

SUMMARY of MEETING
International Committee
March 24, 2012
Washington, DC

Members in Attendance:

Present: Mary Paumen, Liz Glenn, Kerron Barnes, Joseph Gray, Tara Clifford, Don Bibb, John Papagni, Patricia Gustafson, Gary Keller, Branna Lindell, William Vaughn, Alan Zais, Tina Akers Brown, David Baldwin, Shannon Biggs, Evette Hester, Teresa Banuelos, Annie Botsford, Yolanda Hotman, Elizabeth Morris, Robert Pearson, Helen Sause, Saeed Hajarizadeh, Lloyd Halverson, Steven Rudman, Julie Brewen, Lynn Fundingsland, Stella Madrid, Edward Talbot, Claude Roy, Katy Gorman

Absent: Aaron Wilson, Leroy Smith, Clifford Scot, Lynda Hinckley, Jose Saenz, Mirta Schloss, Michael Gallegos

Guests: Pedro Ortiz, Humphrey Mmemezi, Theresa Williamson, John Hopkins

October 2011 minutes approved

Approval of Agenda

Vice President's Report: Chairwoman Paumen is pleased that the subcommittees are starting to meet outside of conference meetings and encourages other subcommittees to do the same if they are not already doing so. There is a group going to the study trip to Israel, although the group is fairly small. Mary encourages the committee to go or advise others to go as it is a very well planned trip. Mary advised President Martens of her choices for the UN delegates and is waiting on Martens confirmation in order to move forward. Katy will start with the process of getting those approved on the list their proper documentation as soon as possible. Betsy Morris provided material from her trip to the UN to share with the group. Finally, Ed Talbot and Julie Brewen have planned to do a presentation at Colorado NAHRO conference about the Brazil study trip and will also do one at the NAHRO National Conference.

The committee broke into subcommittees.

Pedro Ortiz from INTA spoke and was introduced by John Papagni. Mr. Ortiz gave the group some background on himself adding that he was involved in housing policies in Spain and his expertise is more in planning. He stressed that NAHRO and INTA's relationship is important due to the mutual experience and variety of work.

Background on INTA: INTA, International Urban Development Association was founded 36 years ago (1967). Its' Headquarters is in Paris, and is composed of 3,000 members from 100 countries. INTA incorporates many policy makers and their focus is on the person not on his job. Members are mainly from Europe, Asia and Africa – and a growing population in Latin America
INTA Congress: This year will be the INTA 36 Congress and there is one Congress per year. The purpose of the panel is not to consult, but to only advise. Panels are focused on professionally complex issues and are not population subjects. Interviews are conducted and a presentation is given at the conclusion of the interview to the public (as much public as made possible for the country).

Outlook: The world is terrible right now in terms of housing– since 2010 more than half of the world live in cities, and in the next 20 years 2 billion people will move to cities. 90% of urban growth will take place in next 20 years, many cities have 6% rate of growth – doubling every 11 years which means you would need to rebuild the city. When population doubles, land use triples. 80% of that growth is in the slums. Only 1 in 10 has reached the formal section to obtain a mortgage. Nearly 2,000 slums are built every day in big cities like Cairo.

Why this that happening: Ejections of land for mafias result in people being displaced. Urban poor are poorer than rural poor. We can help to fight or find solutions to this problem. We cannot export formal solutions, but need to help them formulate a new way to solve this problem. A big problem is land tenure. Culture is also a big part of it. Government response to land is a lack of response. They deny the informational development of the world because they are trying to push people out of the cities instead of bringing them in. Water, transportation and police need to be provided. The U.S. way of planning is not going to work in these other countries. We need to change the scale and pace in planning because the way it was being done has failed as well as the affordability. There is a need to formalize the informal for the future of planning.

New paradigm of planning: accept your city, bring in and don't push out, revise standards, look at the whole city not just parts of it, look to the future (20-30 years) not just the next election.

What can we do together? The developed countries are giving money but that's not the most important thing. The most important thing is the logistics, the software – the people.

- Germany – were able to build back
- Haiti – not able to build back if people aren't there for support

It is the social intelligence they need more than anything.

- Turkey – did not need money from World Bank – we need the expertise of how to deal with this growing metropolis.

That is the expertise NAHRO and INTA can provide together: INTA 36 – New York in November: public housing policies, urban renovation, affordable land and housing production, governance of complex development projects Communities of Competence – online communities, innovative communities. (CC) formally expresses the potential of the above meetings and roundtable and shares that dialogue with the government of those countries. If we are not able to address these issues then unfriendly groups are using it to their advantage against the population.

Questions:

Helen – shared her experience on an INTA panel which she described as one of the most rewarding professional experience in her life. Recommends members to take advantage of the panel if you are given the opportunity.

Pedro – every panel is like a fast-tracked PhD

Claude Roy, Société d'Habitation du Québec

Claude presented a proposition for his organization to become a NAHRO member and a study was distributed. Mary Paumen asked for volunteers for CHRA representative to keep the relationship going. Steve Rudman agreed that the relationship is important and thinks that Best

Practices subcommittee is where it should live. Helen Sause asks Mary Paumen to write a letter to CHRA's president and letting her know we agree to the document. Mary Paumen acknowledged that she thought Betsey Martens would address the document when she visited Canada. Nola spoke with members from CIH and said that there may be opportunities to reactive the Tri-Country. Joe Gray volunteered to bring up the training opportunities mentioned in Claude's memo at their regional conference.

