the analysis and be sure that all appropriate procedures were used. Write the report accurately despite the fact that it may be embarrassing to the mayor. However, before presenting the report publicly, as with any report and because you are sensitive to the mayor's dilemma, it would be best to first to reveal its contents to the mayor. Should the situation be politically charged, you might recommend having a consultant revisit the analysis and present the findings to the mayor. The mayor may be more willing to consider alternatives when they are presented by a paid, independent, expert consultant rather than by staff (Ethical Principle 4) Suppose the mayor, upon learning about your report, refuses to make it public and makes plans to go ahead with the construction of a new stadium. Then, it may be time to resign. Or, it may be time to release the information to the media

because of your responsibility to the public regarding the long-range consequences of actions, which may obviously put your job in jeopardy (Ethical Principle 1; Rule of Conduct 8)

Suppose the mayor pressures you to alter your findings and report favorably on the potential impacts of the stadium. Then you might engage in a frank discussion with the mayor and suggest some alternatives. The mayor may, for example, discard the idea in favor of a proposal to conduct significant renovations to the existing facility. Suppose you see that the information about how bad the new stadium might be for the community as a whole as well as information about the pressure being applied by the mayor might be helpful in preventing the mayor from winning reelection. And suppose you do not personally want to see this mayor reelected. As a planning director, you may NOT use the information to your personal advantage, and, for example, go directly to the press with the results of the analysis (Rule of Conduct 5)

Suppose you are indifferent as to the mayor's election but believe that this course of action will bankrupt the community. To prevent a substantial injury to the public, you could still go to the press after verifying all facts and seeking reconsideration of the matter

B- As with any analysis, verify the facts and assumptions made in the analysis and be sure that all appropriate procedures were used. Write the report accurately despite the fact that it may be embarrassing to the mayor. However, before presenting the report publicly, as with any report and because you are sensitive to the mayor's dilemma, it would be best to first to reveal its contents to the mayor. Should the situation be politically charged, you might recommend having a consultant revisit the analysis and present the findings to the mayor. The mayor may be more willing to consider alternatives when they are presented by a paid, independent, expert consultant rather than by staff (Ethical Principle 2) Suppose the mayor, upon learning about your report, refuses to make it public and makes plans to go ahead with the construction of a new stadium. Then, it may be time to resign. Or, it may be time to release the information to the media because of your responsibility to the public regarding the long-range consequences of actions, which may obviously put your job in jeopardy (Ethical Principle 1; Rule of Conduct 7)

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Answer:

B

Question 8

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

A site application is complete and is about to go before the planning commission. You have a conflict of interest because you personally own property near the proposed site and stand to benefit from the increase in property value that the new development is projected to generate. If you are the only planner in the community what might you do?

Options:

A- You are definitely conflicted in this case. So first issue is to recognize this financial conflict of interest and disclose it. (Rule of Conduct 6)
6) You have 2 options. One option is to get approval of your supervisor with full written disclosure as to your personal interest. You may

get consent in writing to move forward and complete the review.

The second option is to hire an independent consultant to review the situation. It is good policy for a planning department to pre-qualify consultants for such situations so that the matter can be expeditiously turned over. This may also be a good route to take if the applicant is a member of the city council and has hiring authority over the planner.

B- You are definitely conflicted in this case. So first issue is to recognize this financial conflict of interest and disclose it. (Rule of Conduct 8) You have 4 options. One option is to get approval of your supervisor with full written disclosure as to your personal interest. You may get consent in writing to move forward and complete the review.

The second option is to hire an independent consultant to review the situation. It is good policy for a planning department to pre-qualify consultants for such situations so that the matter can be expeditiously turned over. This may also be a good route to take if the applicant is a member of the city council and has hiring authority over the planner.

Answer:

A

Question 9

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

A site application is complete and is about to go before the planning commission. As a member of the planning staff, you believe there is the appearance of a conflict of interest for a planning commissioner who owns property near the proposed site and stands to benefit

from the increase in property value that the new development is projected to generate. What might you do?

Options:

A- First, consider what should already have happened before the application was about to go before the planning commission. Clearly, you should know about any laws in your state or jurisdiction that apply to such a situation and should follow the law. The potential conflict should have been identified well before this. After noticing the conflict, based on office protocol, it must be decided who will approach (or confront) the commissioner about the conflict of interest. If your boss is unwilling to explain the conflict of interest, you must decide how you will handle this. You might ask the APA Ethics Officer for informal advice on what you should do (Procedure 2).

Whoever brings the conflict to the attention of the commissioner should recommend that the commissioner recuse himself or herself from the planning commission meeting. Suppose the potential conflict only became apparent at the time of the meeting. At that point in time, you should explain the problem to the planning director. Then, the planning director and the commissioner might consult privately and decide what to do; if the law is clear, obviously the decision must be to follow the law. If the decision is made that the commissioner should recuse himself or herself from the decision-making process, then the commissioner should leave the room. Recusing oneself means more than just sitting there quietly. In addition, the commissioner must not engage in future discussions with the board or planning staff about the application (Ethical Principle 2).

Suppose the law on what constitutes a conflict of interests is not clear or does not exist and suppose that the commissioner says that this is silly and that there is no conflict of interest. Then you might go to the jurisdictional attorney for guidance. If the commissioner continues to participate in the process, you should clearly state the conflict in your report (Rule of Conduct 19).

B- First, consider what should already have happened before the application was about to go before the planning commission. Clearly, you should know about any laws in your state or jurisdiction that apply to such a situation and should follow the law. The potential conflict should have been identified well before this. After noticing the conflict, based on office protocol, it must be decided who will approach (or confront) the commissioner about the conflict of interest. If your boss is unwilling to explain the conflict of interest, you must decide how you will handle this. You might ask the APA Ethics Officer for informal advice on what you should do (Procedure 3).

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Suppose the law on what constitutes a conflict of interests is not clear or does not exist and suppose that the commissioner says that this is silly and that there is no conflict of interest. Then you might go to the jurisdictional attorney for guidance. If the commissioner continues to participate in the process, you should clearly state the conflict in your report (Rule of Conduct 18).

Answer:

A

Question 10

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Scenario

You are a planner for a city planning department and you have an old friend who runs a planning consulting firm in the same city. Your friend submits a competitive proposal to work as a consultant for your department to you on Friday and while in your office, asks you to be her guest for dinner at a very fancy restaurant on Saturday evening. What might you do if you actually might have some influence in

awarding the contract?

Options:

A- If it is possible that you might influence the decision about awarding the contract, avoid the potential conflict of interest (Ethical Principles 2 and 3; Rules of Conduct 8, 5, 18). Avoid the conflict by telling your friend that you cannot meet with her socially until after the contract has been awarded, even if the contract will not be discussed during dinner.

B- If it is possible that you might influence the decision about awarding the contract, avoid the potential conflict of interest (Ethical Principles 2 and 3; Rules of Conduct 5, 8, 19). Avoid the conflict by telling your friend that you cannot meet with her socially until after the contract has been awarded, even if the contract will not be discussed during dinner.

Answer:

B

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