MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JEROME L. KAUFMAN

Jerome L. “Jerry” Kaufman, professor emeritus of urban and regional planning, died in Madison on January 10, 2013 at age 79 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends and exhibited his unshakable warmth and humor to the very end. He remains with us through his pioneering professional and academic efforts and foresight, as well as through his unique ability to help organizations and people more fully realize their capacities and humanity.

Jerry was born on April 25, 1933, in Middleton, Connecticut, and at the age of two he moved to Queens, New York, where he grew up. After graduating from Queens College, he studied with the famed historian and urban planner Lewis Mumford at the University of Pennsylvania. For fourteen years, he practiced planning in various organizations, eventually becoming associate director of the American Society of Planning Officials (now the American Planning Association). In 1971, he left that post for a tenured position at UW-Madison. Professor Kaufman exemplified the “Wisconsin Idea” locally, nationally, and internationally. Professionally, he was at the forefront in numerous areas in his profession including planning for older cities, planning ethics and dispute resolution, increasing the presence and roles of women and minorities in planning, strategic planning for the public sector, and most recently, the development of planning for food systems. In each of these subfields, he produced seminal works that serve as standard references today. He worked unselfishly with students and colleagues, shaping their visions and activities to work better with communities and organizations so as to help them determine and reach their goals and aspirations. In these and in all his professional capacities, his work was singularly focused on his central concerns – equity and social justice.

Professor Kaufman was a member of the UW faculty from 1971-2001. He served as associate director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration (1980-83), chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (1983-87), and as a member of the Campus Planning Committee. He realized his vision for a more just society through other scholarly commitments that included chairing the American Institute of Planners’ committee, Policy on Equity for Women in Planning (1972-75), and serving as a member of the organization’s Social Responsibility of Planners, and Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility committees. His work was never far from the realities that shape individual lives and organizational capacities. He chaired dozens of graduate student committees and created new courses at the cutting edge of the planning discipline. On behalf of the Planning Accreditation Board, he also chaired reaccreditation site-visits of planning programs at eight universities, evidence of his regard among colleagues around the country for his measured and valuable professional perspective. He served as president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (1991-93).

Jerry has been honored in many ways. Fellowships and scholarships exist in his name at Wisconsin and at SUNY-Buffalo. He was accorded the Distinguished Service Award of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, the first-ever Outstanding Site Visitor Award from the Planning Accreditation Board, and he was elected (the first person from the State of Wisconsin) as a fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP), the highest professional honor in planning. Though he was instrumental and honored for his many planning education and practice initiatives, arguably his greatest professional contribution is his most recent. From 1996-2001, Professor Kaufman launched and co-directed the Madison Food System Project, one of the earliest efforts to examine the food system from the many perspectives represented by planning. His professional and scholarly publications are the scaffolding for food system work across social science disciplines. With his various collaborators, many of them students and junior faculty whom he mentored, Professor Kaufman mapped the many intersections of municipal

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planning and the food system. His work motivated significant policy change around the country and helped support community organizations in realizing their goals. A conference honoring Jerry’s work and legacy, “Good Food for All” was held at the University of Wisconsin on August 1, 2011, with hundreds of participants recognizing Jerry as the father of “food systems” planning.

All Professor Kaufman’s interests coalesced and were instrumental in shaping cities. His scholarly interests became reflected in professional practice; he persistently engaged planning officials in adapting academic lessons for professional practice. Over the decades, he served on the Madison Planning Commission, the Madison Urban League Board, and the Madison Committee on Diversity, which he founded and chaired. He was also a key figure in establishing the Troy Gardens farm and affordable housing development in the City of Madison. Beginning in 2000 and until his death, he served as president of Growing Power, a Milwaukee-based grassroots organization led by Will Allen that is the nation’s preeminent urban agriculture organization. To recognize Professor Kaufman’s invaluable contribution to Growing Power, the organization announced that its forthcoming multi-million dollar “vertical farm” will be named in Jerry’s honor. Professor Kaufman imparted lessons he learned from these community-oriented experiences and scholarship in more than a hundred lectures and trainings on strategic planning, planning ethics, alternative dispute resolution, and the food system to professionals and scholars around the country and the world. Of vital and ongoing importance to practitioners in many disciplines was his work in 2007 facilitating the development and adoption of the first policy guidance document on food planning within the American Planning Association. The American Public Health Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Dietetic Association have since joined the APA in adopting a version of this document that enshrines Professor Kaufman’s emphasis on equity and social justice.

Professor Kaufman’s rich experience, humility, patience, and good humor made him an effective planner. His foresight, his knack for asking the right question at the right time, his ability to diffuse conflict and direct that energy to advancing goals, his inclusive and measured approach – and perhaps most important, his elemental hope for a better future – made him the foundational and influential figure that he was in the academy, the profession, and in the lives of so many colleagues and students.

Jerry Kaufman was an ideal colleague, cherished mentor, and beloved spouse and father. He is survived by his spouse Judith Zukerman Kaufman; his two children Ariel, of Madison, and Daniel, of Brooklyn, New York; their spouses Michael Kissick and Juliette Mapp; his beloved grandsons Benjamin and Luca; and his sisters Elyse Zukerman and Betty Kaufman.

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