

# **Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, May 10, 2005

Boston Society of Architects

## **ATTENDEES:**

Greg Ames, AIA	Treasurer, AIANE
John Hoffman, FAIA	Regional Director
Leslie Thomas, AIA	Regional Director
Art Guidant, AIA	Pres. Elect, AIANH
Amy Bailey, AIA	Pres., AIANH
Jim Dunn, CPA, Assoc. AIA	BSA Treasurer
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director, BSA, Exec. Director, AIA Central MA
Richard Fitzgerald	Executive Director, BSA
Mohamad Farzan, AIA	President, AIANE
Dean Bingham, AIA	AIA Maine
Scott Simpson, FAIA	Guest, Former Regional Director
Julie Waggoner, Assoc. AIA	Regional Assoc. Director
Erica Gees, AIA	Pres., AIA Western MA
Paul Wada, AIA	Pres. AIA Central MA
Tom Cosineau, AIA	Pres., AIARI
Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA	Vice Pres., BSA
Pat Myler, AIA	Pres, IAICT
Richard Kelleher, AIA	BSA
George Metzger, AIA	Pres., BSA

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mohammad opened the meeting at 12:05.

**2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** Mohammad stressed the importance of this meeting, which occurs just before the convention. Our policy is not to endorse any candidates, but to discuss them and illuminate their qualifications.

Mohammad wished to discuss the issues with the bylaws first. John Hoffman noted that as he watches presidents of AIANE come and go he feels that the past president has a role and is important to continuity, so proposed that the past president stay on as an officer. JH Moved. Discussion was in favor. Passed unanimously. Will ask John Merkle to attend next two meetings.

## **3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Candidate Discussion:

Tommy Neal Cowan, for treasurer, is running unopposed. JH feels he's intelligent and speaks well. SS served with him on finance committee and recommends him.

Vice presidents: seven candidates for 4 slots. First year for four positions, with two year alternating terms. Two top voted in will serve two years, two next will serve for one year.

Ron Battaglia, FAIA: Leslie Thomas says he is a well spoken, passionate person about making sure the organization stays on course. JH: has spent a lot of time with him and served with him on Diversity discussion group last year. John strongly favors his candidacy. Nancy J. said he is very thoughtful, makes sure we are including everyone in AIA. Scott: would also be nice to have someone from eastern seaboard elected.

Michael Broshar: JH: has been a good director; doesn't really know him very well. He gets a lot of endorsements from those who work with him on committees.

Robert Middlebrooks: Bob ran for secretary last year. Leslie: he seems very focused.

Nancy served with him on Contract Documents task force. She thought he was great at cutting through lots of things to get to the core issues.

Jerry Roller: Leslie worked with him on resolution regarding building envelopes. His focus is on information dissemination from National to Components. He was very helpful in rewriting of the resolution. Good at getting things done.

Angel Saqui, FAIA: very nice person, in Scott's view not as strong as some other candidates. JH and Leslie T don't really know him but have met him at recent board meetings.

Robert Selby, FAIA: is an academic; very pleasant person.

Norman Strong, FAIA: very strong, good leader, intelligent, excellent candidate. Handles tough situations well. Will likely run for higher office.

John: favoring Strong, Battalia, Broshar, Selby

Leslie: favoring Battalia, Strong, not so sure about other two; wants to hear what they say one more time.

Scott: favoring Strong, Battalia, Broshar, and Roller,

John Recommends that everyone please attend the caucuses.

First Vice President: between RK Stewart and Jim Gatsch:

Richard says RK is a genuine person and very interested, not very articulate.

Passionate. Committed to young designers. Leslie says he handles controversial issues well and is articulate in board meetings.

Jim has been more focused on the finance. RF questioned what is the most important role of the president. Representing AIA to the public is a big part of it. Would want someone who can articulate the vision of AIA for the next 25 years. Noted that Hunter supports RK because he feels strongly about his work with emerging professionals.

