

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Boston Society of Architects

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA	(President)
	John Merkle, AIA	(President Elect)
	Mohamad Farzan, AIA	(Treasurer)
	Scott Simpson, FAIA	(Regional Director)
	Hunter Ulf, AIA,	(Regional Director)
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald	(Executive Director)
AIA Central Mass:	Nancy Jenner	(Executive Director)
AIA Massachusetts:	Peter Nobile, AIA	(President)
	Kathryn Crockett, AIA	(Vice President)
AIA Connecticut:	Jonathan Wagner, AIA	(President)
	Diane Harp Jones	(Executive Director)
AIA Maine:	James Sterling, AIA	(President)
AIA New Hampshire:	Douglas Bencks, AIA	(President)
AIA Rhode Island:	Sandy Taylor, AIA	(President-Elect)
	Kathy Bartels	
AIA Vermont:	-	-
AIA Western Mass:	Jonathan Salvon, AIA	(President)
	Alexandra Lee	(Executive Director)
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:	Jessica Zlotogura, Assoc. AIA	(Nat. Assoc. Comm. Rep)
Guests:	-	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Called to order at 2:14 PM. Attendees introduced themselves. DC called for a moment of silence to pay respects to all victims of the fire in Warwick club. The Minutes of previous meeting were approved and accepted.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Two goals for the year: 1: More information from the National Chapter. 2: Amending by-laws to allow for election of N.E. representatives to the National Board a year in advance for training purposes.

D.C. distributed letter from Jim Childress re use of photos & publication of awards. H.U. clarified that this is not the first time the issue has been raised, and the chief of legal dept. at AIA is working w/ the American Society of Photographers to come up w/ solutions to ensure that it is being used for educational purposes and not commercial interest. D.J. asked if BSA has had any complaints in this regard, R.F. responded that they have not asked the question. S.S. offered to talk to Robin Lee and ask him to consider re-writing the requirements due to strong consensus among N.E. chapter members.

5. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S.S. (finance committee member) reported that finances are in good health, ad campaign is well received, the highway ad was corrected quickly, and electronic documents are working well, TIMMS is under control, and that the next board meeting is early next week.

H.U. (communications committee) reported on the new web site improvements, 700,000 visits a month. Question: Printed version of "ARCHITECT" in addition to the on line edition? 2/3 of members (48000) receive on line version, 1/3 do not.

S.T. suggested to continue the on line version.

R.F. suggested that a printed version would be considered a "Membership Benefit".

H.U. attended the joint AIA/AGC meeting in January.

H.U. agreed that as he has been involved w/ N.E. chapter in the past he is keenly aware that communication w/ Nat. Chapter is not adequate. However, he pointed out that N.E. is unusual in that it meets prior to Nat. scheduled meetings, providing an opportunity to discuss issues to present at the Nat. meeting. The Nat. agenda is posted 40 calendar days prior to meetings, may be it should be forwarded to all chapter presidents, and/or put on the web site. Trouble is that the binders are too bulky and agendas are not well thought out until right before the meeting!

H.U. stated that on Sat. morning, at the grassroots conf. Six to eight core issues have been identified for discussion regarding strategic planning in 2004. Since N.E. has a loud voice in Washington, H.U. would like a written resolution from AIANE to request adequate & timely information from National in order to discuss at regional meeting.

R.F. suggested that since H.U. receives it in form of email, he could forward it to Carolyn and chapter presidents. H.U. agreed.

H.U. reported that there would be no Gold Medal this year.

H.U. reported that a new quarterly publication is being considered by AIA. Purpose: Establish credibility, Academy, Research & Design. J.W. warned of limited cash from advertising can hurt other magazines' vibrancy. If it is targeted at the profession, Public Architecture, Good Works...in a "Year-end" well produced document may be more appropriated.

R.F. asked if anyone has checked w/ Architectural Record, as they must have a very tight contract. Speaking of publications: N.J. asked every one to contribute to "Architecture Boston", a regional publication (Circulation 17000), editorial, calendar, expert book reviewers, interviews...

