

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

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 BSA 12 noon

## **ATTENDEES:**

Erica Gees AIA	AIANE Regional Director, AIA WMA
Peter Kuttner FAIA	AIANE Regional Director, BSA
Art Guadano AIA	AIANE President, AIANH
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Michael Hoffman AIA	AIANE President-Elect, AIAVT
Tom Keane	Exec Director, BSA
Cindy Gerlach AIA	President AIARI
Mohamad Farzan AIA	AIANE Regional Director Elect
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Greg Ames AIA	AIANE Regional Director Elect
Chris Walsh AIA	President-Elect, AIA CMA
Kelley Caminero Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Scott Simpson FAIA	NE Fellows (BSA)
Eric White	Executive Director, AIA CMA
Carol DeTine AIA	AIANE Treasurer, AIAME
Mo Gagnon AIA	YAF Liaison
Casey Nixon	RAD, AIANE (Elect)
Tom Haskell AIA	President Elect, AIACT
Dan Lewis AIA	President-elect AIAMA
Larry Chan	President BSA
Tom Haskell	President AIACT
Audrey O'Hagan	President Elect, BSA

## **1. President's Report**

Michael opened the meeting at 12:10. Introductions were made. Minor changes to minutes were noted, and have been made. Scott moved approval of minutes with changes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris, Approved.

MH: we are a clearinghouse, way for component to leverage their participation in AIA. Aisne's presence and prestige gives it a voice at the National level, largely due to very effective Regional Directors over the years. Their workload is not to be underestimated.

Goal: effective communication between national and local; use our leverage at National Level. Also, "let's not eat the young...." We should weigh in on issues of significance to our emerging professionals and that will take the profession forward in a meaningful and compelling way. Enhance what we do well, and do everything else better.

## **2. Grassroots**

There is a cd of issues from SGN. Also, on the website. There are 3 major foci: licensure, liability, and procurement. Find and read the briefing papers for your visit to Capitol Hill. If you don't refer to notes and papers during your visit you seem more in mastery of the material. Are there any other issues for NE to press? Stimulus money, shovel worthy vs. shovel ready. Meeting on the hill is not enough to make an impact....continue relationship once you get home. Also write hour legislators sometimes when you don't want something, offer them something...

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CT is focusing on improving relationships with staff of their legislators. They have found that sketches really make a point.

Maine has an ideas competition, and the city and neighborhoods are very interested. City governance also lamented the term shovel ready. This might be a good thing to take to representatives in DC.

CT has four items talking about recession impact on architecture: The Dodge Report for CT, NY Times article with architect at a 5cent booth; economic indicator. DJ will send to Carolyn to distribute. Maine is doing a survey of their members.

AG: talk to our reps about how policies are impacting our businesses.

CW: when you speak to legislators, they have a preconceived notion of what architecture is. Let them know that most architects are sole proprietors, small businesses; their small business policies are crushing architects. Good to constantly remind them, we are a huge junk of small business.

LC: Architects contribute to the environment, contribute to the community, which translates into jobs and environmental protection and energy conservation, smart growth, etc. If they understand how we serve society, they are more open to our issues. Also, the more influence we have in helping the public understand that design matters, the better off we all are.

EG: You can also relate to homeland security, we have a positive role to play in that.

CW: could we catalog how many people put time in toward their community...via boards, e. We have a bigger impact than what we are earning.

Get to know the legislative staff. They make decisions, talk to each other, and report to representatives.

AO: What is the impact of construction decline on related professions, the overall number of people impact relative to the building industry. Are there numbers somewhere? It is a huge number. 4 of the top 9 hardest hit professions are in the building industry.

EG: there will be some townhall meetings at Grassroots re: resolutions at convention, Legacy, etc.

### **3. National Directors Report**

PK gave report on the Strategic Plan. At Grassroots we will discuss the draft and how to make the plan work for components as well as National. Work on the plan has developed into a vision: Driving positive change through the power of design. Mission statement remains as is, the voice, etc....

Three sets of goals: Society, profession, and members. Everything strategy should be connected to every goal. Want to make sure components are touching at least one, hopefully all, of the goals and strategies. Next level includes initiatives.

PK will share the PowerPoint. After Grassroots it will be on the web. Board members communicated a positive response to this vs. last strategic plan proposal.

Budget: AIA has 10% budget cut between '09 and 2010. Have reduced operating costs 8%. Compensation down 8.5 million with 33 layoffs. Operating plan for 2010 was done in

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conjunction with the strategic plan effort. Have 49.5 million budget. It is conservative. Will make adjustments if needed during the year.

They are tracking membership renewal. Last year were down 11%. EG will have current numbers after Grassroots. Lots of people have moved around, many are unemployed who had employers pay last year. Payment plan needs to be tracked. There is a resolution to make it permanent at 2010 convention. AIA is also tracking contract documents and convention. Tracking revenue, expenses, and reserves (which do not impact the budget). Reserves were up 26% at end of 2009. AIA changed its investment broker. Looking at placement of funds in relationship to long term and short term needs. Have a balloon payment in 2010, left over from AEC debacle.

