

International Affairs Division Monthly Minutes

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

6:30 PM CST

Attendees:

Lyndsey Deaton

Kate Holmquist

Joanna Manson

Michael Kolber

Michelle Tullo

Carter Williams

Jing Zhang

World Town Planning Day 2021

Michelle and Kate: We are having our first meeting on World Town Planning Day on July 8. We are going to base our theme on FuturePlan to coordinate with other groups. There were several initiatives listed under FuturePlan. We had been thinking about implementation side of planning and so Kate threw out the ideas of Change Now: Planning for Intergenerational Equity and discuss plan implementation, behavioral changes, and intergenerational equity. Lyndsey liked the idea and said she was excited and Joanna said that this is a great conversation for a global setting since America doesn't go a great job with this. Joanna mentioned an article about how Norway and the EU provide for intergenerational populations in a different way.

Fall Business Meeting

Michael wanted to select a date. This is supposed to first and foremost be a meeting to review the Annual Work Plan and the Budget with the membership. We will start working on these and discuss at the August meeting. The meeting is for comment and approval. We want the members to approve it by the end of the meeting so we can send notice in advance. The goal is to have a good draft by the Annual Business Meeting. Kate asked who needs to be present at the meeting. Michael said a quorum is needed, and the more present the better, but not every single executive member needs to be there. Members need to approve.

Joanna said she spoke with Maggie a month ago. Joanna asked if APA has a forecast for functioning for the next year. Michael responded that there was an APA Presidents Meeting today. They expect to move to a hybrid format moving forward. They don't know about an in-person presence yet for the fall policy conference but will plan to be hybrid for NPC 2022. Michael said no one has a feel for when to start activities up yet and he thinks that will be up to us and APA won't give guidance. In terms of expenditures, Michael said to plan for now for in-person events (we can always slash in the future).

The bylaws say to hold this meeting before September ends. Joanna suggested September 13. Michael noted that September 22-23 is the fall policy conference. Carter added that September 21-22 is the Climate Mitigation Conference. Kate said she will send out a Doodle.

Regional Coordinators

Lyndsey: We have gone around this idea a few times. We like the infrastructure, but with COVID it has been hard to sustain so either we scale up or scale back. Lyndsey said she thinks we scale back. Together with Kate they did a pulse check with regional coordinators and found most were uncomfortable in hosting virtual events and we don't have the capacity to provide the support and training to make that worthwhile. Lyndsey is thinking of pausing this until September/October when things start to return to live events and there might be more interest and need for Regional Coordinators. We had 4-5 Regional Coordinators but now are down to 3-4. Raj has done work screening where we need more but the challenge right now is that interest is non-existent.

Michael said, at what point do we start recruiting for regional coordinators? Michael named Chicago and San Francisco because APA is in Chicago and because the Northern California chapter has lots of international events. The third one would be Boston because of the MIT Humphreys problem; Nehrali stepped down. Lyndsey also mentioned Austin and LA. She said we might be able to leverage excitement for in-person events in the fall.

Student Grant Program

Jessica provided Lyndsey the information. Michael said we should look at our budget if there is room for more than two scholarships this year.

Student Programming

Sitwat: She could not attend but will send an email to the Board for feedback with her ideas. The Board should expect that email in the next week or so.

Communications/Planifiquenos

Jing:

- Jing sent an update on Planifiquenos to the Advisory Board to look over some sections before moving on. Instead of publishing one handbook it will be published by sections. We will focus on one section at a time and then move on.
 - The original thought was that this would help planners, but now we are thinking to expand the content to help community members as well. It's about knowledge-sharing, not just translation. Because of that we are expanding our translation team to add two native Spanish speakers. The whole project will take until November-December.
- For Japan Planning Group: We invited two professors, one from the US and one from Japan, to do a panel discussion. We are planning two initiatives- Japanese Planning 101 and a knowledge-sharing series. This series is currently focused on disaster management and recovery. We are in contact with the APA Disaster and Mitigation division and are trying to produce one-pagers on different topics. This is moving slowly but the group is growing steadily. Michael Sherman of HAPI, which does humanitarian work in the Philippines, gave Jing an interview about humanitarian work in the Philippines. Michael expressed interested in a Filipino interest group;

he has lots of people doing this work on the ground. Jing said he was discussing but this is premature. Jing said he is pretty busy and cannot take on another group.

Kate mentioned the planner exchange program (which is on hold because of COVID). It would be nice to establish means of networking and facilitating professional exchanges for mid-career professionals. This might fall into what Jing is describing.

Jing said Michael said it is hard to approach planners in the Philippines. He tried connecting with universities and the government but it was difficult to communicate. One of his goals is to create some connections between American and Filipino planners.

Michael shared his thoughts: Michael Sherman has shared his thoughts on planning in the Philippines in the past and has attended some humanitarian meetings. Michael's concern is whether there is sufficient division interest to make a group around one country. Jing showed this interest existed for Japan, and this could be good to engage new people. Kate said this is why she mentioned the exchange program, because we have limited bandwidth. If we narrowed the focus of the relationship and made connections between different countries for planning exchanges it could minimize the time dedicated to each individual country. Michael said he doesn't know what the planner exchange program will look like in the future and this is a good discussion to have. At minimum we should discuss if we have goals for our next workplan. In the past it was very Anglophone; Tim was really pushing for it to not be that. Michael said we should ask Maru, the coordinator of the planner exchange program. Kate had a long conversation with her in the spring to check in. When they spoke they agreed to put this on hold during Covid and to rethink things. It had been very limited in its scope. Kate said she will reach out to invite Maru to the next meeting. Michael said he has no judgment on what we do but just wants whatever we do to be manageable.

Lyndsey shared her thoughts, going back to Jing's mention of the Philippines. Lyndsey said she has concerns with overspreading and having too many committees that don't have enough members, and how do these specific committees help our general membership. It would be fine to have small things like webinars or initiatives or key contacts, and maybe develop that network as our general service, but we probably don't need a separate organization.

Michael said we tried to break the globe into regions a few years ago. We had some passionate people for awhile, but things fall off. Michael said he agrees with Lyndsey. Individual events would be fantastic.

Kate said she generally agrees, and because she has planned recent events, she wants us to note division priorities before spreading ourselves too thin. That would probably result in low attendance and participation in everything.

Michael said we conducted a membership survey earlier this year but have not heard results from Rajiv. That survey would be a good segway for discussion at next month's meeting.

Jing said that he will run an email by Michael to make sure they're on the same page. He can add something on the next e-blast to gauge anyone's interest in working with Michael Sherman. Michael said to hold off on sending an e-blast until we can send info about World Town Planning Day.

- *Interplan* is almost ready, but Jing hasn't done the layout yet for the articles. Kate asked when the next issue will be. Jing said he is planning for the fall and will need materials by the end of August. Jing said we have done 3 a year in the past but are shooting for 4 this year. Most people want to do interviews instead of articles, so that's making it more of an interview collection than articles. Lyndsey and Kate asked for clear notification of when timing is due.

Carter and Kate are finalizing a webinar for July 21 for the Planning Excellence Awards for 1pm EST.