

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

BSA 12 noon

ATTENDEES:

Greg Ames AIA	President, AIANE (CT)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Stephen White FAIA	President, AIARI
Richard Fitzgerald	Exec Director, BSA
Barun Basu AIA	President, AIACT
Martha Montgomery AIA	President, WMA AIA
Peter Kuttner FAIA	Regional Director elect
Erica Gees AIA	AIANE President Elect, AIA WM
Dean Bingham, AIA	Treasurer AIANE, AIAME
John Hoffmann FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region, (CT)
Diane H Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Art Guadano AIA	President, AIANH
Leslie Thomas AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (NH)
Jonathan Taylor Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Ernie Edwards AIA	President, AIA CM
Jennifer Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI

During lunch there was a discussion of the AIA Public Director appointment process and the responsibilities of the position. (Subsequent to the meeting Diane Van Buren Jones was selected by the Board of Directors on September 8, 2006 to be the 2007-2009 public director on the AIA Board. She is the Program Director for the Nonprofit Facilities Center, a joint program of United Way Community Services of Southeastern Michigan and the Nonprofit Finance Fund. As its founding director, she administers a \$25 million program dedicated to strengthening the capacity of Detroit area nonprofits to plan, develop, and implement mission-driven facility projects.)

1. President's Report

Greg opened the meeting at 12:24 pm. Introductions. Greg reported on the convention. He also spoke to the value of the AIANE Regional Conference. He advocates that the board tries to get people to attend.

He also brought up the idea of considering different locations for the AIANE Board meetings, a suggestion of John Hoffmann's. Pros and cons were discussed. It appears that no changes are needed at this time.

Richard and Carolyn will come up with meeting dates and distribute them. AIANE Regional Conference will be October 5-6 in Connecticut. (Dates have since been set for January 30, April 19, August 28 at BSA, 12 noon-3; and November 14 at Build Boston, noon-3)

2. Nominating Committee

Greg announced the nominations for the coming year: Erica Gees, President; Dean Bingham, VP Pres Elect; Art Guadano, Secretary/treasurer. Committee recommends Erica Gees as nominee for National Board Director (Leslie's shadow) for election next fall, term starting 2008. Slate will be presented for election at the AIANE Regional Meeting in Newport

AIANE Board Meeting, August 30, 2006

3. National Directors' Report

Leslie and John handed out a report. There is a new Mission/Vision statement. It is succinct and easy to recall. "The AIA is *the* voice of the architectural profession and *the* resource for its members in service to society." It will be used in the branding.

Christine McEntee EVP/CEO has completed her assessment of the organization. She determined that the member perspective is about value, so increasing member value is now the goal of AIA. She has led a new organizational structure in AIA. There will be one General Counsel, one CFO, and six vice presidents who will report directly to the EVP/CEO. There will not be a COO. The goal is to increase and enhance member value throughout the AIA.

Diane reported on two items discussed at the CACE meeting:

1) teaching firm designation. This is something that will appear on the AIA website. It is being done for benefit of emerging professionals. All member firms will receive a survey to respond to. CACE is unclear about what this all means and would like some clarification. AIACT specifically wants to be comfortable that its definition of a member firm would translate to National's definition of a member firm. Wants to make sure each chapter can define "firm" in their own way.

2) A covenant between AIA and its members. Component Partnership Committee is working on this. If adopted it would be sent to every new member who joins AIA from that point. Wants to ask that AIA look at the obligations of members, and what happens to those members who don't fulfill responsibilities. Shaping the organization should be a grassroots operation. Intent is to share with members what their bare minimum expectation is for membership. Coming out of that is a feeling that there is a need for members to be educated and that they have some responsibilities: maintaining continuing education, abiding by code of ethics, and some others that might be difficult to monitor. CACE feels this might need to be fine-tuned a bit.

Board looked at first draft in June, will look again in December.

RF suggested some sensitivity as to what it's called. Mistake to imply that AIA and its members are two different things. AG said that these are opportunities rather than obligations.

JH said there is a problem with small unstaffed chapters in offering minimum membership benefits. AG asked Leslie to email comments about this to the National Board before the September meeting.

(RE: Covenant Agreement: The full agenda of the September 8 and 9, 2006 AIA Board meeting is being forwarded to the AIANE Board. This gives AIANE members more on the Member Covenant topic being developed by the Component Partnerships Committee (CP Committee). The last two pages of the file are the Covenant pages. (Pages 12 and 13). This copy of the Covenant has been amended with the comments the Component Partnerships Committee heard at the July CACE meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.)

AIANE Board Meeting, August 30, 2006

Barun asked about AIA150 Blueprint grants. Second round applications are due September 1. First round recipients are listed on the web site.

John Hoffmann is working on a Powerpoint presentation on membership. 45% of members responded to a member census. The information is important and he would like to get a broader response. Need to get better information on our members. Of registered architects 2% are women, 85% are men, the rest are undeclared! Assoc members 66% are male, 30% are female, 4% undeclared, but their response rate was very low. We have 58% market penetration rate. But he feels it is really much higher as we don't really have much competition. Only 6% of associates indicated they are ARE candidates.