Contract with Architectural Record is up and has been renegotiated, now is Architect magazine with Henley Wood. Will not impact component relationships with McGraw Hill. It is integrated media approach, combining all sources of media. We will have a six-page presence in Architect.

Emails: One email will come up with links to various items, not lots of different emails. AIArchitect has been reorganized.

Negotiated a new CEU recording agreement with Operitel. It will be more user-friendly and linked to local requirements. It will be much less expensive. Start working on transition now, and it should be up and running by the end of the year.

There is a joint task force between USGBC and AIA. DJ: ask that SD credits will be acceptable to USGBC.

There was a request form a component for financial assistance. Have waived rule against this with a bridge loan, an advance on dues.

GA: there are three bylaw changes coming up for discussion at Grassroots. One is allowing associates to be a Regional Director. Second, the dues payment plan to become a permanent feature. There would be fees to do this. There will be a cash flow impact. Third, is the international membership (foreign licensed architects), currently AIA International Associates, to call them AIA International. That was perceived to be on a higher plane than US architects. Compromise is using AIAI.

#### **4. RAD**

Kelley still looking for BSA, WMA, Vermont state Associate directors. Passed out contact list to see if everything is correct. Her report is on the AIA New England website.

DJ: interesting in knowing creative ideas for supporting unemployed interns in IDP to still be able to move forward with their IDP requirements.

#### **6. YAF report**

MG reported on YAF. His report is on the AIA New England website.

#### **9. Chapter Reports**

**BSA:**

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TK: RDC is April 14-15 at World Trade Center  
CFE for design awards for the year....including AIANE on their website.  
Lecture series: are now posting videos of those online at architects.org. They can be downloaded. Can do self-reports for CEUs. This is first effort toward more developed system.

BSA will host 2010 Annual Conference in conjunction with Build Boston, November 18-19. There will be a different track within BB. Participants can pick and choose between BB and AIANE. There will be an AIANE price...

**Central MA:**

Rolling scholarship program out. Will be on line. Kept dues at current levels, but dropped associate dues. Programs are being put together for 2010. Will have James Kuntsler to speak (working on final details). Talking about reestablishing an Affiliate member category.

**WMA:**

Ended the year well. Got award from AIA for retention. "Greening the Valley" opening up at UMASS, exhibit and lectures. Partnering with UMass facilities in designing for sustainability. Did a tour of Ford Hill. Have architecture through film series. Involved with legislative affairs and pushing HERS rating.

Encourage components to tell other components when there is something pertinent to post on their calendar...

**RI:**

AIARI received Honorable Mention for increasing organization outstanding for their partnership with Roger Williams Outstanding Single Program category. AIA Rhode Island formed a valuable partnership with Roger Williams University in order to provide the Chapter space for events and networking, a public face to promote the value of good design, and exhibition space to share member work with the public. For this reason AIA Rhode Island was selected for Honorable Mention.

Focusing on increasing committee involvement.

Have an exhibition each month in their space for gallery night in Providence.

**Maine:**

Maine received good press for Ideas competition. Two winning entries will be in Maine Home and Design. They also partner with them on their design awards, publishing winning entries. They will also sponsor and advertise their awards event and opening to the public. Have a Seattle-based jury, chair will come to the event.

Portland Bayside neighborhood got an SDAT grant. Only five communities got the grant.

**CT:**

Expecting another tough year. Held all their dues flat to level of three years ago. Primary focus is member retention and service. Have a workshop for people on job finding skills. Have offered REVIT training. Offering free CEU programs...all to keep members. Programming has very full calendar.

There is a lawsuit in CT at the state supreme court involving statute of limitations for liability. Takes away limits, and makes you liable forever, and uninsurable. Making its way through the courts and the state codes and standards. Very complicated and unique. Be aware: read every contract with any state agency very carefully. New

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language in the contract is undoing statute of repose.

**VT:**

Theme last year was modernism...had a series of lectures. VPR covered it and got good press. Key thing was that they started advertising with VPR and they were more receptive to their programming. Have had legislative networking meeting. If you go with group to legislature have script and not open-ended approach. Started a calendar last year, and it was not successful; had to give most of them away. They took them to DC and gave to everyone, mailed to members, etc. Has turned out much better that way. Have some building code issues on table. No major legislative issues right now.

**NH:**

State has adopted 2009 IBC, which includes sprinkler requirements for homes. Home Owners are against it. Bill was supported. Looking for amendments to appear. Just held Awards Banquet. Have several Continuing Ed programs and chapter meetings planned this winter and spring, as well as sixth Integrated Design/Integrated Development Conference, this year in collaboration with Dartmouth Sustainability Initiative. Fifth IDID Design Awards program is underway.

**10. Executive Director's Report:**

Carolyn reported on current financial status. Year has just started; we are working with deficit budget this year.

Membership report:

CT membership is down is about 7% for 2010; last year down, has held about the same.

VT appears to be doing okay.

RI membership was up a little at end of 2009.

WMA expects to be about the same.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 12 noon-3 pm, BSA**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak