

---

**Attendees:**

Alan Zais, Irma Gorham, Al Ewing, Joe Gray, Stephen Vadnais, Kerron Barnes, Liz Glenn, Jeff Mosley, Laurie Putscher, Kim Taylor, John Mahon, John Chow, Ann McKenzie, Patricia Allen, Sheldon Packer, Jeff Du Manoir, Scheherazade Perkins, Robin Walls, Ramsey Jay, Betsy Morris, Margaret Brammall, Kurt Creager, Lloyd Halverson, Saeed Hajarizadeh, Julie Brewen, Don May

**Liaison:**

Jori Solomon

**Guest Speaker:**

Barry Pinsky

**A. WELCOME**

**Alan** welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

**B. BARRY PINSKY “ROOFTOPS CANADA” PRESENTATION – IRGE AWARD WINNER**

**Barry** thanked everyone for the invite and award and noted that it was wonderful to be acknowledged with the unexpected award.

[Click here for Barry's presentation](#)

**Alan** thanked Barry for a great presentation and let him know that IRGE had a lot of members who have involved with South Africa's efforts. Alan also mentioned that it was obvious that the award to Barry (Rooftops Canada) was well deserved this year.

**Lloyd** offered that he was on the committee in regard to the award/nominations and mentioned that Barry's nomination gave only a glimpse into what Rooftops does but after the presentation today, we can now see the achievement in the relationship and cooperation with the local governments. Lloyd asked Barry, "What motivated you to do this?"

**Barry** responded that he grew up relatively home insecure. In architecture school, he joined a community development design workshop and he got hooked. After this it just made sense to him as an architect to work with low-income communities to help start the co-housing movement in Canada, it became his life's work.

**Joe** wanted to understand how the flow of funding worked in terms of how Rooftop was funded and how that money flows into the programs Rooftops is involved in Africa.

**Barry** responded that a lot of their funding is in partnership because they have to match funds. So typically, for every \$3 we get, Rooftops either has to raise cash to match or contribute in-kind. Rooftop is also a formally registered charity. Social housing is funded with capital grants not operating grants.

**Betsy** asked Barry to describe the relationship that CHRA and other professional organizations have with Rooftop.

**Barry** responded that there are formal relationships with CHRA and the Prudential Housing Association with each having a member on Rooftop's board. So, they have a vested interest in Rooftop. They also assist with education and outreach. They have very good working relationships with the Canadian government that Rooftops has been able to leverage in terms of the relationship with the minister responsible for international development.

### C. RECAP ON OCTOBER SESSION PRESENTATION

**Saeed** shared a quick recap on our session presentation from the conference. He noted that the session went really well and was well attended. At one point, the session had almost 100 people as attendees. All of the speakers were amazing. With the pandemic continuing around the world, this is going to be a topic to discuss for some time. Saeed thanked everyone who participated in bringing speakers into the session and those who actively participated on the panel. Saeed and **Jori** noted that we had some great feedback with Jori noting that in the surveys that were received back, attendees were asking for more. So the question now is how can we expand upon this session's success because we have an audience that is anxious to learn more about what our partners are doing in response.

**Sheldon** mentioned that he attended the session and he thought it was excellent because the speakers from other countries opened up a lot of avenues of interest for himself and he learned a lot. Sheldon thought that this was something we should have available on our website for other people who weren't able to attend the conference to view it.

**Julie** agreed with Sheldon and thought it would be excellent to put it out for everyone to view. She pointed out that it's understood that we want folks to participate in conferences and pay for attendance, but this is an example of something that can benefit all – to put out front and center as a marketing tool that “this is why you come to the conference, this is why the international work is important.”

**Jori** also agreed and said that she would push this request forward to get the recording out there not only for committee members that did not attend but to put it out there that we are doing work that is affecting people right now.

**Betsy** suggested that someone could summarize the session in a few paragraphs including info from our colleagues abroad to include in the journal or the monitor as an article to disperse the information without having the need for watching the video. Betsy asked who owns the recordings from the conference. Betsy also

suggested that maybe one of the sub-committees could reach out to other partners of ours that we have agreements with and learn what they are doing as well to expand on what we've learned so far and bring that info back.

**Alan** asked **Kerron** if that is something that his sub-committee could look into. **Kerron** thought this was a great suggestion, it has been something the committee has been doing for a few years. **Jori** also mentioned that the info that is collected could go into a future session.

**Jori** stated that NAHRO has access for a certain period of time and that she would ask Ms. Todman about this for our next call. A lot of this would have to go through NAHRO's Communications Department to make the video accessible on the front-end.

#### **D. WELLS FARGO GRANT – WHAT INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES CAN IRGE PROVIDE?**

**Liz** shared information regarding the WF Grant but before she started, she recapped some work that she and other NAHRO members along with academics from the University of Maryland's Real Estate Development Program worked on. The group went on a tour of South Africa and they visited with 3 different universities. **Liz** wanted to let folks know that the University of Maryland is partnering with Nelson Mandela University, Professor Mbanga, a longtime friend to initiate a global classroom which will bring together graduate and undergraduates. One thing that has been discussed is having some NAHRO members come in to participate in some of the global classroom sessions to get real-world perspectives on public housing, students will want to know about best practices.

Additionally, **Stephanie Bamford** who is one our partners and friends from the UK sent the National Housing Federation's Report on Equality and Equity in Social Housing in the UK. She thinks this report might be worth taking a look at and she hoped to have a conversation with **Kate Anderson** who helped commission the report. **Jeff D** let **Liz** know that he shared the report with **Jori** to share and post to the website.

**Jori** shared that in her one-on-one conversation with Ms. Todman, she asked that the committee start think about what international perspectives can we provide, initially to gather and have **Alan** present on behalf of the committee. She asked for us to look closely at our business relationships and partnerships internationally to see how they are dealing with equity issues. While we have the benefit of having **Liz** on our committee here, **Liz** as the chair of the DEI sub-committee will be wearing that hat so we likely cannot pull on her for assistance as our go-to person.

**Julie** mentioned that she suggested putting out an email to the research sub-committee so we can work on it.

#### **E. NAHRO MOU CATALOG / DUE DATE CALENDAR (TICKLER)**

**Jori** reported that she spoke with Ms. Todman on creating an internal NAHRO MOU catalog and due date “tickler” to give NAHRO visibility when these MOUs are coming due for renewal. Kerron provided a schedule of renewals in which Jori will use to build the “tickler” and catalog from but asked that Kerron assist in providing Jori with background on each so anyone could pick up the catalog to understand each respective MOU and requirements. Kerron is also working with Jeff D on some other means to make this visible.

**Kerron** did mention that we have a couple of MOUs that will expire in 2021 with the first one coming due being CHRA which expires in June. Our agreement with INTA will expire in November 2021.

---

**Next meeting:** January 8, 2021