

**APA International Affairs Division- Monthly Minutes**  
**June 2, 2021**  
**7:30 pm Wednesday**

Attendees:

Kate Holmquist

Michael Kolber

Joanna Manson

Rajiv Myana

Michelle Tullo

Timothy Van Epp

Carter Williams

Jing Zhang

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**World Town Planning Day (Nov. 8) (Kate):** We are kicking off this planning process and opening it up to the group to share a topic or ideas for the event. Carter asked if we will be driving the topic this year; Michael said he asked APA GPN and they didn't express any interest in choosing topics. Kate will see if anyone is interested in serving as Coordinator and will support this person along with Michael. Maggie was very helpful with this last year, but not others as much. Michelle and Carter can help with the Call for Proposals and work as a committee to get the ball rolling.

**Division Council Initiatives:** Michael asked if there is a division council topic that our division wants to champion. We had discussed this previously. Tim brought up the idea of mainstreaming international throughout all divisions. Michael said this wouldn't be an initiative, but it is an interesting thought worth bringing up at the next meeting. Kate brought up the idea of trauma-informed planning. She said it feels too specific, but it could fall under the umbrella of disaster response and recovery planning. The benefit of this is acknowledging the integration of short-term disaster response planning and long-term planning. Michael said he saw a really good NPC session on using mental health factors to influence design and how mental health and the environment interact. This might actually be right on point as a topic being worth picking up and could be a positive spin on health-related topics. Kate brought this up also as something that might fall under the branch of the Humanitarian Committee and Michael will send a note to Lyndsey about this. Jing said that also Japan has done a literature study on disaster response.

**Acknowledgements:** Michael acknowledged that Carter graduated school, Michelle got a new job and passed AICP, and Lyndsey just got her Doctorate. Congrats to everyone!

**Webinars** (Kate and Jing): Our next webinar will be combining Division Awards from last year and this year in one ceremony, aimed for mid to late July. Last year was focused on Latin America and we gave out 5 awards but are still in touch with just 2. This year's awards were about Africa and we gave out three awards and the winners will be excited for the event. Jing mentioned that he wants to get more division members involved in the event, and to think about what next year's theme should be (maybe Europe or Middle East). Kate asked what the timeline is for this. Jing said the goal is to get this going at the end of summer like August and start reach out in September and open nominations in October/December. Kate said she had worked with trying to get more participation but it was hard to get interest. Kate said we could send a quick poll to see where people have interest. NPC and Division Awards are very close together which raises some challenges. Carter is interested in helping with awards and Joanna said she is too and that the Ocean Cleanup group is doing a lot of great work and could engender interesting partnerships. Kate said that international waters could be a really cool "region" to consider. We discussed Island nations and territories and Michael said they are separate topics. The group discussed and said we like International Oceans as our region.

**Regional Coordinators:** We only have Kate on the call and so will postpone this conversation.

**Treasury:** Checking in with Joanna on how she is doing with everything. She said she is available next Monday to touch base with Michael.

**Division Organization:** Michael asked that to streamline communication to keep individual issues as their own email chain, as best as can be done. If you start a new topic to the same people, start a new email chain so people can sort topics easily. Kate said maybe we can establish a Google sheet with a running list of Point People for topics so that it's easier for everyone to find who they need to connect with. Jing said there is a contact info page on the website and tried to list people there, but maybe we can update that information.

**Open Topics:** Kate is serving as point person for NPC 2022 for mobile workshops related to the border. There's nothing we need to discuss right now, but email Kate if you have thoughts or interests in shaping this.

Also, it kind of got lost in the NPC rush, but Kate is coordinator for the Aging in Livable Communities. Her presentation was live and was recorded. The window for submitting interviews closed and Kate will be working on a white paper based on this and anyone interested in helping can reach out.

Also, Jing received some feedback on the Latin American report and will make some amendments.