



# COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE SUMMARY

February 5, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 P.M., Eastern time

COMMITTEE CHAIR, KARINA MASON RORRIS – PRESIDING

Chair Karina Mason Rorris called the meeting to order and roll call resulted in a quorum.

**Action item: Approve minutes – November 6, December 4 moved by George Perez, second by Adrian Jones. Motion Carried**

### **President's Thoughts – Sunny Shaw**

President Shaw thanked the committee for their service to their communities and to NAHRO, especially during these difficult times. She encouraged the committee to attend the upcoming Online Washington Conference, March 2-4, to network, receive Capitol Hill updates and to equip you with tools that can make your Virtual Hill experience more impactful.

### **Tess Hembree, Director, Congressional Relations**

Ms. Hembree echoed President Shaw's message and also encouraged registration for you and your colleagues. She reminded everyone that your Virtual Hill meetings with your perspective representatives can be arranged by Tess or you may do that yourself. Take advantage of this opportunity to champion the work you, your agency and NAHRO is doing for the residents we serve.

### **Blake Pavlik, Director, Certification and Accreditation**

Mr. Pavlik greeted the committee and provided a list of certified commissioners in 2020. If you have not yet been certified, you should take the commissioners ethics and commissioners fundamentals, then [submit the online certification application form](#) to declare you have completed requirements for NCC designation. Additionally, you will need to [recertify](#) every three years by attending conference sessions, courses and receive CEUs by serving on the commissioners committee. For more information, you may visit the [website](#) or contact Blake Pavlik – [certification@nahro.org](mailto:certification@nahro.org)

### **Jackie Rhodes, Director, Professional Development**

Ms. Rhodes was unable to make the meeting but sent her thanks for answering the call to promote the Commissioners Fundamentals class. She noted the attendance increased from 6 to 27 – a huge jump from where we were the previous week.

### **Diversity Presentation**

Chair Mason Rorris introduced our diversity presenters, [Sarah Hennessy](#) and [Marnie Thomas](#), Catalysts, Rapid Results Institute and [Lisa Bahadosingh](#), SPARC Manager - Housing Stability and Homelessness, C4 Innovations. With permission by presenters, the presentation was recorded and forwarded to members under separate email.

**Rapid Results Institute** - <https://www.rapidresults.org/>  
**C4 Innovations** - <https://c4innovates.com/who-we-are/>

### **Housekeeping Items**

[#HousersAtWork stories](#) - Additional submission submitted – Carleen Cumberbatch - DeKalb County. If you have any items for the full committee agenda, please email them to La Tonya one week prior to meeting. Agenda items? Update on Commissioners Handbook Sales: In 2019 – 933 In 2020-787.

**Closing Thoughts – Chair Karina Mason Rorris**

Chair Mason Rorris thanked everyone for their participation and hopes the diversity presentation was thought provoking and provided steps that can effect real change. She looks forward to seeing everyone at the Washington Virtual Conference and, hopefully, at the National Conference, in-person, in Phoenix, Arizona. Should any committee member wish to reach out to her via an individual zoom meeting, please advise her. She looks forward to seeing you all at the subcommittee meetings next month. See schedule below.

**Action item: Motion to Adjourn moved by Adrian Jones, second by Sherry Scudder. Motion Carried.**

**Attendance:** Karina Mason Rorris, Fred Banuelos, Sam Bergami, Phil Bernal, Lucille Boss, Dorothy Carty Daniel, Carleen Cumberbatch, Dina Getty, Willie Haynes, Dirk Hoek, Brenda Honeycutt, Johnny Johnson, Adrian Jones, Richard Laferte, Kenyon Lowe, George Perez, Char Reavis, Sharon Scudder, Renee Smith, Gary Valentine, Carl Richie.

**Absent:** Stefanie Benvenuto, Sandra Boutell, Barb Cleland, Richard Conforti, Sheryl English, Robert Finch, Neil Flynn, Alisha Gant, Mari Hayden, Grant Henry, TomiRene Hettman, Thomas Jefferson, Michael Lacey, Henrietta Snips, LaRence Snowden, Susan Ulrich, Nicole Vazquez.

**SUBCOMMITTEES, DESCRIPTION AND MEETING INFO**

<b>ADVOCACY</b> Every other month – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Next meeting: March 18 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
Chair: E Renee Smith	
1. Richard Conforti	5. Dirk Hoek
2. Carleen Cumberbatch	6. Michael Lacey
3. Robert Finch	7. Vincent White
4. Willie Haynes	8. Phil Bernal
5. Grant Henry	
Commissioners Track Group Co Chairs: Lucille Boss Dina Getty	
9. Barb Cleland	13. Brenda Honeycutt
10. Sheryl English	14. LaRence Snowden
11. Richard Laferte	15. Gary Valentine
12. Kenyon Lowe	16. TomiRene Hellman
17. Ex Officio – Carl Richie	

Send advocacy letters to our legislators through the Advocacy Action Center at designated times.

Partner with Legislative Network on other ways to enhance advocacy efforts.

**Suspended Commissioners Track Group duties due to changes in conference platform. See alternative #2.**

Create substantive, relevant topics and sessions for the national conference track and possibly for sessions under different tracks. Co-chairs will serve as contacts for the commissioners track on the National Conference Planning Committee, review session topics from the call for session proposals and will advise committee on session topics or to submit sessions for the committee to host. Group members will ensure timely, relevant sessions are represented whether by call for proposals or by actively creating session proposals (moderate or serve as a panelist) that benefit all levels of commissioner experience focusing on advocacy, communication, professional development, and adult literacy.

**Alternate Obj. 2:** FULL COMMITTEE - Work to encourage board members and agencies to submit material for the #HousersAtWork Campaign to showcase the agency, commissioner and community work done during COVID-19 pandemic. Goal: determine how many stories will be posted by commissioners and their agencies by Dec. 1. **One entry. Determine if we should continue or choose another task.**

<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> Every other month – 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Next meeting: March 22 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time	
<b>Chair: Nikki Vazquez</b>	
1. Stefanie Benvenuto	4. Neil Flynn
2. Sam Bergami	5. Adrian Jones
3. Sandra Boutell	6. George Perez
<b>Commissioner of the Year Group</b> <b>Co-Chairs: Johnny Johnson / Henrietta Snipes</b>	
7. Dorothy Carty Daniel	10. Sherry Scudder
8. Alisha Gant	11. Susan Ulrich
9. Mari Hayden	12. Fred Bañuelos
13. Char Reavis	

Draft and/or provide article topics for the Commissioner's Corner of the *Journal of Housing and Community Development* magazine.

Assist in providing relevant material for research page.

Identify and recommend ways to communicate more effectively who NAHRO is and what NAHRO represents to our peers throughout the country.

Implement communications plan.

Commissioners of the Year Group members will encourage regions to submit regional commissioner award nominees for the national commissioner award consideration. **Nominees not chosen for award will carry over to next year if they continue to be eligible for award.** Review and select yearly award recipient.