

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2004 Build Boston, World Trade Center, Boston

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	John Merkle, AIA Mohammad Farzan, AIA Greg Ames, AIA Carolyn Isaak	(President) President Elect)) (Treasurer) (Executive Director)
National Directors:	M. Hunter Ulf, AIA John Hoffmann, FAIA	
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald George Metzger, AIA	(Executive Director) (Vice President)
AIA Central Mass:	Paul Woyda, AIA	(President)
AIA Massachusetts:	--	
AIA Connecticut:	Diane Harp Jones Richard Turlington, AIA	(Executive Director)
AIA Maine:	Dean Bingham, AIA	(President)
AIA New Hampshire:	Douglas Bencks, AIA	(President)
AIA Rhode Island:	Kathleen Bartels, AIA Thomas Cousineau, AIA	(President) (President-Elect)
AIA Vermont:	--	-
AIA Western Mass:	John Salvon, AIA Erica Gees, AIA	(President) (President-Elect)
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:	Jessica Zlotogura, AIA Kristin Hatch, Assoc AIA	
Guests:	Scott Simpson, FAIA; Leslie Thomas, AIA	

1. CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 12:00 PM. The Minutes of the November 19, 2003 Meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections to the spelling of John Hoffman's name and AIA membership category (FAIA), Richard Turlington to be noted as President from CT. Minutes approved. Greg moved to accept as amended. Mohamad seconded. Approved.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Merkle welcomed everyone and there was a general introduction of all participants. John reported that he had attended the AIA Maine Awards Ceremony and expressed his willingness to visit other components. He is planning to visit Western MA in March at their retreat. John remarked that when he first was involved with AIANE, AIA National was in bad condition. One of the reasons he stuck with AIANE was because he saw the positive affect it was having on AIA. Since the "machine" is now working smoothly, he sees no need to upset it. His goal for 2004 is to find some opportunities to do some partnering with other groups. To that end, he attended a recent RIBA meeting.

3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Hunter last board meeting was in Dec. 2003; trying to fill 2 positions on AIA staff. Found Elizabeth Stewart to replace Chuck Hamlin. Ronald Faucheux is the new Government Affairs person. Approved a motion to recommend increasing the dues by \$50 for REG members, \$10 associate. Idea behind it is to eliminate the ad surcharge, and roll this into regular dues amount. Had been tagged on as way to keep it out of the operating budget. But ad campaign has become more of a

mission of AIA and therefore should be part of the main budget. DJ: Is the amount coming in for the ad campaign matching what we need to spend? Hunter stated that the cost in the ad campaign is market penetration. Message is being played to the degree we can afford.

Scholarship programs: somewhat under funded in the past. There is interest in getting programs back up to speed. Appointed a task force.

There was a half-day meeting of 2004 Board in December, after the new members did their orientation. During the meeting, the director of ILL asked for \$250,000 to be donated toward the purchase of Farnsworth House. The Board approved \$100,000 to the National Trust for this purpose. The purchase has been made. Board struggled with decision. Highlighted a need for policy on this type of request and to determine where AIA priorities are.

The Board felt it was important to make a statement in saving that particular building.

Convention resolutions will be discussed at the upcoming board meeting. One, sponsored by BSA, is to strengthen the demographic diversity of the design professions. RF: controversy might come over funding aspect of resolution. The second resolution comes from CA Council, dealing with involving IDP into comprehensive development program for the benefit of professionals and the public. There are concerns with this resolution in that CA architect board is worried it will lose any governance on interns when IDP becomes mandatory in 2005. They are suggesting that AIA be involved in governance of IDP and report progress to the membership. The feeling is that the resolution is a bit confrontational.

Sustainability tax force: discussing several issues and how they might be implemented, including sustainability tax credits.

Update on Professional specialty certification issues: Task force is interviewing people, and there will be a breakfast at Grassroots, where you can voice your opinion.

John H: on resolution committee, will review them before they go to the board.

Emerging Professionals Discussion Group: working on some advocacy items and to prioritize them. Asked us to check off our opinions to see how the region stands.

Nancy Jenner of the Diversity Committee asked us to support a Resolution for AIA to call for some research to better understand the profession, who is entering school, who's going on, who's dropping out and why. Tracking has not occurred. They've had 2 data summits with organizations to look at jointly. Interest is there in forging a collaborative team to look at data. Also asking AIA to back the importance of trying to create a diverse membership. It's about the profession. To sign on as a sponsor, get in touch with Nancy Jenner.

Asked also that AIANE support it. AIA Atlanta, and AIA Georgia, Rochester, and New York State have signed on so far. Funding aspect: proposing 3 year funding of \$150,000 for research and initial data collection. Moved by George to endorse the Diversity Resolution. Erica Gees seconded it. Voted unanimously in favor. Everyone will receive copy of diversity publication at Grassroots.

4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:

Jessica reported that AIA is putting together the EPC: Emerging Professional's Companion to help through IDP process; in beta testing phases now. Have a chapter for each stage of the process with exercises. Some of the Assoc Directors are reviewing chapters and will give feedback. There is a video available from AIA Virginia that goes through different paths of education, different degrees, IDP, mentoring, the ARE exam, etc.

Jessica has 2003 annual report from NAC for distribution to components. Over past year launched the Associate News. She will be doing one just for events for AIANE. Published a career survey. Retention rate is 82 VS. 76% LAST year. They will partner with YAF for a design competition.

