

**SUMMARY OF MEETING
NAHRO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
JULY 17, 2013
DENVER, CO**

Vice President **Mary President Paumen** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Guests and members introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Summary:

Motion by William Vaughn; second by Helen Sause to approve the meeting summary as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Tara Clifford; second by Patricia Gustafson to approve the agenda as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Highlights of Presentations:

Phil Brown, President-Canadian Housing and Renewal Association acknowledged Claude Roy, CHRA's liaison to the International Committee. Mr. Brown mentioned CHRA's long-standing relationship with NAHRO, which includes execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with NAHRO last year.

Mr. Brown expressed appreciation to John Bohm, who allowed Dallas Alderson, CHRA's Policy and Programs Director, to mirror him at NAHRO's Legislative Conference so that she could experience NAHRO's advocacy day. CHRA then held a successful Parliament day that was structured similarly to NAHRO's advocacy day.

Canada's national five-year affordable housing program was extended. There had been a fear that the program would not be renewed. While the funding was cut, the program was continued. Canada funded a study on mental health and homelessness at a cost of \$100 million. The study has just been finished and the research revealed that the housing first model actually saved money and will be incorporated into federal policy. A policy paper on rental housing was recently released. Construction of condominiums is booming; there is less emphasis on rental housing. The paper asks that rental housing be given a level playing field.

An Aboriginal Housing Advisory Council was created to address the housing and community development needs of the aboriginal community. This will mean that the aboriginal community will finally be working with the non-aboriginal community. The most recent

July 17 Meeting Minutes

2006 census demonstrated that Aboriginal households are substantially more likely to experience core housing need (20.4%) as compared to non-Aboriginal households (12.4%).

South African Delegation:

John Hopkins, CEO, Southern African Housing Foundation (SAHF), reported that they have continued to develop relationships with other countries' housing associations. He expressed the desire to develop a professional exchange program with the U.S.

In South Africa, unemployment is 25%. Cholera and AIDS are major challenges that put a major strain on public resources. Four million immigrants sought amnesty and are now taking jobs for which the native population has to compete. There is a severe housing shortage. Cape Town has more than 400,000 on the waiting list for housing. One way to address the problem is to achieve greater density in housing development. People's Housing Process is a program where people build their own housing and are provided the materials to do so. Free housing is still available through the Provincial government.

Raynita Robertson, Acting Director-Southern African Housing Foundation-Western Cape Province, spoke about the legacy of apartheid. Housing is a mechanism they would like to use to help address the many disparities that still exist. The urban divide continues as new housing was built on the fringe of cities. Informal settlements continue to grow. Priorities include a variety of integrated urban settlements; access to shelter, jobs, and daily needs; activities and distance for transportation. The population of the Western Cape has increased by 29% between 2001 and 2010; 92% of the population lives in urban areas; 18% live in informal settlements; 88% have access to piped water; 38% have no income at all. There is a National Development Plan and it examines the policies of providing support for poor people and how households may be more self-sustaining.

The Urban Renewal Program, which was announced in 2001, is supposed to address the challenges of post-apartheid conditions. Active, box safe houses are similar to shelters that are temporary housing that are used in the event of disaster or other interruptions in housing. Free housing is available to people who have less than 3500 rand per month, which is about \$350 USD.

Kahmiela August, Director-Affordable housing, Southern African Housing Foundation, City of Cape Town, said her focus is on the development of affordable housing. Poor people may also qualify for free electricity and water. However, due to the low tax base, the government cannot afford to continue to give away free housing and so they are looking at ways to create housing that will require people to pay something towards the cost of housing. For example, households earning 800 to 3500 rand per month would pay from \$147 to \$1470 per month in rent under the new programs.

July 17 Meeting Minutes

People may pay up to 50% of their income for transportation. Typically, only very poor people use public transportation because it is so unreliable.

The SAHF has established a number of partnerships with Social Housing Institutions including the CommuniCare, Cape Town Community Housing Company. These are accredited and registered. Banks are charging people prime plus 7.5% for mortgages. They built 10,000 units last year.

