

# Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2005 Boston Society of Architects, Boston

## ATTENDEES:

|                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>AIA New England:</b>    | Mohammad Farzan, AIA<br>Greg Ames, AIA<br>Erica Gees, AIA<br>Carolyn Isaak                  | (President)<br>President Elect))<br>(Treasurer)<br>(Executive Director) |
| <b>National Directors:</b> | John Hoffmann, FAIA<br>Leslie Thomas, AIA   |   |
| <b>BSA:</b>                | Richard Fitzgerald<br>George Metzger, AIA<br>Richard Kelleher, AIA<br>Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA | (Executive Director)<br>(President)<br><br>(Vice President)             |
| <b>AIA Central Mass:</b>   | Nancy Jenner  | (Executive Director)  |
| <b>AIA Massachusetts:</b>  | --  |   |
| <b>AIA Connecticut:</b>    | Diane Harp Jones  | (Executive Director)  |
| <b>AIA Maine:</b>          | Dean Bingham, AIA   | (Past President)  |
| <b>AIA New Hampshire:</b>  | Amy Bailey, AIA   | (President)   |
| <b>AIA Rhode Island:</b>   | Thomas Cousineau, AIA<br>Stephen White, AIA   | (President)<br>(President Elect)  |
| <b>AIA Vermont:</b>        | David Epstein, AIA<br>Michael Hoffman, AIA  | (President)<br>(President Elect)  |
| <b>AIA Western Mass:</b>   | Erica Gees, AIA   | (President-Elect)   |
| <b>Nat'l Assoc. Comm:</b>  | Kristin Hatch, Assoc AIA  |   |

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mohamad opened the meeting at 12:14 pm. Introductions were made. Mohamad wished John Hoffman a Happy Birthday.

## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mohamad indicated that his goal was to end the meeting by 3 pm. No further report.

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

John Hoffman: The agenda for next board meeting not yet received. Will meet in March and "community" will be the main topic. Several resolutions are coming up at the convention. One is an effort to strengthen young designers and encourage licensing.

John brought up the fact that there is no role for the past president on the AIANE Board. It was voted to start including the past president as an officer on the AIANE Board. The by laws will need to be amended. Proposed amendment to Bylaws, Item 4.1.1, Change the current "The officers of AIANE shall include a President, President-Elect, and a Secretary/Treasurer" to read, "The officers of AIANE shall include a President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and the immediate Past President." Voting will take place at the next meeting.

Electronic polling on Saturday at Grassroots was not well attended, about 250 of the 700 registered. Public policies became an issue, as many people hadn't seen them. John is concerned about the lack of knowledge about AIA with new people coming to Grassroots. He thinks there should be some sort of orientation for new people coming to Grassroots.

Michael suggested that rather than rely on Grassroots for an orientation, National develops a binder for new board members that would have National information to supplement local chapter information.

Amy Bailey mentioned that there was no description of the sessions on Saturday so it was not known how important they were.

Recommended that National put more emphasis to phrase the questions clearly.

Big issues for this year:

Certification, should we be involved in specialty certification? There is a board resolution sponsored by BSA and AIAMass about specialty certification. Their resolution is in opposition to specialty certification. All we've seen is work of the study group that started with the question of how to do it, not whether or not to do it. One thing that BSA is working on is a Q&A to be circulated with the resolution that speaks to the value of generalists. Point of this is not to create a situation that keeps architects out of certain projects.

Membership: we're around 77,000 members. Discussion around reaching out to younger members. Also a discussion of international members. Membership and growth are a big topic. Question is around how do we do it, reach younger members right when they come out of school? There is a new membership committee. Nancy said that an audit is being done on the make up of the membership and of the profession for the Diversity Committee, which will be useful for membership as well.

John passed around a copy of "Roll Call" with the AIA ad in it for us to look out.