Justin Scheid – HUD

Justin Scheid from HUD's Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation spoke to the Committee about several international events and that they have coming up and how we can better work with them in the future. In terms of follow-up from the Brazil trip, HUD will be executing an MOU with Communities of Cities on April 9th with President Obama in Washington, DC. HUD has also been involved with the South Africans, they hosted them about a year ago for a study exchange in Washington, DC. The reports from that exchange are on their website. On March 8th Sec. Donovan hosted a roundtable in Chicago with mayors and ministers from around the world highlighting and having frank discussions around financing around urban development, job growth and sustainability. A report came out of that which will be ready to share soon but also planted the seeds for future study exchanges. The Department is involved in the planning of the World Urban Forum in Naples, although Justin did mention that HUD will probably not be very much directly involved this year but are relying heavily on local, state, private volunteers. The Department currently has an MOU with Germans, working on MOU with Koreans, and there is an existing MOU with China. John Papagni asked about Rio plus 20, which Justin said the State department and EPA heads that conference. Stella asked about HUD's involvement with Mexico, Justin responded that HUD is involved with Mexico for Sustainable Communities initiative. Pat suggested that the Study Exchange shadow the countries HUD has taken a special interest; Justin mentioned that the one's they take special interest in are because they are inclusive sustainable housing free from discrimination.

Next, **Humphrey Mmemezi – MEC Local Government & Housing - Gauteng Province** spoke and was introduced by John Hopkins, South African Housing Foundation. Mr. Mmemezi gave a very thorough presentation and identified ways his department and NAHRO can work together including sharing information concerning housing and community development and facilitate and promote joint events between the organizations. The full presentation can be found on NAHRO's website.

The Subcommittee's reported out and looked over the strategic plan. It was pointed out by Liz Glenn that right now the strategic plan only shows one objective that is related to the committee. However, the committee believes they can fit into other objectives and they need to identify what those are.

The final speaker was **Theresa Williamson from Catalytic Communities** who was introduced by Julie Brewen. She discussed the current dynamics in Rio as it moves toward the 2016 Olympics and gave a brief overview of Catalytic Communities.

- There are 2 images of Rio: Partying (beautiful landscape) and violence, but Theresa saw a very different side, one based on community, neighborhoods

- Started in 2000 CatComm to provide an area for local leaders to start and build a project that was for the local good
- Technology had a big impact and shifted CatComm to focus more on new media as a form of communications and growing the good (Facebook learning sessions)
- The only organization in Rio working at the intersection of:
 - o Community development
 - o Social media
 - o Global development
- The local and international media were not covering the evictions in the favelas so CatComm started covering it and 6 months later Al Jazeera did a story on it
- Rio cares very much about its image because it is trying to rebrand themselves to increase tourism and international investment.

Rio de Janeiro's Coming-of-Age

- Rio's economy was stagnant from 1975-2005
- Today it is the 3rd largest economy in Brazil
- Pre 2009- population loss, post 2009- population growth
- Pre and post 2009 – inequality is still stagnant
- Most of most expensive cities to live

Favelas

- There is a negative perception
- 40% of favela are run by drug traffickers (1 to 2% are directly involved in criminal activity)
- 42% are run by militia controlled
- State controlled
- Community residents
- 35% are strict evangelicals
- 90% employment rates across favelas
- 3.5 people per household
- 95% brick concrete with reinforced steel
 - o Origin as squatter communities in a city with no affordable housing 10 years after abolition of slavery
 - o Decades of stigmatization culminating in 1990-2000s
 - o Horizontal + need=solidarity=efficiency
 - o Decades of investment by residents
 - o New urbanism, mixed use, livable communities
 - o Self-built neighborhood
 - o Do-it-yourself community
 - o Un-served neighborhood

Policy Responses :

- Infrastructure: PAC (Growth Acceleration Program – federal)
- Housing: MCMV (My Housing My Life – federal)
- Security: UPP (Pacifying Policy Units – state)
- Social programs: UPP Social (municipal) NOT HAPPENING
- Upgrading : Morar Carioca (municipal) NOT HAPPENING

Cases:

- Rocinha
 - o Largest favela in Rio
 - o High rate of transit across the city
 - o On hillside between 3 elite neighborhoods
 - o 100% made of brick
 - o 94% are employed
 - o Decades controlled by drug traffickers, now controlled by police: first start with special forces battalion squad occupied the favela for 3 days prior to the police takeover and found one of the biggest drug lords
 - o Property values up by 50% in 3 days
 - o 60 articles in main newspapers
 - o Receiving lots of grants
- Vila Autodromo
 - o Small favela
 - o 40 year old, began as a fishing town
 - o 2 decades of relative isolation
 - o Rapid expansion in last 2 decades
 - o Almost universal employment, education
 - o Low rate of transit across the city
 - o No drug trafficking or militias
 - o Little media coverage
 - o Well-networked local leaders
 - o Resisted eviction 3 times
 - o Two collective titles
 - o On land adjacent to future Olympic village – however plans for the Olympics have no plans to move them and there is no real need to move them

What's this all about?

- Housing crisis in the city is out of control
- Luxury real estate is what Rio does; top 10 donors for mayor's campaign are real estate companies
- Only 15% of people who asked to be relocated have been in 2 years

What's Happening in the Media?

- They are not telling the correct story of the favelas
- Recently, NYT articles

In conclusion, they need to be secure, education, health and daycare centers, sanitation, sewage water waste, housing access to building supplies, services; formalization and progressive payments, local business formalization, titling (community land trust). Unfortunately, it is going in an opposite direction.

Gentrification is happening. Get involved – stay informed – share new technologies – share knowledge (policies)

Adjournment: **Saturday, July 28, 2012 - NAHRO Summer Conference, San Francisco, CA**