

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 BSA 12 noon

ATTENDEES:

Erica Gees AIA	AIANE President, AIA WM
Greg Ames AIA	Past President, AIANE (CT)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Richard Fitzgerald	Exec Director, BSA
Daniel Weston AIA	President, AIACT
Peter Kuttner FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (BSA)
Dean Bingham, AIA	President-Elect AIANE, AIAME
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Art Guadano AIA	Treasurer AIANE, AIANH
Sonya Misiaszek AIA	President, AIANH
Leslie Thomas AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (AIANH)
Jonathan Taylor Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Ernie Edwards	President-Elect, AIA CM
Jennifer Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Mark Saccoccio AIA	President, AIARI
Mathew Stewart AIA	NE YAF Liaison
Bill Austin AIA	President Elect, AIA WMA

1. President's Report

Erica opened the meeting at 12:10 pm. Introductions were made. Minutes were approved. Erica pointed out address corrections for her in the Board Manual and that Bill Austin is president elect for AIA WMA.

She asked that everyone mention what their component is doing for AIA150 during the Chapter reports. AIA150 has a presence on Google Earth now. (Go to <http://earth.google.com> for info and to download Google Earth.

2. Grassroots

Dinner will be on Wednesday evening and Carolyn will email the restaurant name and time. Please let her know by tomorrow if you are coming.

3. NAC Report

Jonathan began his term as Assoc Director on Jan. 1. Attended the AIAS Forum on New Year's. Participated in a career fair and introduced Emerging Professionals Companion to students. Attended two workshops: 1) speed mentoring 2) Forum on internships. Had a very good turnout, in the 1,000s. The NAC is comprised of associates, either on registration track or some who will probably never seek licensure. They are funded to go to Grassroots. The committee represents issues and concerns of Associates to their region and AIA National. NAC has two electronic publications, and people need to sign up to receive it. One is a monthly, one is quarterly (Forward). Editors are interested in receiving material from chapters and are starting a new series called, "Joe Architect." Another feature will be, "Where will you be for AIA175?" Have created a photo scrapbook on Flickr. Will show this at San Antonio. They are trying to push Associates to get LEED accredited.

NAC is asking for info on component and regional conferences. They'd like to work with directors and see what's happening and what might be possible for Associates to participate in.

Have a Friendly Firm program in Massachusetts. AIA National has strategies for firms.
ACTION ITEM: If you're interested in developing this program you can contact Jonathan.

ARE Success Program: develop teams that agree to take the test within 7 years. Small groups of 10 meet and keep each other going for the exam, keep together until the last person passes the exam. Intent is to build camaraderie and help through the process and offers a way to share study materials.

In the next month he will contact IDP coordinators in each state in New England to assess what their take is on IDP registration and the process.

IDP Coordinators conference is in March in Chicago.

ACTION ITEM: Jonathan created a web site for information on the regional NAC and will email the link.

NCARB has a new rule proposed that you have to record your hours within 6 months of their taking place. The NAC at this point is against this. Mark S pointed out that this was not probably a high priority for NCARB and not to get too alarmed about it.

Erica asked if everyone agrees on the AIA position that ARE and IDP should happen concurrently. If we support this as a region she would write a letter from AIANE to each state's board. It was questioned whether this will have any weight or usefulness. There was additional discussion of pros and cons of this position. Jonathon stated that the IDP program would be better if interns are not trying to rush through it in order to take the exam. It should strengthen the process. Dan Weston noted that there are, however, some experiential components of the exam that are very important. Some parts could be taken right out of school, other sections really need to be taken later. Erica noted that interns who are in the process of taking the exam are much more engaged than those just doing the IDP requirements; Dan Weston has seen the opposite among his interns, they are focused on IDP, not the exam.

Mark S. said that the NCARB Regional meeting is in RI in March. He suggested Jonathan attend.

Erica suggested that each individual chapter should address this the way they want. Art said, in reality, that's better as the boards will listen to their own component more than the region.

3. **National Directors' Report**

Peter Kuttner: There has been a lot of restructuring at AIA and he handed out some graphic representations of the senior staff, the Exec Committee, and resulting strategic plan. The strategic plan is on the web site and there are some interactive elements.