Locally, young designers and architects are having a happy hour at Custom House tonight. 180 are attending.

Vermont had a happy hour for their young architects.

New associates, emerging prof group forming in RI.

Jessica's term ends October; she introduced Kristin Hatch, involved in EPG in Connecticut. Kristin, originally from TX, has been in CT for about 4 years and is looking forward to working with associates in the region.

5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

BSA: Fellowship scholarship program started to support faculty research in the schools, set up in consultation with deans of local schools. Also scholarships for architecture students.

Build Boston: there will be a mini version in 2005 focusing on residential market--in response to a request from both architects and exhibitors.

New president is Brian Healy. Suggested working on significant guide to Boston architecture out in time for the Democratic convention.

Architecture Boston is under redesign; soliciting ideas on content and graphics.

One of BSA's legislative activists has thrown hat in the ring for MA legislature.

Annual NE fellows dinner is April 14.

June session for nominated fellows.

Established a policy counsel at BSA. A once a month meeting to discuss issues of public policy and issues that are coming up. Helps board keep informed.

CT: will be adopting the ICC family of residential codes. Will continue to work with CT Association of Fire Marshalls, and looks like won't go down NFTA route. National Association of Governors put out a white paper endorsing ICC family of residential codes.

Diane has several questions: Jessica when we send info for associates, can it be linked to Web site? Answer is yes. After their board meeting on Monday they are having pizza and beer following board meeting for interns and new members.

Diane mentioned issue of component affiliates not getting discount on documents unless they join national. Don't want to lose them or have them buy AGC documents. They are our financial supporters in many other ways.

CT is following Richard's lead....we are at the moment including every licensed architect in everything we do. Hoping it will boost membership.

Interested in learning what's happening with mandatory CE around them.

Interior designer registration not on the horizon. They have been involved with the coalition about international code and have included interior designers in that conversation.

Diane handed out a list of upcoming events.

Western Mass: Attended BSA retreat last November. Having a retreat in Western MA. Have a wide variety of programs. Afternoon programs toward code issues. Breakfast legislative issues. Dinner Meetings focus on tours and guest speakers. With the three tiers of events, cover more of the membership. Trying to foster collegiality among the group. Also trying to improve presence with public and media. UMass has started architecture program, so thinking of associates chapter. Have

lecture series in conjunction with them, which is very popular. CEU requirements have helped them a lot. Their awards program extends beyond members. They are talking about their identity.

New Hampshire:

The second annual Integrated Design Integrated Development Conference is coming up on March 26, 27, 2004 with Pliny Fisk as the keynote speaker.

We are working on programming: tours for the spring (Stata Center and the Zimmerman House in Manchester), and a possible viewing of "My Architect." We are conducting a Firm Survey and results will be available in the NH Forum and on the Web site.

Leslie Thomas and the Education Committee are working on an in-school design program. We have at least two dozen people willing to work in schools with an architectural program in fourth grade classes. Volunteer event in October, two sessions, every October, across the state.

We have new Legislative Affairs person, David Udelsman.

Rhode Island:

Seminar on IBC 2003 in RI, which they think will be adopted in July. New fire code came into effect Feb. 20, anniversary of The Station fire. Gene Hopkins visited in January with big dinner at Biltmore with about 90 people. Had a president's council breakfast with past presidents; had about 20, some of whom hadn't seen in a while! Made a by law change to add associates director to their board. Have a lot of legislation: interior designers looking for registration; governor's physical fitness program asking architects for a fee for what was formerly QBS. Have a new legislative affairs person.

Central MA: Paul W: focus is on continuing ed for their small membership. Synchronizing with BSA and others. Working on lecture series. Nancy is assisting them with pr for education scholarship that they offer. Involved with looking at Central MA schools to revive AIAS. Trying a questionnaire to membership to find out what people are expecting from board and chapter for support. Studying opportunities and venues for NE Regional conference in 2005.

Maine: Dean Bingham: Design awards program last fall was very successful. Had 58 entries, 4 winners Three jurors were from BSA. They were a little disappointed that despite the fact that the jury felt there was excellent work shown, they only made 4 awards.

Legislative items: Have a billion dollar deficit, which is a lot for Maine. Governor is committed to not having new taxes. But proposals for taxes on architectural and engineering services are still being looked at.

Have a proposal for statewide building code. Committee is working diligently. Currently pushing the ICC family of codes. Fire Marshalls pushing NFTA 5000. (CA only state that has adopted that code.) Groups trying to establish stock school plans. Univ of ME in Augusta has done agreement with BAC to establish a BS in architecture and have their programs acceptable at other schools toward degrees. Sponsoring "My Architect" as part of Jewish Film Festival in Portland.

Upcoming: legislative breakfast this week. Session on LEED standards. Architalx under way. In the fall have president Hopkins showing up for programs. Will be discussion about Fellowship; they have none as yet.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Carolyn distributed financial reports and 2004 Board notebooks; reported on Web site updates.

7. Other:

Scott attended the meeting and spoke about his running for AIA VicePresident. AIA governance has been very positive lately and he is hoping to serve and continue the forward momentum.

Each chapter has a certain number of votes. Typically the president casts all of the votes. Can distribute delegate cards to anyone, associate or full member.

HU: AIA revised the nomination process for Gold Medal and Firm Awards. Will be much easier to do that now, doesn't require board sponsors, in fact, can self nominate. Thinks it will really open it up.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)