J.W. commented that while it is produced very professionally and well organized; from his region's point of view, as the name suggests it is too "Bostoncentric", like Build Boston.

H.U. continued with report that architectural education and interior design licensing are back on the Nat. agenda. He added that there is vacancy on National Risk Committee, for anyone interested.

6. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE: J.Z. reported that following national's alignment efforts, the NAC has come up with three topics: 1: Communication, 2: Knowledge, 3: ? (ask J.Z.), to be launched in May. She made two requests: a: that the next candidate be in place to take her position (2-year term) a year in advance for training (shadowing) purposes, therefore attending grassroots, b: To fund him/er. It was decided to discuss funding at budget review time.

S.S. asked R.F. to bring up the issue of American Council of Healthcare Architects. A group in Boston thinks that this sort of certification discourages young architects. S.S. has asked the Nat. AIA to address this issue: Discourage self-certifying groups; similar to LEEDS Certified, they all have parallels in medical practice

7. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Central Mass: Struggling w/ lack of interest from their 75 members, they decided to launch scholarship program. Design Awards program" Preservation Worcester"... Fitchburg State, support of architectural program...

BSA Held first monthly breakfast "Alien Architects Round Table" meeting, hot topic: licensing exams. 15 people attended from different countries attended. Started Dynamic Young Designer/AGC (beer & pizza) forum, talking about tension between architects & contractors.

New Hampshire: Getting ready for major IDID (Integrated Design, Integrated Development) Conference, March 21,22; and April chapter meeting on graphic design and photography to enhance awards submissions.

Rhode Island: Golf tournament raised \$37,000, \$15,100 to five scholarship candidates. Awards program in December. Added three new board members. A Board retreat was held in January. Year to focus on affordable housing, charrette, competitions, habitat... Providence guidebook is due in October. Bill Warner joined mayor of Seoul, Korea and Providence mayor, to visit Seoul for water front modernization project. First chapter meeting held at RISD museum of art, Rafael Moneo's project, record 90 members attended!

K.B. reported on future programs: Painting seminar... newsletter copies distributed

Connecticut: JW & DJ are off to a mall where 9 school groups are expected.

Chapter events include: Emerging Architects CanStruction project, doubled in size, radio station involved, 10,000 lbs of food to food bank. Winter/Spring Architectural Review Course in New Haven for interns costing \$15. Processing building code review, coalition formed encouraging adoption of I.C.C. by July 2004. Five chapter meetings planned on the subject of Design" in an award winning project site in West Hartford. Alice Washburn Award at University of Hartford for the position of an educator, B.Arch. program starting this fall.

J.W.(CT): Cont. Ed. Required in the State. Chapter averages 8 meetings a year. Fall program on "Mock City" for elementary school children...

W. Mass: Conference plans on the way, there will be a 3~4 hour technical program, HSW, tours... Pittsfield...Shaker village...D.J. said that CT members consider awards program important, but find the extended program too time consuming. Next year the conference would be in Vermont.

Maine: In Deep Freeze! S.S. visited in December and spoke to the group. Legislature is trying tax on fees again; a position paper is being prepared. Website is being redesigned. School projects are strong in Maine, a lot of firms survive on it...

Vermont: No report

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Exec. Dir. Report: Due to family circumstances C.I. was not present. R.F. requested all to response to C.I. regarding an informal RSVP for grassroots dinner on Thursday or Friday. The majority was interested in Thursday. Concern regarding security climate in Washington: access to public buildings (Capitol Hill) could be restricted, alternative plans are in the works.

Information Distribution: Handbooks were distributed.

Budget 2003 was amended as follows:

1. Add \$1500 to present web site line item (\$1000), bringing the total to \$2500 allowing for a one-time upgrade in 2003.
2. Add \$750 line item to pay for National Associates' grassroots conference expenses.

The budget was unanimously approved as presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Mohamd Farzan, AIA, Secretary Treasurer