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**Attendees:** Alan Zais, Irma Gorham, Al Ewing, Stephen Vadnais, Kerron Barnes, Jeff Mosley, Laurie Putscher, Kim Taylor, John Mahon, Ann McKenzie, Patricia Allen, Zsa Zsa Heard, Sheldon Packer, Alanda Richardson, Jeff Du Manoir, Scheherazade Perkins, Robin Walls, Ramsey Jay, Kurt Creager, Lloyd Halverson, Saeed Hajarizadeh

**Liaison:** Jori Solomon

#### A. WELCOME

Alan welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

#### B. COMMUNICATIONS – SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

**Jeff D.** reported that in the last month, two emails went out (1) to regions and (2) another within the IRGE membership regarding the AHURI conference. He was hoping to get another one out the day of this meeting for AHURI again and had info to share from ONPA (Ontario Non-Profit Association).

**Jori** is assisting with getting our information out; our challenge is that the information is time-sensitive, but we are trying to figure out a way to get the information out to the broader membership. 3 members are registered for the AHURI. Looking at ways to share our archive of 20 years of information that we have compiled trying to figure out a way to get this out to the website.

**Jeff** is seeking help from our group to seek information from our counterparts to publish in the Monitor.

**Jori** mentioned that she did have a conversation related to the sub-committee's request to add an RSS feed to the website with Ms. Todman. She acknowledged that there is a "gap" missing for us and we need an international presence on the front page of the website to show that we are active in the international space; however, it won't be as an RSS feed. What Ms. Todman plans to accomplish this is to discuss with our Director of Communications to see how best we can meet this opportunity. We don't have a timeline to meet this need, but she does recognize the need to get IRGE visible.

**Kerron** gave Jeff kudos for spearheading the task of archiving and Alan also added that he is impressed with how much the sub-committee has accomplished in a short time.

#### C. WHITE PAPERS

**Alan, Saeed,** and **Jori** had a conversation with Ms. Todman regarding any white papers planned a week before our meeting. Saeed reported out that Alan has

asked him to chair the Research sub-committee and he's excited to work everyone on the committee. The discussion was related to the International Forum 2021 in Canada, but we need to determine what the topic was going to be – what topics were CHRA wanting the countries to focus on. Alan suggested that we work with VERA based on their focus on race and equity. NAHRO President and CEO are interested in this topic being that it is so relevant; the Commissioner and Housing committees have also expressed interest in this topic so perhaps we can collaborate.

**Saeed** also mentioned that the Canadians are considering a Plan B for postponing the Forum to 2022. Alan also shared that they feel strongly that the Forum should be in person and not done virtually.

**Kerron** mentioned the topic was discussed in Axios on inequity in housing and race in various areas. Kerron was going to share the report with the group and Saeed will share with the Research group.

**Jori** double backed to another recent conversation she had with Ms. Todman on a paper. While we are looking to move on the DEI paper, we need to make sure that a paper on this topic would be collaborative with the other committees so that we had input from all, especially if this will be taken as NAHRO's views. She did suggest that we write a paper from our committee on how other countries are dealing with the pandemic because it would be helpful to see what has/has not been working around the world. **Kerron** mentioned that there has been a lot of research coming out of Australia on how housing agencies are dealing with the pandemic. Kerron and Jeff D. will monitor Australia's newsletters for information to pass on.

**Saeed** suggested to Alan that he would confirm with Jori the direction we should head on the paper.

**Lloyd** reminded us that Jeff Mosley has experience with New Zealand to see what we can learn from their experience. **Jeff** said he will connect with his contacts there on their research and he knows that they have connections to AHURI so he'd be happy to report back on his findings.

Alan suggested that since this is such a fascinating topic, maybe we could write and publish two papers – DEI and pandemic. He asked Saeed if this would be too aggressive. Saeed wants to have a separate conversation with Jori so that he has direction on how the committee should proceed based on NAHRO's needs.

Saeed thought the Canadian Congress will be meeting soon and likely will have some input on what they are doing about the pandemic.

#### **D. OTHER**

Alan acknowledged to Kerron that he has made a push for the Board of Governors to work on the MOUs in his report to the Board in July.

Kerron expressed his frustration that we need the MOUs in place because we need to understand what our marching orders are. We have two MOUs set to expire this year, INTA and Canada, so we need to keep our eyes on what will be required of us.

**Saeed** shared he attended the English housing conference. He got up in the middle of the night to participate but they had some good information.

Lloyd shared that he has written several stories from his international experiences.

Jori shared that the award nominations has been pushed out until September 30. If we have additional nominations, submit them soon. We have received one nomination so far but could take a few more.

#### **E. OLD BUSINESS**

**Kerron** wanted to remind us that the AHURI International Housing Conference, Oct 20-22, 2021 in Brisbane. They have been very generous in giving us a discount on registrations.

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**Next meeting:** September 11, 2020