Scott says Jim is very steady, solid, and serious and committed. They are both strong candidates. Nancy reminded us that Norman Koonze will be retiring so for continuity sake it would be good to have someone who is very solid for next few years. Art G: Jim sounds very competent, can he express a vision and leadership? Which one does AIA need at this point in time? Scott says this is a case of going to the convention and listening to their speeches. Very different personalities. Bottom line is they are both really strong candidates. Erica spoke to the importance of making AIA known to the public. George thinks it's important for this person to be out in the public. RK seems to be on every issue, but George asked the people in attendance if that is campaign rhetoric or not? Leslie says he is concerned about bringing all groups together, and is actively involved in each issue. Jim Dunn encouraged people to think about form vs substance.

John H encouraged everyone to attend the regional caucus at the convention where you can submit questions to the candidates.

Leslie and John asked that people read their report on the web site and call them if there are any questions.

Proposed changes for National Director's Position:

George recommends that one way to encourage diversity on National Board is to propose that at least in NE we have a slate that has one male and one female each year. We will have to have 2 males or females each alternate year because of the two year terms. There was much discussion about all of the aspects we need to juggle in representation: small and large firms, genders, races, NE components, etc. plus willingness, and ability commit. Trying to legislate the statistics of the board might block qualified people at that point in time. Jane spoke to how we can all in our chapters try to be inclusive; she spoke about images in Architectural Record and how they are predominately white male. Jim Dunn asked if we are expecting a sea change in the future...there are more women than men in architectural schools, graduating, and

taking the ARE. This might be a mute argument in the next 10-15 years. Mohammad asked George if he would be interested in rephrasing this as a mission statement. George agreed.

Resolutions:

RF: 13 is an attempt on focusing on awareness and knowledge about the number of architecture school graduates completing the registration process and the impact on the public, profession, and Institute. It is a commitment to working collaboratively with NCAARB around these issues.

Would be nice if cost of resolutions was included in the Delegate Information Book.

RF commented that the resolutions aren't binding; they go back to National Board and are subject to final approval and funding.

05-02

Board supports it.

05-03

To promote architects as the leaders in harnessing building science and technology to create higher performing buildings.

Richard Kelleher spoke to our needing to know how we build buildings. More and more architects are out of that process. Trying to turn that around. Important decisions are made in design, so architects are the natural leaders of the construction team. Leslie said the board's feeling back in February was it should be worded that we promote this, not that we are stating that architects aren't doing their job. Ex Com took a "no position" they felt it should stay within the Knowledge Communities rather than come before the convention. Richard K: concerned about this gap in our education and in leadership with our clients. Want outcome of advisory groups to meet at the convention, may merge, and will submit budget to include recommendations to formation of a blue ribbon committee. Then next year will be back with a lot more specifics of what will come of this.

05-04

Intent is to retain and strengthen the AIA as the voice of the profession. Object to certification by building type, but not for specialties that affect all building types. Arose in this area because of the certification of Academy for Architecture for Health Care specialists. This is not an AIA group. Seems to be an attempt to decrease competition. Think AIA should take proactive role in this and not have independent organizations doing this if certification is ultimately adopted. Scott sees this as a leadership issue, not a certification issue.

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR POSSITION:**

Julie Waggoner as present and interested in taking over this position from Kristin Hatch who has resigned. Erica has known Julie for six or more years and has nominated her. Worked with Margo Jones and with Kerry Dietz. She has spoken with Jessica Zlotogura. Also has developed another career as a comedy improv person: Villa Jidiots. Also does marketing for architecture and now has her own firm. She is an Associate member and likes to maintain connections and communication. Vote for her appointment was moved by Erica, seconded by George M. Approved unanimously.

#### **5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:**

AIANE Quarterly Meeting, 05/10/05

**AIACT:**

Greg Ames handed out invitation to their annual conference June 14, 2005 at the Univ. of Connecticut. Will do a Coastal day about how to build on the shore, a golf tournament, and a regatta June 17 in which they are challenging RI. Had a blood drive. Commission on Architecture for Education has a conference 26-28 of October.

**AIARI:** Tom, "it's amazing what a week in politics can do." Last Tuesday an interior design practice act was passed, despite AIANRI opposition. They called Washington for help. Paul Mendelsohn has been very helpful, as of this morning it was set for a vote today on the senate floor. Last he heard it was being sent back to committee. Had an emergency chapter meeting last night. Passed out info with web site where you can read actual bill. Recommends we read it; it could become a national model and it is really a bad bill. IIDA was behind the bill. They realized that they can't really fight this with their chapter alone. Proposed that they need to higher a lobbyist, and last night engaged one and passed a dues assessment to pay for it. Members are energized and want to fight this.