At the December board meeting, Chris gave a thorough description of the staff.

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The new organization has really been in effect for only 12 months. It was very consciously done, and we'll know in next 6 months how successful it is.

Leslie Thomas: submitted report from the Directors. First 8 bullets are about the awards that have been given out in the last few months. Six of them relate to our region. Leslie also noted that the board is more diverse than it was 24 months ago. She noted that the discussion for the firm awards was a really solid review of the firms and how they worked. Regionalism did turn up in the defenders and promoters.

AIA investments did very well this year, so AIA is doing better than predicted. Reserve policy is to have 20% of the operating budget in reserve. They voted to put \$75,000 in to the Jason Pettigrew Scholarship fund. Jonathan noted that Jason was on the NAC when he was killed in a mountaineering accident. The scholarship is for interns toward the expense of the ARE. Deadline for that is March 12. The award gives \$1071 dollars and set of Kaplan study guides. It is on the web site, and he'll email the link.

There was a discussion on AIA funding toward the Neuro-Science Institute. It was not budgeted this year, as the original intent was to give them seed money with the hope that they will eventually be able to raise funding themselves. They did fund the AIAS fundraising endeavor for their 50th year celebration. It aligned with our strategic plan and is an excellent program. That was the only "extra" item they funded.

The Operating Budget and Operating Plan are structured around our four goals. They've actually been able to itemize every line item and where the money goes toward fulfilling our goals.

The one big membership issue is creating a category for associate emeritus. It requires a by laws amendment.

AIA150: AIA is up to 7.5 million in fundraising. Blueprint for America initiatives are now on Google Earth. There are close to 200 Blueprint programs. They are also partnered with Sketch Up. The base program is now free. Can also see aerial photos at local.live.

America's favorite Architecture...announcements will be made at Grassroots. These are building named by the public, not by AIA.

Committee on Documents: Tim Toomey from Boston is becoming the chair. They are introducing new documents and a new numbering system. They are incorporating Green design, clarifying ownership of the documents, and other features. They will come out in small, medium, and large versions to address smaller firms. Issue date is slated for November. They have addressed the resolution calling for a "sole proprietor" user plan, and that will be introduced soon.

Long Range Planning:

Streamlined the governance policy, just have by laws and rules of the board. They are now going to sit down and look at long range planning.

5. Young Architects Forum

YAF Liaison appointment. Some lack of clarity as to whether this is a regional appointment. Mathew Stewart was introduced. He has been involved with AIACT with interns and young architects. Interested in trying to help facilitate additional programs, ideas to encourage young architects and their involvement, and communicate with the emerging professionals in New England. Diane noted that Matt has joined us because at the national level there is a Young Architect's Forum. NE was asked to provide a liaison to this committee. Matthew is our nominee to fill the position. He would serve as the Regional rep carrying info from each of our chapters to and from National. It is a two-year position (4 year limit).

Confusion lies in that the application is sent to YAF at National, but need a letter of support from the region. Greg spoke with Susanna at National, and National is interested in having AIANE help fill this position.

Erica gave a brief description of his job. National gives a small stipend and sends him to Grassroots.

We discussed appointment procedures for such positions. Do we want to have a process in place for filling the RAD and YAF positions?

Greg stated that we establish some kind of relationship with the YAF through Mathew. He suggested that Mathew come to our board meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Erica will write a letter nominating Mathew. All agreed.

ACTION ITEM: Art moved to explore how to incorporate the YAF into this group. Dan seconded. Approved. Will talk about at the next meeting.

6. Chapter Reports

CT: Dan Weston reported that CT is confronted with mandates on public school projects. They are putting together a design consortium to go back to the state. Construction projects are reimbursed at a set rate. The state also tried to outlaw the use of AIA documents, but they held that off. The state is in process of writing their own set of documents. Some pretty onerous stuff they are dealing with. Have contacted insurance companies and found that they won't insure architects with these contracts.

Part of his focus will also be to reach out to minorities and increase diversity. Only 1% of registered architects in AIA are women.

Diane posed a question: city of Boston has adopted regs that mandate any construction in the city be LEED certifiable. Yes it is true: It is for 50,000 sf, new construction and

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other criteria for renovations. The city is also proposing its own criteria. Google Article 37, City of Boston for complete info.