Greg Ames reported on Grassroots. Preparation by AIA Government Affairs on the issues and going to Capitol Hill was excellent this year. Treasurer's report was also very good. John said that we tend to spend money on virtually everything that comes up and he is concerned about that. RF asked what our reserves are now. Diane HJ said reserves are where they were in 1996 before things went awry. We depleted them and now they are back. Leslie said that we are still putting money into reserves. There is a goal for reserves and AIA met it a year early. It is a percentage of the budget. Question is what is the ultimate goal, is it to be the level of one year's operating expenses? Leslie and John will check in about that.

Greg gave everyone a copy of the preliminary 2004 AIA Annual report. Norman Koonze is resigning at the end of the year, which means a new AIA CEO. A 12-person selection committee is in place. We can put forth names for that committee. They have retained a search company. Greg said that it would be good if we could all look at the job specifications. This person should be a good communicator and needs to engage the membership and the board at all levels of decision making. If we saw the criteria we might have comments on it. The committee has a nine-month timeline, so hope to have a recommendation by September.

Changes to CSI Masterformat are coming and there will be seminars put together about it, plus revised documents.

New National Board has 4 women from none. There are two blacks and two Hispanics. Board is overwhelmingly white male. AIA National officers are drawn from the board for the most part, but it is not required. Greg Ames feels that if you haven't been on the National Board it would be very hard to be an officer. Leslie felt that if they were part of a National Committee it might work.

Tom Cousineau said their representatives missed the calendars AIA National produced for your representatives in 2004.....NH missed them as well. Vermont made a poster of their award winners from last year to give.

2007 is the 150th anniversary. There is a committee at work on that. They are looking for ideas on community activities, etc. and how it can be tied to all of the components.

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:**

Among Associates Committee members(18 associates from around the country, licensing is a topic of debate. Also mentorship....how experienced architects interact with younger architects. They feel that this is failing and are trying to give it a boost. People not in AIA mainstream or not really aware of these efforts.

IDP is another hot topic. The mentoring aspect of IDP is not really working.

RF said that a staff person from Washington will be here on Feb. 25 at 8:30 to talk about and demonstrate Emerging Architects Companion. There is a hard copy and it is on line.

Associates are also talking about specialization. They are not even architects, how can you talk about specialization....there is an additional test, course, etc. So it's a hard question to ask for someone without much experience.

Diversity is also being discussed. In October at a retreat a third party came and it was a disaster. They tried to get Associates to sell AIA to others, which didn't go over well with the group that was concerned about the cost of membership. Kristin says most associates are involved in AIA when someone they are associated with at work or other activities is involved. So it is the invitation and the mentoring of a member that works.

As NAC is more organized, communication between it and National is better. Nancy said that the Newsletter ArchVoices is great. Kristin said you can go on the AIA site and check which newsletters you want. But you have to be a member. Nancy said that it should be available to non-members as well.

There was considerable discussion about membership and inviting non-members to participate as well. General consensus was that events and services should be available to everyone.

Kristin feels there are a lot of people who will be future leaders in AIA. There are common issues with Young Architects Committee and some joint efforts.

Kristin formally resigned her position. She is in a Master's program, works full time and doesn't have the time she needs to put in the position.

All components should recommend someone for the position. Time to do it is important. Experience is not necessarily important, but leadership skills are important. There are every other month, one to one and one-half hour conference calls. There are eroom discussions. Grassroots is totally funded by National. October NAC meeting funded by National, 4 AIANE Board meetings Mohamad thanked Kristin for her time and effort and indicated our appreciation. We should try to find someone by convention.

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

##### **W Mass:**

They are making a big push to getting Associates. Also have UMass program now and they have asked them to help set up an IDP program, for second semester of second year. Have a \$25 student

membership. Got about 25 members. Will be surveying firms to get intern names. Have a lot of Associate members who will never get out of the Associate track. Have a retreat March 12 for five-year plan. Are having a Design Professionals Day West breakfast and legislators will be invited. Awards program in December. Will print up postcards of their new web site. Wmaia.org, which is now online

**Central MA:**

Education programs held every other month. Award program is happening this year. Scholarship program. At annual meeting gave additional \$1000 to program teaching very small children about architecture and buildings. This is in addition to \$1000 they budget for this and will help create a training manual for head start meeting. They are organizing the AIANE conference, Sept 30-October 2 in Concord, MA. They are working on programming. Call for entries is posted on web site. Postcard is at the printer. Have an excellent jury from California, a 5-person, diverse jury.

