

Charlottesville Area Association of REALTORS®
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Council
Wed., Mar 15th, 2023
10 – 11 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Shannon Thomas (Chair), Rives Bailey (Board Liaison), Maggie Gunnels Fornecker, Julie Holbrook, Ben Reeves (remote), David Sloan, Virgil Velasco, Kat Whindleton, Tammy Wilt (remote).

Excused: Anna Antigua (Vice-Chair), Roxanne Carter-Johnston, Ricardo Duran, Janice O'Hara, Donna Patton, Tara Savage, Petrina Tyree, Tom Woolfolk.

Staff: Ali DiGuardo.

Call to Order: Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The Antitrust Statement was acknowledged.

Approval of Minutes from February Meeting – Did not have a quorum. A motion will be sent via email.

Budget – Staff reviewed the operating budget (revenue, expenses, and remaining balance).

Old Business – Staff reviewed the list of potential members that will have membership with a national multi-cultural organization. Anna Antigua, Virgil Velasco, Ben Reeves, and Tammy Wilt will send staff their membership receipt for reimbursement.

National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Grant - Staff is still waiting for a status update from NAR regarding a \$1,000 Diversity Grant to help pay for travel expenses for Anna Antigua to attend the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals Homeownership & Wealth Building Conference in Washington, D.C.

Current Schedule of Events – There are 82 members pre-registered for the March General Membership Meeting, which will include the LGBTQ+ overview with Jason Elliott. The dedicated LGBTQ+ training with Jason Elliott and the Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) job fair will both happen on Wed., Mar. 29th. Ben Reeves will introduce Jason Elliott. Anna Antigua, Ricardo Duran, Julie Holbrook, and Janice O'Hara will be the Council representatives for the PVCC job fair. Staff will either meet with the representatives or send a detailed email with instructions and talking points for the job fair.

Staff confirmed that The CE Shop does not offer real estate pre-licensing courses or marketing material in other languages. Virgil Velasco mentioned there are online vendors that do offer those courses in other languages. He will send staff the vendor names to investigate.

The purchased marketing material (e.g., pop-up banners, tablecloth, etc.) will be used in various upcoming events, including the Coming Back Home: Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission 2nd Annual Housing Summit on Fri., Mar. 24th.

The Council requested a copy of Dr. Robert Dietz's presentation from the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association Economic Breakfast.

New Business – The Council agreed to participate in the Charlottesville High School job fair on Wed., Apr. 26th from 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Virgil Velasco and David Sloan are the tentative Council representatives for the job fair. Staff will complete the registration form.

NAR Grants - Leadership from the Council and the Communications Master Group supported applying for a \$3,000 NAR Housing Opportunity Grant for a National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) Realtist Chapter of Richmond (RCR) Community Wealth Building Day. The activity is included in their Realtist Week. The NAR grant was approved. Kat Whindleton and Maggie Gunnels Fornecker will be the Council representatives for the event.

The Council expressed their desire to do a similar event to the Community Wealth Building Day in Charlottesville next year. They stressed the need to start homeownership education early – targeting high school students. Tammy Wilt shared that the CAAR Foundation is also focusing on this need. There may be a way for the Council and CAAR Foundation to collaborate on an event for next year.

The Council was in favor of applying for a NAR Fair Housing grant to help pay for Bill Dedman’s “Lessons Learned From Long Island Divided.” The approximate cost of the event is \$6,000 (e.g., presentation, travel, etc.). The Council budget would pay for additional expenses for the event. Staff would seek additional sponsors to help pay for expenses for the event. A motion will be sent via email.

Future Meeting

The next meeting is Wed., Apr. 19th, 10 – 11 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ali DiGuardo, Staff Liaison