Chapter meeting tonight at Roger Williams with a mock trial of a litigation liability issue. Continuing efforts for an Executive Director. Mohammad is continuing to work on a Newport Architectural Guide book; fundraising is a challenge. They do have an author. Will use same printer etc as for the Providence book.

**BSA:**

Residential Design conference: had about 8,000 people for a 2-day event. Vendor space sold out. Response from smaller practitioners was good. Lot of people brought clients with them. Had a design professional day last week with American Council of Engineering Consultants. Went to Beacon Hill and talked about legislative issues. Had a visit from National AIA: Kate, Norman, and Doug Steidl. Had a very collegial discussion about some things AIA and BSA do and how might learn from each other. Discussed Interior design and appropriate way of working with other design professionals. They now have second bill up; had squelched one about a year ago. Talked about crafting legislation that we could all support. Have a Density Conference on couple of areas in Boston are being used as case studies, a purely theoretical discussion in an effort to engender more public discussion. BSA is sponsoring a park service kiosk competition, judging is tomorrow. Sponsoring a competition for wind farms in Nantucket sound in an effort to look at design solutions for wind farms and to raise public awareness as to how design can affect the environment. Have big issues discussions every month at board meetings, for instance Iraq and how architects as a profession and as individuals behave in government reconstruction programs. How does AIA need to work with department of state to set ground rules for contracting in places like that? Also discussed the issue of off-shoring and how that might change the profession.

**AIA Maine:**

Successfully avoided a cookie-cutter schools proposal in legislature with AIA National help. Still have a couple of sales tax proposals before them. One of proposals is a reduction to 2% for sales tax but to cover absolutely everyone. Carol Wilson now FAIA is only Maine Fellow. Had a reception at Portland Museum of Art for her. Judith Harvie is celebrating her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the job. Dean passed out more truffle samples, these not for the faint of heart.

**AIA Central MA:**

AIANE Quarterly Meeting, 05/10/05

Paul: continue with professional development series. Finishing a review jury of academic scholarships. Had 2 good planning meetings for NE Regional Conference in September 30-Oct 1 in Concord. Have pulled together a number of good tracks, destinations, etc. NE regional design award submissions due 5/17.

**AIANH:**

Programs: Education committee is moving ahead with walking tours, daytime educational sessions. Bruce Hamilton has flown with this.

We are meeting tomorrow night at Canterbury Shaker Village to see the new restaurant by Christopher P Williams Architects and the visitor's center by John Merkle. In June 16 we have our annual House Tour this year on the seacoast. Homes designed by Lisa DeStefano. Afterwards will meet at the Portsmouth Gaslight Co., also a DeStefano building. September 21 Squam Lake Science Center, and in October Bensonwood Homes in Walpole.

We have a new IDP Coordinator who is actively putting together a committee to work on IDP issues and with IDP participants.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual IDID will be Oct 6-7 at Highland Center in Bretton Woods. One presentation will be on the building itself, by Carlone Dick LaFleche architects and project team. Lew Feldstein of the NH Charitable Foundation will be one keynote speaker, we are also talking with three others including Stefan Benisch architect of the Genzyme Building, which is also a presentation.

**AIA WMA:**

Erica. Had a retreat in March. Have a board member focusing on learning by design. Have another member who is spearheading IDP and Associate membership development. First class at UMass starts in the fall. Starting second semester can do internships and get IDP credit for that.

She will send list of requests for library books to each component. Big news for them is that Northampton and Pittsfield both got Sustainability Development Assessment Team grants from AIA. Pittsfield has lots of potential, and at 11<sup>th</sup> hour Northampton came in and wanted SDAT to come in and see if they are on track. AIA WMass saw potential for cross-fertilization in this.

**6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Finances

Greg Ames and CI investigated another investment vehicle and transferred our accounts. Recommend transferring up to \$10,000 for our checking account into investment fund. Erica moved to move the money to the investment fund, seconded by Tom Cousineau. Approved.

**7. ADJOURN:**

Adjourned: 3:15 pm.

Next meeting is July 21, Thursday, 12 pm at BSA.