A discussion on the best way to conduct a member survey ensued.

AG asked that National look at Masterspec and the inability to get a hard copy anymore.

Would like it to be available again.

The full Director's report is on the AIANE website.

4. Annual Meeting Report

Stephen White handed out the AIANE Regional Conference brochure. Theme is Newport: An Architectural Laboratory. They adopted the Sunday morning event because they had scheduled during the Jewish holidays and couldn't get out of their financial holidays and reschedule.

The AIANE business meeting will be during the Saturday reception and dinner, 6 pm.

16 overall CEUS, 7 are HSW: updated brochure on the website.

5. EPA Signing

Richard reported that the EPA signing event will be at Build Boston around 3 pm at end of AIANE scheduled Board Meeting. It will be a simple ceremony and they will try to have some press there, public officials.

Art suggested each chapter's board endorses it before the signing.

In 2008 the national convention is in Boston. May 15. There are likely to be many tours throughout New England. If your chapter is interested please let them know; you can make some money on it. Will be at the new convention center in Boston.

2007 Convention: Marriott Riverwalk in San Antonio is a good hotel to reserve. Should do it now, as lodging is tight in San Antonio. San Antonio is 7th largest city in USA.

6. Chapter Reports

AIANE Board Meeting, August 30, 2006

BSA: BAC is now the Boston Architectural College. BAC also has established and received accreditation of a distant graduate degree.

Central MA: Web site is coming on line. Have several programs coming up. They will have one at the new Worcester Vocational Tech. They are looking at a panel discussion on smart growth and sustainable design. Trying to work with Citizen School and Preservation Worcester.

CT: Had a busy program year. Had a Fire Safety Code seminar that was very popular. Had a tour of the Glass House and filled capacity. Used that as the launching of their AIA150 initiative.

Construction: Middletown, CT won the National Award.

Design awards jury meets in September. Annual conference is on October 12, "Visions." It will be at Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. On the afternoon of 12 at 4pm John Norquist who is president and CEO of Congress on New Urbanism.

Working on improving their website. Have revised their mission statement to mirror AIA's old one.

Are busy working on AIA150 initiative.

Maine: Still pushing mandatory continuing ed for licensure. The chair of the licensure board is not in favor. They have a special chapter business meeting on the 12th to vote on a \$50 increase in dues, first in 10 years....going from \$175 to \$225.

NH: We now have online registration and accept credit cards.

Had a house tour in June, and held our first daytime educational seminars. Had a good turnout from people we don't ordinarily see.

We are in the process of updating our website.

We have had a busy summer working on our AIA150 initiative, which is a "Model NH Community: Beyond the Charrette." We will be selecting a community and working with local officials, citizens, and other non-profits in the state to create an affordable housing development. The idea is to expose the "myths" keep communities from trying denser zoning and getting back to the NE community model. The intent is to guide this project through the permitting phase and to find a private or non-profit developer to make it a reality, a model community that people can see and experience.

Events coming up are a tour of the Portsmouth Library on September 21, the first municipal building in NH to go for a LEED rating, and a presentation on EMPAC, the Performing Arts Center at RPI on October 18.

Our annual IDID Conference is October 6-7 at Crotched Mt. Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH. On the 5th we'll host a LEED NC Technical Training Course. On

AIANE Board Meeting, August 30, 2006

the 7th we'll tie in with the NESEA Green Building Open House. We have a good number of entries for the IDID Excellence in Sustainable Design Awards (at least 13).

RI: Have had a successful summer and engaged corporate affiliates in some events. The affiliates really appreciated it and have donated materials to their new space. Raised \$30000 from their golf tournament for their scholarship fund. Jennifer joined them at the end of July. Mayor of Providence is trying to attract business, looks like a good growth period and work for architects.

Western MA: Martha will stay on as president for another year. They have the following two years ready with participants. They had tried to get a practice academy grant for UMass, but it didn't come through. They hope to eventually get an office on the UMass campus. They are in the process of a Box City in Pittsfield. They had a tour of the new Williams College theater. Alexandra Lee is leaving. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is holding a Smart Growth Housing Development awards program for any projects in the Pioneer Valley.
www.pvpc.org.

Erika led an SDAT in Washington, Guemes Island. It was very successful. They had 150 people for the public sessions. If anyone is interested in leading or participating contact Ann Livingston at National. Erika will do a presentation on the process at Build Boston with mayors of Pittsfield and Northampton.

They are headed into AIA150 project, an SDAT in Holyoke.

7. RAD:

Jonathan will attend regional associate Director conference in October. His term begins in January. In looking at his job description he sees that he should develop a goal statement. Jonathan is exploring the associate membership and asks each chapter to let him know how to contact the associates. How does he represent all NE associates. He wants a contact in each chapter. And would also like to connect with IDP coordinators. Each component should send contacts to him at mdp@architects.org.

Martha asked if anyone else has difficulty getting board members. We had a discussion on board participation and retention.

Adjourned, 3:20 pm.

Next meeting is November 15, 2006, 12 noon, at Build Boston.