

URISA Alberta Committee Minutes
 Tuesday September 19, 2017, Noon – 1:00
 Special meeting on OneURISA

Present: Carl, Dianne, Sylvia, Cindy, Dennis, Teresa, Chaka
 Absent: Charlene

Next meeting – October 17, 2017

Action Items

Items	Action required
VP North	<i>Stacey Corbett might be interested, carried</i> Cindy couldn't get a hold of her.
Next luncheon	<i>Chaka and Teresa</i> to re-engage speaker from AEMA for presentation in Edmonton and Calgary – Carried Teresa will meet with city of Edmonton to discuss a list of topic for early 2018.
Encourage student participation	<i>Charlene to work on implementation. Carried</i>
One URISA model documents on Google Drive	All to review and continue discussion at the next meeting
President position & duties	<i>Sylvia and Cindy to connect in early July to discuss carried</i>
VP South	<i>Still searching – Bob Patterson, Bob Skoye</i> <i>Sylvia and Cindy to send out invitation to participate as committee member.</i> <i>Bob Patterson is not interested on the position.</i>

GeoAlberta 2018

- Primarily budget is proposed
- New pricing structure for tradeshow and sponsorship packages
- Different communities have be mobilized
- Increase in registration by \$25 for non-early bird– to be approved from SC

OneURISA

- The goal is to unify both chapter and at-large members to be URISA International members.
- Current chapter/international relationship is in-name association only where chapter members are separated from international membership and chapter's membership fees are not transferred to support URISA International. All chapters pay an annual chapter fee to URISA International.
- Majority of URISA International operation incomes are from GISPro conference and they vary every year.

- CAB has drafted a model /document to outline proposed policy on membership fee, benefit and services for selected chapters to review and vote. These chapters represent a cross spectrum of membership size, chapter maturity, and membership fee structure. Alberta is part of this process. The Ontario chapter has decided not to be involved
- Four US chapters have expressed support of the model.
- Many chapters, including us, are having difficulties to determine if and how their affiliation with URISA International would benefit their membership.
- Dianne's comments:
 - I do not like the idea of URISA HQ collecting chapter dues and then distributing them back to the chapters (assuming the chapters have a 'good standing' status). For international chapters, this may mean we would get caught up in an exchange nightmare. Decades ago when I was URISA Alberta treasurer, there was a 'policy' that chapters would get \$3 for every international member from their area. My the time we went through the exchange of USD to CND, we lost about half the funds – in the end, it was hardly worth the effort. For URISA Alberta to get \$30 per member, we would have to have a membership fee of \$40 (roughly) on the 'new' membership form. And how are taxes to be handled?
 - I am skeptical that URISA can deliver on some of the stated benefits.
 - I do not believe that URISA has ever done anything advocacy-related outside the US. So how do they propose to do that in this new model?
 - Access to best practices – I keep hearing about this in the multitude of URISA International conference calls I participate in, but I have yet to see or be made aware of any published best practices or body of knowledge that URISA can claim is their own.
 - Membership support, event support, etc. – HQ staff is small and already stretched to the limit. Does the Board think that the OneURISA model will increase their revenue enough to hire more staff? Because I don't believe the current staff can handle the workload.
 - Insurance for events and directors – not sure if URISA has coverage for international chapters. They may say they do, but I would like to see it work.
 - Access to Podio – as a tool for interaction with others, I am not sure this is a great solution, particularly if there is no 'training' on how to use it. I have struggled with it since it was introduced and I still can't find things that should be easy to find. I'm not sure it is any better than using a google drive.
 - The Sched App, access to teleconference facilities and web hosting services might be a benefit, but the latter would only be good if we are given access to add our own material. It would be a pain to have to send material to HQ and ask them to add it, particularly for items like the luncheons or the conference.
- Dennis' comments:
 - URISA International priority on international chapters such as us since majority of the chapters are US based.
 - The possibility that URISA International would impose membership fee or fee structure in the future that we do not agree. What is the dispute mechanism?
 - Would we have time to volunteer for both GeoAlberta and URISA International business?
- Cindy response to comments:
 - She has been using Podio and it does take time to learn but it is not too bad
 - Will try switching to Sched App for GeoAlberta

- If there is new fee structure from URISA International, it will be discussed and passed by the CAB
- URISA International president is very supportive of 'international' chapters rather than just national (USA) chapters.
- The new OneURISA would provide chapter members an opportunity to volunteer and contribute to international initiatives such as adding Canadian contents to workshops.
- Feel free to contact her for further information and discussion.