

APA International Affairs Division
Monthly Minutes – March 2, 2022 7:30 pm CST
Wednesday

Attendees:

Bill Anderson
LaToya Benjamin
Michael Kolber
Joanna Manson
Antonella Salmeron
Bruce Stiftel
Michelle Tullo
Tim Van Epp

Ukraine - Michael (See attached email)

Michael received an email from APA-New Mexico chapter drafting a letter about supporting Ukraine. Michael said that we cannot do anything under the umbrella of “Advocacy,” since they have their own Advocacy group. We can lobby within APA if there’s something we’d like them to support, and Jing said we could put a blue and yellow flag on our webpage.

Tim said he thinks our role might be better down the road in establishing relationships with planners and planning groups to help with technical assistance in the future. Tim mentioned that Gitta Pap might be a good resource here.

Michael said he doesn’t know if APA is planning anything. He can email them and ask their plans. Another thing we could do is get some Ukrainian themed articles for the next *Interplan*. Michael can mention it in his Chair’s column and the Humanitarian Committee could add something.

Joanna said there might be a role for us to look at the more general impacts of war from a planning perspective without pointing directly at Ukraine. Joanna cautioned that it could be dangerous to mention people specifically and that being general would be best. Tim described different work and people’s interactions with Ukraine and Michael said those are relevant in providing context in understanding work that’s been done there.

Bill said we could internally lobby and take a petition to the Board saying that APA is prepared to help with our colleagues in other countries to help with relocation and other issues.

Bruce saw a statement from architects and planners in Russia opposing the invasion. Bruce said we can find and link to those in our materials and that it would be education, not advocacy. Architects and Planners for Social Responsibility and Planners without Borders are connected

with this work. A second thought is wondering whether members in Europe may be able to offer housing to refugees.

Division Elections - Michael

We are now part of APA's Consolidated Election Process. The Cycle is as follows:

- **By March 15-** We submit our list of open positions.
- **April 15-** APA will begin the call for nominations
- **May 17-** Ends the time period for nominating people to the APA Board portal
- **May 25-** Division submits final candidates (not applicable for us)
- **June 1-** Ballots prepared
- **July 17-** Ballots available online with emails sent to all members
- **July and August-** Reminders sent
- **August 20-** Deadline for voting
- **Late August-** Received results

Note that Michael's term is up and that Jing isn't eligible to run again for this same position. There's lots of opportunities to get involved as a Board member. This is the first time we'll have our Student Rep elected as part of the consolidated process.

Michael asked whether we want to have a Nomination Committee to encourage members to participate and run for office, being conscious of finding a diverse set of candidates. Generally this hasn't been an issue for our Division.

If we serve on the Committee you'd be ineligible to run for an actual position, and you don't have to be an established board member. Michael read the bylaws.

Tim said that it can be time consuming. In his role he tried to find at least two candidates for each position because he was disappointed that many APA roles only have one candidate for each position. Politics can become a part of that. Tim doesn't really want to do this but can if needed.

Michael asked if anyone is interested in serving- many people are stretched thin right now. He will serve since he isn't running and will try to find two other people who will keep the Committee diverse.

Public Health and Planning Coordinator - Michael

We didn't have the full quorum to vote, but Michael shared the resume of someone interested in this position.

We'll decide this by email.

National Planning Conference

Kate wasn't on the call so Michael will reach out to her for updates on the business meeting.

Bill said that the schedule framework has come out so now groups are organizing to find the right slots for meetings. Sustainability Division reserved a space in the library from 6pm-8pm Monday and are looking for partners if we're interested. Economic Development is doing theirs Sunday night after the FAICP Division. Michael said that we decided last meeting to not do a formal reception since we seem to have low in-person attendance. Bill said Kate can get in touch with him for suggestions for restaurants or bars. We don't think there will be a mobile workshop that crosses the border. APA has been slow to accept any proposals for cross-border so they are working to sneak them in on other sessions. Bill was on a panel by AECOM for cross-border commerce and that was rejected. He thinks that maybe these didn't fit the theme that APA was going for.

Members expressed some frustration that international issues didn't seem to be desired by APA at an international metro area. Members expressed frustration with how NPC has been handled this year, such as the irregular and inconsistent timeline for hearing back. Bill said Divisions should have a by-right to have conference sessions. We discussed that the pandemic has slowed the process down but overall there has been a shift to staff presentations and not enough Division or regional presentations.

Michael said that CM-associated tracks won't hear whether they've been accepted until mid-March.

Bill said SanDag has a Mexican counterpart and they might be able to say a few words at an even informal meeting. Michael asked him to get the contact info.

Other?

- LaToya Benjamin is the Vice-Chair for the Planning and the Black Community Division but she wanted to say hi and introduce herself because she is a newer member.
- Bruce shared that the Climate and Sustainability Working Group is hosting a webinar this coming Wednesday, March 9 from 10am-11:30am EST.
- Tim brought up the MIT program. Louise wrote something to Tim about starting some work with their fellow Mya because her interests are aligned to Tim's. She wanted to know how her colleagues in Vietnam could collaborate with APA and Tim discussed informal versus formal APA groups in Vietnam and different possibilities of things we could do there.
 - Bill asked if we've done planning tours but we don't have the budget for that. We did to the planner exchange in the past and have been doing the student grants. Tim brought up the Japan Interest Group separate from the division and would like to discuss more.

- o Bruce asked why we haven't shared California's overseas group info and Michael said it's not open to all our members, just their chapter.
- Bruce said he doesn't think we broadcast our Division-only membership well enough.
- Bruce also said other groups discount membership for people from low and moderate income countries. Tim said APA does do that but we could lower more and Michael said he doesn't see that happening.