

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Boston Society of Architects

ATTENDEES:

Greg Ames, Jr. AIA	Treasurer, AIANE
John Hoffmann, FAIA	Regional Director
Leslie Thomas, AIA	Regional Director
Alexandra Lee	Exec Director, AIA Western MA
Art Guadano, AIA	Pres. Elect, AIANH
Amy Bailey, AIA	Pres., AIANH
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director, BSA, Exec. Director, AIA Central MA
Mohamad Farzan, AIA	President, AIANE
Dean Bingham, AIA	AIA Maine
Michael Hoffman, AIA	AIA Vermont, President Elect
Julie Waggoner, Assoc. AIA	Regional Assoc. Director
Erica Gees, AIA	Pres., AIA Western MA
Paul Woyda, AIA	Pres. AIA Central MA
Diane Harp Jones	Exec. Director, AIACT
Pat Myler, AIA	Pres, AIACT
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Ron Faucheux, Esq	Vice President, AIA Government Advocacy

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mohamad opened the meeting at 12:09.

Ron Faucheux, Esq., VP AIA Government Advocacy, was present to speak to the board regarding AIA advocacy matters. AIA began reinvigorating advocacy effort 17 months ago. Goal was to take a level one advocacy program and move it up to a level two program. AIA felt members needed more opportunity to participate. At Grassroots this year they tried to create a more sophisticated legislative agenda and created an agenda with 10 major parts to it and 17, now 20, initiatives. The Government Affairs office has done everything they could possibly do since then to follow this agenda. Ron is a former state legislator and commented that they old paradigm of law passage doesn't work anymore. Many things don't even go to committee. Most laws are accomplished by amending other bills. Because of this they really need grassroots contacts.

Ron reviewed some of the items that are now part of bills before Congress. One of them is for Association health plans. Chances of this passing are not necessarily very good, but not impossible.

There is a Sustainable Design summit in DC next week, in which they hope to hear from different government agencies, trade associations, etc. in terms of what it would take to get a consensus of standards for green buildings. Until there is a transparent consensus of standards it is unlikely we can get government incentives to encourage green design. This is a first step in that process.

One of the things we need to do for our congressional and federal issues agenda to have credibility is to build grassroots support and a grassroots network. They would like an AIA member or several members who know a member of Congress to be a contact and willing to meet with their representatives. These are the kind of people who can break through the log jam....

So, we have been asked to find someone in each state to participate by being a Network State Chair. That person's job would be to find contacts for each representative. That person would also help by being a PAC representative for the state.

If they can put this structure together it also gives states that don't have a well-developed structure to use these as an example. They have received mixed reactions from components. Some already have something like this in place; some say they have no ability to help; some feel it is an added burden. They hope to work through these obstacles.

Until they have something like this they can't keep pushing an aggressive Federal agenda. A lot of the issues AIA is supporting are not top-of-the-agenda issues in Congress; the only way we can insert them in to the process is to "kick some doors in."

Yet all of the AIA issues have big public support: affordable housing, school building, sustainability, livable communities, etc.

The effort of a Network State Chair isn't necessarily that time consuming, and would vary state to state. And they are not trying to impose the responsibility to do all of this on CACE Execs. They are looking for members to participate. They are looking to the end of this year to have contacts set up.

Contact Adam Melis, AMelis@aia.org, to use AIA software and other assistance for Government Affairs. The Government Affairs web site is www.aia.org/advocacy_default.

PAC has gone from 100,000 to 300,000. But Ron thinks we should have a million dollar PAC. A half million would enable us to do what we need to do, but with a million, people would take notice. \$10 a member would bring us to \$750,000.

Subscribers to AIA Angle from 852 at beginning of year to over 52,000.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nominations: Greg Ames, president; Erica Gees, President Elect. Please send in treasurer nomination to Greg, Mohamad, Erica, John Hoffman, or Leslie who will consider the names. Ask chapter presidents and board members to send nominations.

Meeting dates for 2006 were set. Tuesday, January 31; and Wednesdays, May 31, August 30, November 15. All at 12:00 pm.

