
Attendees: Alan Zais, Irma Gorham, Joe Gray, Kerron Barnes, Liz Glenn, Jeff Mosley, John Chow, Gary Keller, Sheldon Packer, Alanda Richardson, Jeff Du Manoir, Ramsey Jay, Betsy Morris, Margaret Brammall, Kurt Creager, Lloyd Halverson, Saeed Hajarizadeh

Liaison: Jori Solomon

Optional: Adrienne Todman

A. WELCOME

Alan welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

B. DISCUSSION ON CURRENT EVENTS – OUR GOALS FOR DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Alan talked about residents in his county that have tested positive for COVID-19 and how he has worked to isolate but support those residents. His goal for the call was to figure out how to adjust to diversity and inclusion, especially in housing. Quoting Jeff Morrison, - - said that housing can equalize things and get through some of the barriers. - - explained how the changes that are being accepted in current events can benefit areas such as housing, education, etc. - - addressed the fact that although our mission is to provide affordable housing, the residents have other needs as well such as mental health assistance. He explains the need to partner with other agencies so that we can be more effective. Examples of some initiatives that are going to be made in the United States were stated. - - proposed that part of our task is crafting our message to our international partners, and how that would work with reaching out to the publications we have been asked to be a part of. - - told the call about the effort corporations such as Google are making to help with housing in San Francisco.

Ms. Todman addressed a question regarding how/if NAHRO is reevaluating its mission in light of current events, and she answered by saying that the board examined the mission in January to make sure that its values were consistent with those of the board and members. A goal was made prior to current events at this meeting in January to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is a committee specifically for this, but Ms. Todman stated that this has become a standing goal so that all of the committees can work on informing NAHRO and members on diversity and inclusion. Next, she explained another effort to figure out how housing agencies can become an even bigger part of the solution even though they are a component of the 'equity' portion. Following that, Ms. Todman explains looking at national policy especially after the pandemic.

C. STATUS ON GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR REPORTING TO SPAC

Alan gave details about the next international housing conference, which will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland. It will be on April 29-30, one month after the D.C. conference. It is hoped that we will be able to appear in person but cancelling or a virtual conference are options that are also being considered.

Jori offered to email a list of potential topics that are relevant to the pandemic and inclusivity. Outreach was discussed regarding grants. The reason St. John's was chosen for the conference was because they wanted to get away from the Toronto feel. They have a different spectrum of housing from Toronto, so it goes back to locality. How we collaborate with other communities would help with the crossover with articles and would help with expertise.

D. IRGE WEBPAGE

Jori talked about the new NAHRO website that is still a work in progress. She wanted to hear what people's thoughts are regarding the new website even though there are still a few things to work out. It is a hope that you will visit the website often to find out what is going on with NAHRO and committees.

Kerron brought up the fact that it takes so many clicks to get materials on our page. The number of clicks seem to be a common suggestion and it was also suggested that information from the website also gets posted to the NAHRO blog and maybe find a way to include links to the articles in the NAHRO Monitor in the future.

E. NEXT STEPS

Alan will report out to the SPAC committee on where intend to spend some focus during this term in regard to Goal F.

Next meeting: July 10, 2020