

Alberta Rural Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ARCH²)

Quarterly General Meeting

Monday, November 4, 2019 1pm-3pm

Chair: Diahann Polege–Aulotte

Attendees: Dee Ann Benard, Cassandra Rasko, Jayde Roche, Julia Juco, Rosemary Nnabude
Kelly Petraschuk, Laura Murphy, Lisa Watson, Kathleen Turner,
Lisa Brown, Ron Hierlihy

Regrets: Cheryl Findley, Angie O’Conner, Kristie Gomuwka, Sharida Csillag, Cindy Easton
Olimphy Hermsillo de Elizondo, Candace Pambrun, Jessica Hutton, Bernice Lynn,
Linda Bernicki, Lynn Bossmann

1. **Call to Order** – 1:08pm. Going forward, Kelly will send an email reminder the day before each meeting to ensure better attendance in the future.
2. **Approve agenda** – Dee Ann Added:
 - i. Rural Crime
 - ii. Cannabis Awareness

Agenda was approved as presented.

3. **Previous Meeting Minutes** – review of June 6, 2019 minutes: no concerns or questions about the previous minutes. There was an expression that they were very long, and that going forward we should try to condense the information.
4. **Review of Current Executive Positions** – **As of today, the executive are as follows:**
Chair: Diahann Polege-Aulotte, Vice Chair: vacant, Secretary: Lisa Brown,
Director at Large: Cindy Easton, Director at Large: Candace Pambrun

As many of the members are not part of this meeting, this topic will be brought for review again at the next meeting and re-elections will occur then. We will also decide if these positions should be renewed on a calendar year basis. If we have any members who would currently like to put their names forward for one of the executive positions, please bring your name forward at the next meeting in January, 2020. Kelly will send out a reminder closer to the date of the next meeting.

- **Reports/Updates** – *(5 minute updates from ARCH2 members in attendance. This will include: new community projects/initiatives/developments in local efforts to address housing and homelessness issues within the community).*
 - a. **Lisa/Kathleen:** Another estimation has been approved and will start in the Spring of 2020. The Grand Spirit Foundation is involved in a housing needs assessment with the report due by the end of the year.
 - b. **Diahann:** Involved in an impromptu homelessness count this summer with help from the RCMP which was very informative. However, it clearly didn't touch on the hidden homelessness in the area. Unfortunately, their grant application in the Reaching Home program was not successful.
 - c. **Dee Ann:** The ARDN has merged with the **Agriculture and Food Council (AFC)** as of November 1, 2019. This will expand our horizons into projects and issues with agricultural issues in Alberta. **Reaching Home** is now in full swing. All contracts have not been signed so we cannot give more information on the specific projects that are being funded – more will be reported at the next meeting. The **ARDN Annual General Meeting** is coming up on November 15/19 in Leduc. Please see our newsletter for more details as all are invited to our Showcase portion of the day. We had a meeting with the **Director General** & staff in September to discuss homelessness issues and advocate for more funding. The **20 Community Reports** are now complete and the Rural Estimations by community available on our website.
 - d. **Jayde: Rural Immigration** has attracted a lot of attention in the past year and ARDN has been approached for input. There is interest from both Federal and Provincial government (Settlement and Integration Sector). We are working with **Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA)** on delivering workshops in the next weeks. They will take place in Red Deer on November 18th and Lethbridge on November 19th. This training will be helpful for smaller communities. Although these are the only locations (for now) that this training is happening in, online instruction is available. Please connect with Jayde if your community has a need for training or if you may possibly want to attend one of the current sessions – there may be a few spots still available. Watch for an email from Jayde with more information.
 - e. **Ron:** New to the group – welcome! They currently manage existing portfolio's in St. Albert for housing.
 - f. **Laura:** New to the group – welcome! The Election Forum has kept them very busy. Doing research on Point and Time counts in Edmonton. Working on their website to get it up and running. Developing a UofA Research Lab on Affordable Housing funded by the City of Edmonton for the next 2 years in hopes to eliminate gaps in action areas.

The 6 priority areas for the Housing Affordability Solutions Lab are:

1. Affordable Housing and Poverty Alleviation
2. Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Inclusivity
3. Affordable Housing Design
4. Affordable Housing Pilot
5. Affordability and Land Use Zoning
6. Affordable Homeownership

5. **Old Business: Kelly** reviewed the June/19 minutes and reported that all action items were addressed – the 20 Community Reports are now public and available for review on the ARDN website, along with the SHI Toolkit and second edition of the Guide to Estimating Homelessness.

6. New Business:

- a. **National Network vs. ARCH2 – how to proceed** - It was decided to table this topic until the next meeting to get as much input as possible from all the members.
- b. **New Members Drive** – As always, we hope that you are encouraging new members to contact the ARDN for information on membership. We appreciate everyone’s efforts.
- c. **2020 Symposium Announcement:** In partnership with the Rural Ontario Institute, the ARDN is proud to announce the second national symposium dedicated housing and homelessness issues specific to rural and remote communities! Join us in Guelph, Ontario on May 27-29, 2020! Watch for details everywhere soon.
- d. **Rural Crime EOI:** This has been put forth in the ARDN Newsletter to gather information from communities in Alberta on this issue. The perception is that crime is on the increase. We have a meeting scheduled - tentatively- with the Minister of Justice later this month and would appreciate as much input on this topic as possible so that we can create a program that will bring awareness and help in the prevention of Rural Crime. Kelly to send out an email with a link to the EOI soon.
- e. **Cannabis Awareness Update** – We have a new project underway bringing information on Cannabis Awareness to teenagers in rural communities. It is a 30 month project and it is to try and raise awareness on misuse amongst youth. The next phase is to create a mobile exhibit so we are approaching focus groups and talking to youth one on one for input on what we’ve done so far.

If you know of any youth groups in your community who may want to take part in the focus groups, please connect with Julia. We are looking for youth ages 14-19. Currently we are working with Strathcona County and Camrose. Watch for more information to be emailed after the meeting.

Any other comments:

As our last meeting was in June/19, there was some concern why it has taken so long for this – our next quarterly meeting – to occur. We felt that with both the provincial and federal elections taking place, it made more sense to have our meeting after these events took place. Going forward, we hope to try and stick to a firm quarterly structure.

7. **Adjournment:** 1:55pm