3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Leslie and John handed out a New England Director's report and an AIA position statements paper. AIA 150: There is still a lot to do and time is coming up. Jim Dinegar will be devoting a lot of effort to the AIA 150. Robin Lee has been nominated as director for AIA 150. Janet Rumbargar will be working with her, as well as Cindy Kite, Jim Dinegar's executive assistant. One aspect of AIA 150 will be a "Blueprint for America," being handled by AIA's Communities by Design department. They are looking for local "champions" who will work with them. A large part of AIA 150 will be a "greening" of AIA headquarters.

There was a discussion of the Specialty Credentialing policy on page 5 in the manual. John and Leslie will bring our concerns and comments to the Board.

John went to the membership committee meeting and had a community conclave this week. The BSA membership model has advanced in AIA. Seems that those with objections are executives, not the members. He talked about the enormous difference regarding inclusivity in Boston. (Committee meetings open to anyone at no charge; they do have a price differentiation between members and nonmembers for events that cost.)

Pilot programs for AIA membership: most deal with a reduced fee, reduced services membership. There are concerns that these programs are being used as models and if they work people will deduce that a reduced membership fee is needed.

4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR POSITION:

Julie Waggoner: discovered that after being appointed to the position the conference calls with NA are 12 times a year versus 6.

5. ANNUAL MEETING

Planning group has met over the past several months. Passed around a photocopy of the brochure. Have a great program lined up. Over 230 submissions; went to San Francisco for jurying. They chose 20 projects in three categories. Press release should be done shortly. Will be on display at the awards celebration at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. September 12 is the hotel deadline. They'd like to get 80 people to the Saturday program. Friday night reception could be a lot of fun.

5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Boston Society of Architects

BSA awards \$40,000 in research grants:

In the second year of the experimental program inaugurated last year by former BSA president Brian Healy AIA and former BSA board member Carol Burns AIA, the BSA this year has provided five design researchers with a total of \$40,340 in funding. This research grants program is one BSA response to the profession's need for access to a comprehensive national knowledge base of value to practitioners and educators. The grant-recipients this year along with summaries/abstracts of the grant applications may be found at www.architects.org/grants. Application guidelines for the next round of grants in 2006 will be available at the same web address in December.

'ArchFest' is coming. ArchFest 2005 is a celebration for users and shapers of the built environment. Good architecture makes a difference but its benefits only reach a limited audience despite the profound impact architecture has on the quality and sustainability of our environment. ArchFest is an attempt to bridge this gap - it is a festival, out-reach effort, and networking event all in the interest of promoting a sustainable and equitable built environment. The date is September 23-24 and the organizers of ArchFest Boston 2005 invite you to join us in the final planning stages of this exciting event. Our mission is to promote greater awareness, appreciation and involvement in Boston's built environment among all its users.

AIA Central Mass

See Annual Meeting report

AIA Connecticut

We are focusing on the exhibit, which will be held at the Joseloff Gallery on the campus of the University of Hartford in September and October. The exhibit will feature the work of Samuel Mockbee and we invite all of AIA New England to join us for any part of the month long exhibit.

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We will send information electronically and ask that you share it with your membership and those in your area whom might find it exciting. We would like to ask that you share it with the schools of architecture in your area.

AIA Maine

Our Legislature has adjourned for this year unless the Governor calls a special session to vote a bond package and additional tax reform measures.

The legislative proposals for a sales tax on A/E services remain in the Taxation Committee for the 2006 or a special session in the interim.

AIA Maine was successful in defeating legislative proposal to standardize all new school construction and successful in supporting the passage of a bill (now law) requiring cities and towns that adopt the Maine Model Building Code to also adopt the International Existing Code-- the building rehab code. Slowly, step-by-step the state of Maine is adopting the International family of codes.

On October 19th AIA Maine will be hosting a half-day workshop on the status of all codes in the State. The Chapter's annual meeting on December 2, 2005, will feature representatives from the Taunton Press.