**BSA:**

Continued the research grant program, have 70 entries for this year. Jury is in March in Chicago. April 6-7 is Residential Boston, a mini Build Boston for residential work. A Density conference will occur May 11-12, a small version of one done last year and will focus on some case studies. Had a legislative breakfast during first week of January with about 50 people. Design Professionals Day will be May 3, an event organized on Beacon Hill with ACEC chapter. They are talking about IBC and will bring that up for conversation. Also talking about Visitor's Center on top of Big Dig and trying to set up a meeting. Planning a Wind Farm competition and how they could NOT look so bad. There is a student housing competition for Young Architects that will be shown at residential conference. They are working with *Architectural Record* on 50 projects from past 50 years to be shown at the April 6-7 conference.

Is there a position that we should take in the Middle East? What do we as stewards of culture have to say about the physical devastation there. They will pursue the conversation.

They will put exhibits in new café downstairs from BSA offices.

**Maine:**

Dean will continue at AIANE meetings as John Gordon lives 3 hours further away. Thanked Board for discussion of diversity earlier. Dean sent around some truffles for us to try, from Dean's Sweets!

Publicly congratulated Maine for their new Fellow, Carol Wilson.

John Gordon had a memorable visit with Susan Collins. John's new house, designed for his daughter who has a spinal cord injury, will be subject of their next meeting. He has written a book about the process as well.

Like BSA, have upcoming legislative breakfast. Web site has been upgraded, can search for project types and geographic area.

**RI:**

Tom introduced RI's president elect, Stephen White. Netted \$17,000 from annual golf tournament that they use for scholarships. Will send a letter to all of the schools. It is for any RI resident in any architecture program in any school in NE, or any non-RI resident in a school in RI. The Annual design awards were in December: 34 submissions, 9 winners. Thanked CT for providing jury. Roger Williams just hosted a gallery and speech by FAIA Jim Estes.

RI is continuing discussion of hiring an Executive Director. They are also working on an AIA Guidebook to RI architecture and publishing a new member directory. Efforts for a unified code are ongoing. The state Fire Marshall has not been reappointed. Bill Kite is RI's newly elected Fellow.

**CT:**

CT is hosting the National Committee on Architecture for Education (Knowledge Community) October 27-29 and invites other NE components to join them. On September 29 they will show the film, "The Rural Studio" at the Josef Loff Museum. They will also show the National rural Studio Exhibit for two months.

**NH:**

NH's annual Awards Banquet was January 14 and over 155 people attended. On February 17 Valerie Fletcher of Adaptive Environments will speak on Universal Design. A tour of Primex, a high performance office building in Concord, will be on March 17, and on April 21 first will have a meeting in Hancock at the Harris Center for Conservation Education, another High Performance Building. At both tours the respective design teams will give a presentation. On May 12 AIANH will have a tour of two new buildings at Canterbury Shaker Village.

The Education Committee has put together a Walking Tour program. NH received a grant from the AAF for this. NH thanked BSA for their help in putting together NH's new Learning by Design program.

**VT:**

Vermont reported interesting meetings with their delegation on Capitol Hill. Jim Jeffords grandfather was an architect and his daughter is one! He is one of the leaders in the Transportation Act and empathetic to community design issues. They talked about judicial nominees with Senator Leahy. Bernie Sanders introduced the Affordable Housing bill.

A scholarship is offered to Norwich students. AIAVT is thinking of moving its Board meetings around the state. Asked the Board if there is any Best Practices information available about web sites.

Richard indicated that BSA has a staff member who could help, also there is a Director of Distance Education at National.

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

Carolyn distributed financial reports and indicated that the 2005 Board notebooks were sent as a pdf this year. If you did not get one, please contact her. She reminded people to please respond to her queries for information for the Electronic News.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)