Report on China:

Liz Glenn made a brief presentation on her recent trip to China to present on in-sourcing expertise to assist in rural village development. A longer report will be offered to the committee at a later date.

Discussion on Sustainability:

Robin Tobin, Project Manager, Denver Housing Authority discussed the agency's sustainability projects, followed by Q and A. This topic is of great interest to the South African Housing Foundation and rural village development in China. Read more online <http://www.denverhousing.org/development/parkavenue/pages/block4b.aspx>

Remarks from the President and CEO:

President Betsey Martens shared her excitement about the possibility of the committee being renamed the "International Research and Global Exchange Committee." President Martens also commented on her attendance at the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference and trip to the Netherlands. She will prepare a written report on perspectives and lessons learned.

CEO Saul Ramirez briefed the Committee on the **INTA-NAHRO Symposium** that will be held in conjunction with the National Conference and Exhibition in Cleveland, Ohio, starting on October 23. The symposium will include a keynote address, study tours arranged by three local CDC's, and roundtable discussions. International Committee members may attend the Symposium for a modest registration fee of \$125 USD. Additionally, Committee members will be called on to serve as ambassadors, moderators and panelists.

Saul Ramirez and Claude Roy commented on the **Study trip to Quebec and Montreal**. Mr. Ramirez and Joe Gray represented NAHRO. The Société d'Habitation du Québec identified areas of interest where they could work together with NAHRO including finance, development, social services, self-sufficiency, and resident interests. Claude and his colleagues are also interested in building a strong relationship with members in NERC.

July 17 Meeting Minutes

Reports:

UN/NGO Subcommittee - John Papagni reminded the Committee that in order to retain its NGO status, NAHRO must periodically submit a Quadrennial Report that addresses efforts undertaken by NAHRO to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which are: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing global partnerships for development. NAHRO members addressed every goal of the MDG. **Update:** On July 31, NAHRO staff received confirmation that the UN received NAHRO's Quadrennial Report and that it is in the review process.

UN-HABITAT has announced the WUF7 Conference: April 5-11, 2014 in Medellin, Colombia.

Lange Award:

Chaired by **Julie Brewen**, the Selection Committee met at the Conference and will submit its final report at a later date.

Australasian Housing Institute:

Kerron Barnes commented on the interaction with the Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) to discuss future collaboration and exchange of information. AHI, like CHRA and other housing organizations, is experiencing reduction in funding from the federal government and is seeking resources and innovative approaches to address critical housing needs. AHI is the professional body for everyone who works in social housing across New Zealand and Australia.

Habitat for Humanity Build Louder

Ed Talbot presented highlights on the Habitat for Humanity Build Louder trip. View the video online at <http://www.nahro.org/content/nahro-international-committee>

Miscellaneous:

Kerron Barnes shared that there is a new Israeli Housing Minister, **Uri Ariel**. He suggested that NAHRO send an acknowledgement and encourage a return delegation to the United States for a study tour.

July 17 Meeting Minutes

Next Meetings:

The International Committee will conduct its business via teleconferences, which will be scheduled prior to the National Conference in Cleveland (because the Symposium will be held on the day usually reserved for Committee meetings).

Tradeshow in Cleveland:

Staff was asked to reserve two booths for the International Committee. **Update:** Two booths have been reserved for the Committee.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair: Mary Paumen. **Vice Chair:** Liz Glenn. **Committee Members and organizational representatives:** Kerron Barnes, Annie Botsford, Julie Brewen, Tara Balfe Clifford, Pat Gustafson, Saeed Hajarizadeh, Lloyd Halverson, Evette Hester, Gary Keller, Branna Lindell, Michael Lundy, Stella Madrid, Elizabeth Morris, John Papagni, Robert Pearson, Claude Roy, Helen Sause, Ed Talbot, William Vaughn, Alan Zais. **Staff:** Sylvia Moore Bowen.