Plans are underway for AIA Maine's Biennial Design Awards program, which will take place on June 6, 2006, at Colby College. As in years past, there will be an exhibit (Colby College Museum of Art) and catalog of all the entries.

AIA New Hampshire

AIA New Hampshire introduced its new Neighborhood Walking Tours program this spring in Nashua, NH. The Main Dunstable had four fourth-grade classes participate, and the students and teachers responded with enormous enthusiasm. Our Learning By Design/Education Committee is also planning a Box City program for the fall.

Our third Integrated Design/Integrated Development conference on sustainable design and development is October 6-7 at the AMC Highland Center in Crawford Notch, NH. For the second time, IDID is sponsoring a Sustainable Building and Development awards program. Entries are due August 26. Go to www.aianh.org/action/ididcall.shtml for a call for entries and www.aianh.org/action/idid.shtml for more information on the conference.

Our first meeting of the fall will be on September 21, 2005 at the Squam Lake Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH. There will be a tour, dinner, and a panel discussion on "Construction and Our Natural Resources. For information: www.aianh.org/calendar.shtml

AIA Rhode Island

On Friday, July 15, 2005, AIA Rhode Island was pleased to host our Colleagues from the Texas Society of Architects to a Lobster Bake at Roger Williams University. The TSA was in Rhode Island for their Quarterly Board Meeting. AIARI is grateful for their thoughtful donation the AIARI Architectural Foundation.

August 1, 2005 is the date of our 7th annual Golf Tournament at Crestwood Country Club. All proceeds raised go the AIARI scholarship fund. Since the tournament started we have raised over \$120,000 for scholarships.

We are in the planning stages for an event titled "From IDP to Firm Founder," a panel discussion sponsored by our Emerging Professionals committee in September.

AIA Rhode Island will be issuing our 2005 Membership directory this summer. This is first new directory we have published since 2000.

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AIA Vermont

As a special educational project for 2005, the Vermont Chapter of the AIA is having a design competition which is geared primarily to promote innovative thinking in design, raise consciousness in the public about good design and give Vermont architects, designers, draftspersons and students a chance to freely express themselves. The project is semi-real in the sense that it is based on a commuter parking garage project which the City of Burlington has in the feasibility phase. To that we are adding a program of an artists' center including studios, gallery and performance space, workshops and educational spaces, a restaurant/café, outdoor exhibition space, etc.

There will be 4 -\$1000 unranked prizes given and all entries will be hung in the Metropolitan Gallery in City Hall for the month of November. There will be two panel discussions in the Firehouse Gallery, open to the public, while the show is up. The whole process including the designs will be published in a catalogue and made available to sponsors, entrants, the City and anyone else who would be interested.

Look for more information on this exciting project and other AIA Vermont events on the web site: <http://www.aiavt.org>

AIA Western Mass

The cities of Pittsfield and Northampton were among the five communities selected by AIA Livable Communities Initiative for the first round of grants. The assessment team has already made their first visit to Pittsfield while Northampton is scheduled for August. Both communities are very excited about this process and have formed excellent teams on site to partner with the SDAT team from national. Click on the first story "Pittsfield and Northampton" www.wamc.org/news.html and Berkshire Eagle front page: www.berkshireeagle.com/headlines/cj_2855088

Our chapter is providing extensive support to the communities for this process and organizing a series of public outreach programs related to sustainable development. Our plans include participation by our members in the SDAT design charette, focused design studios at UMASS, the five colleges and Williams, K-12 Learning by Design programs in the schools, a lecture series for the general public and display of resultant design work in the local cultural institutions.

The local press is giving us excellent coverage and support with a series on sustainable development in the works at WFCR the Amherst based public radio station. In addition the chapter will be hosting a series of events on the topic of sustainability to bring the leaders and stake holders of both communities together for exchange and inspiration.

We continue for the fourth year of our sponsorship of the UMASS lecture series. Our professional development series resumes this fall.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Financial sheets were distributed and approved. Carolyn reported that \$10,000 has been transferred from our checking account to our investment account.

7. ADJOURN:

Adjourned: 2:10 pm.

Next meeting is November 16, 2005, noon, at Build Boston.