They are hosting a symposium on transportation-oriented development...targeting mayors, selectmen, and planners the evening before the AIA NE Conference.

Central MA: trying to expand their programming. Robert Campbell and Jeremiah Eck will be speaking. Passed out flyers and invited everyone. Had a green modular classroom program. They are sending out flyers for their awards program. They are thinking of applying for an SDAT or RUDAT grant. Central MA might be interested in running some tours during the Convention in Boston. NESEA conference coming up in March.

Maine: New president is Carol DeTine AIA. Dean will remain the Main rep at these meetings. She hopes to engage more members in AIA Maine. Have increased their program budget. Have an all day program in May on sustainability. Have a practice management and a design meeting coming up. ArchiTalks is in April; have four terrific speakers at the Portland Museum of Art. ArchiTalks.org. Have first meeting for AIANE 2008 planning meeting. He thanked Stephen White for the great notebook on the conference from RI. Tentative date is the first weekend in October, 2008, probably in Portland.

There is a new architectural society in Portland, Portland Society of Architects, started by a group of architects who felt that AIA wasn't doing enough for them in Portland. They are not leaving AIA, however, and some are actually joining.

RI: Did negotiate with the hotel....they forgave half of the bill (in regard to non-cancelled rooms). So they have broken even for the conference. Have some great things coming forward. Grand opening of new headquarters is February 15. They have not had a presence for a long time. It is free and on a great corner on Washington St. They are doing CanStruction. Have 2 entries. Their 150 event is the Design Matters panels May 19 and June 9 in Newport. The Newport Guide to Architecture is coming out March 9.

They formed a RI Committee on the Environment. They are redesigning their website and will launch it during Architecture Week.

NH: Continuing on a lot of programs developed over the past few years. Next IDID Conference coming up in Spring 2008. Learning By Design is continuing: Shoebox Clubhouse, Walking Tour, and Box City. Art is working on creating a NH Architectural Foundation. The bylaws are written and are being reviewed. AIA150 challenge is NH Model Community: beyond the Charrette. We will design a work force housing or mixed-use project and bring through permitting; then our role would be advocates for the town. Awards banquet held in January. Have a bunch of legislative issues: 1) Interior Designers going for licensure. 2) Joint Board of Licensure: new legislation trying to change the make up of the board so there are more non professional reps than prof reps. Art and David Udelsman will go to the public hearing. Have contacted NCARB on that, too, and they will support us. 3) Senate Bill is looking for a certificate of authorization before someone can be registered as an architectural firm.

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BSA: focus this year is on climate change. Focusing their legislative efforts on green design. They are promoting a tax credit at the state level. Will end the year with a 2-3 day conference on climate change.

May 2008 is the National Convention in Boston. The local chapter's role is all of the programming outside the convention: tours, parties, and special events. Will try to develop a traveling scholarship fund to offer younger professionals to come at little or no cost.

Call for proposals for convention will be out in June. Theme is "We the People."

There is a new museum in town: ICA — very interesting.

Western MA: They are looking for a new executive director. Alexandra will work until September. They are training Lauren. They are discussing membership and trying to increase its numbers. They are below the national average. UMass School of Architecture is in the process of being accredited and they are working out what their relationship with them will be. Have had ongoing programs. Erica is working on their 5th SDAT. They are onboard for doing tours for 2008 convention. They just had an awards program. 14 entrants, 2 Honor awards.

They opened a new cinema in Amherst and they are starting an architecture film series. Did a joint program for first regional smart growth awards. Have been getting very good press on these.

ACTION ITEM: Erica asked if we could do something on with a pr regional level about our 150 programs. Will discuss at the next meeting.

Erica, as AIANE president, is planning to visit each component during the year.

Erica mentioned the new policies on reimbursement that are showing in our 2007 budget. Also that we might need to raise the dues for 2007. **ACTION ITEM:** The Ex Com will come back with a recommendation.

ACTION ITEM: Carolyn will bring a statement on the savings account and our investment earnings to the next meeting.

8. Executive Director and Financials

Quarterly electronic news is about to go out. If people haven't given me their component updates, please do by Friday.

Meeting closed at 3:35.

Next meeting: April 19, noon, BSA offices.

