



**2023-2025 Commissioners Committee Zoom Meeting**  
**Monday, May 6, 2024 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time**  
Substitute Liaison: Suzanne Stuart | [ssuart@nahro.org](mailto:ssuart@nahro.org)  
Committee page link: <https://www.nahro.org/about/nahro-leadership/national-standing-committees/commissioners-committee/>

## **Minutes**

**Chair/Presiding: Renee Smith**

### **Call to Order, Welcome**

**Attendance:** Chair Smith noted this meeting conflicted with a SPAC meeting, which may have affected attendance, including no leadership drop in.

**Present:** Gary Allsup, Samuel Bergami, Carol Branham, Joe Grisson, Dirk Hoek, Jake Joseph, Lizette Mill, Carl Richie, Anthony Sawyer, Fermika Smith, Renee Smith, Joycelynn Straight, Gary Valentine. No quorum.

**Absent:** Fred Banuelos, Philip Bernal, Dorothy Carty-Daniel, Alanna Conard, Carleen Cumberbatch, Miguel Garcia, Lolita Grant, Willie Haynes, TomiRene Hettman, Johnnie Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Johnny Johnson, Adrian Jones, Skye Kessler, Zella Knight, William Mayes, Delois McKinley-Eldridge, John Morgan, Jan Murphy, George Perez, Angela Reed, Emmett Robbins, Henrietta Snipes, Susan Ulrich

Meeting focus:

- NAHRO strategic plan and the development of the committee's measurable outcomes which were due to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) by May 15, 2024.
- Session proposals for the 2024 NAHRO annual conference in Orlando. Session Proposals due to NAHRO by May 10, 2024.

### **Goal 3: Champion and advocate for innovative and resourced housing and community development policies and programs.**

#### **Advocacy Task 1: Resident Empowerment**

Tiffany Mangum and Chair Smith are submitting a panel for National Conference in Orlando made up of residents and resident commissioners with lived experience.

Chair Smith will submit a proposed session on this topic, involving residents and resident commissioners from each region. Topics will include successes, barriers, and challenges and share the proposed session with the committee.

Carol Branham has a proposed panelist she will share with Renee. Session purpose: let the panel communicate what works. Carl Richie mentioned Gary Allsup has an employee who is a mom, and former resident, spoke at the Washington Conference. Gary agreed she is wonderful. She has spoken at several conferences so attendees may have heard her story. Chair Smith encouraged other referrals.

**Advocacy Task 2: Letter Writing**

Chair Smith has a measurable outcome in mind related to writing advocacy letters and increasing certifications within our agencies.

**Communication Task 1: Enhance innovative and comprehensive resources to increase professional expertise, skills and integrity of housing and community development professionals.**

The committee discussed the Commissioners Handbook. The communications subcommittee is evaluating, documenting, and refreshing procedures.

Housing Catalyst Board Lizette can ask Julie Brewen about a development tool for Board evaluations. Lizette will send Renee five slides to support.

**DEI** – vice chair Angela Reed, supports goal 1 and 4 – Chair Smith will follow up with her on that.

**Governance** – newly created subcommittee (4/2024). More training around governance – Gary managing CEO and Board relationships. No subcommittee meeting yet, organizing the subcommittee could be a measurable outcome.

Any additional measurable outcomes can be forwarded to Renee.

**Concurrent session proposals for Orlando.**

Renee and Tiffany Mangum are collaborating on a “lived experience” panel, as mentioned earlier.

Chair Smith encouraged any other session ideas.

It was discussed that next year, the communications subcommittee consider a handbook session to discuss best practices for virtual / hybrid meetings and updates to recommendations for Board around DEIB – each could be a separate session in 2025.

Renee summarized she will submit proposals for Orlando and measurable outcomes for SPAC.

Reflections on Hill Day: Chair Smith reflected on the Hill Day that occurred during the NAHRO Washington Conference. She was inspired by the advocacy efforts of her colleagues. She attended several meetings and got to speak to many lawmakers and colleagues. Carol Branham agreed and shared her successful and positive experience.

Additional comments:

- commissioners have a special role to play in advocacy – as they have no financial benefit from advocating.

Chair Smith previewed the June 21 subcommittee meetings. It will be one and one-half hours. They occur every other month on the third Friday of the month. Registration is now open for the Summer Symposium, and she encouraged participation. She will catch up with committee leads on submissions and measurable outcomes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.