

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2006

BSA

ATTENDEES:

Greg Ames, Jr. AIA	President, AIANE (CT)
Erica Gees, AIA	President Elect, AIANE (WMA)
Dean Bingham, AIA	Treasurer, AIANE (ME)
Mohamad Farzan, AIA	Immediate Past President, AIANE (RI)
Leslie Thomas, AIA	Regional Director AIANE (NH)
Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA	President, BSA
Art Guadano, AIA	President, AIANH
Amy Bailey, AIA	AIA 150 Champion, Past-President, AIANH
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director, BSA; Exec. Director, AIA Central MA
Richard Fitzgerald	Executive Director, BSA
Stephen Fleshman, AIA	President Elect, AIA Central MA
Dean Bingham, AIA	AIA Maine
Peter Kuttner, FAIA	Future Regional Director AIANE; BSA
Julie Waggoner, Assoc. AIA	Regional Assoc. Director AIANE
Ernie Edwards AIA	Pres-Elect, AIA Central MA
Brandy Brooks, Assoc AIA	AIA 150 Champion, BSA
Diane Harp Jones	Exec Director, IAICT
Hunter Ulf AIA	AIA 150 Champion, VT
Alexandra Lee	Executive Director, Western MA AIA, State GN
Lisa Rovner AIA	Assist AIA 150, AIAVT
Lauren Davis AIA	VP, AIAVT
Barun Basu AIA	President, IAICT
Michael Hoffman AIA	President, AIAVT
Drayton Fair AIA	AIA 150 Champion, AIARI
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Greg opened the meeting at 12:20.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moved to accept minutes of 11/2005. Accepted.

Goals: Greg thanked Mohamad for his good example and welcomed the new board members. He noted that communication is the essence of this group...it is a conduit to National from the components. Chapter newsletters are a good opportunity to let members know what AIANE is about. Also advocates people reproduce Erica's column, which is online, in our own newsletters.

He'd like to more fully promote the Annual Conference. It is a fantastic opportunity, more manageable than the National Convention.

3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Leslie has distributed the Director's report by email and it is on the web site. Asked for comments.

Diane, re: report from the National Ethics Committee: She understands the process but raises the question what the average timeline is. Their experience is that it is a very lengthy, agonizing process.... lasted over two years. Are there any helpful hints to guide people through this? Leslie will look in to this.

Specialty Certification issue: National Board has set up a policy. Fairly short process with the goal of having something in place if a group should come before them. They have no way of evaluating a program. Set up 7 criteria. That there is a body of knowledge and that it is maintained are two of the criteria. RF: was their discussion of an existing credential program? No, this is an internal discussion; a way of creating a structure if a group comes to AIA to request a certification program (and they have done this). Was approved by the National board at the December meeting.

Hunter: while he was on the board there were two studies brought before the board. Board at both times sent them back feeling that the AIA shouldn't be involved in certifications. How could AIA influence the process? The idea is that AIA would evaluate certification programs to make sure they are legitimate. Can't take the position that specialty certification is wrong since we have no ability to stop it.

This would be an endorsement program, if the certification met the 7 criteria. This puts a mechanism in place for any group coming to AIA for endorsement.

SW: Dangerous for AIA to say, well the market is pushing us. Maybe we should ally ourselves with these other associations in a collaborative effort, not just approving another program.

Brandy Brooks: This seems a bit like a back door way of approving specialties. Trying to not have to declare a position.

Action: If have something to present at Regional Meeting at Grassroots, email to Carolyn and she will send out to all before the meeting.

California proposal: revised at least twice. Started with a pilot program to do an a la carte membership. They did not succeed in bringing in membership. The cost decrease did not gain any members. Went back to the AIA to support a more extensive pilot to reduce dues. Wanted National dues to be cut by 75%. Committee felt it was not a sustainable program. If you reduce your income, you reduce your services. AIA could not support participating. So CA Council wants to study it further and asked for \$20,000 to do more research. Committee felt that this was really to try to find data to convince National and not a good use of National funds. It is probably going to be put toward the research probably for political reasons. Should the Board even consider funding proposals from individual components that don't fit under some broader National endeavor?

4. GRASSROOTS

Will have regional meeting and dinner. Carolyn will email the location of each.

Greg reviewed the issue briefs to bring to Capitol Hill.

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Hurricane: 2 issues: aide and urban design. FEMA issued a whole new set of guidelines for building along water areas. Set up a whole system of building types and layering, 3 different zones. Begs the question: is this right? Will it be a solution? There is a bigger opportunity to look at rebuilding in a sustainable way, but it doesn't seem to be happening. SGN is involved (call Alexandra Lee at BSA for information on this if your are interested).

Alexandra: Encouraged use of SGN list serve. There are advantages to be able to refer to other NE components for information. SGN and National Staff are always helpful.

5. AIA 150:

Champions here: Hunter, Brandy, Amy.

RF: From a distance appears there is a heavy focus on "something new." Are the NE states contemplating new programs, or focusing on what they are doing?

In RI it is both. The focus is community. Effort by National to energize local components to market architectural services to their community. They are inviting community to participate in discussions on design. They had started this and will build on it. Have done design charrettes in the state. Will do these under the 150 moniker. Have talked about other initiatives: hoping to sponsor senatorial debate; planning an Architecture Week; trying to start a CANstruction event; looking at a RW University - RISD playful structures program; best buildings poster-limited edition of past 10 years of AIARI award winners; freedom by design event.

Brandy, BSA: wants to refocus the discussion on how well and how thoroughly the profession is serving the public. As a profession we've not done a great job presenting ourselves in that light. BSA initiatives are moving in that path: architects are here to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public in the long term and be engaged in our communities. Community Design Resource center (BSA and BAC effort) was started last fall, designed to bring designers into closer contact with the communities in which they are working and working toward their needs. Other part of their programming is similar to Architecture Week theme: help public take a new look at their built environment. One of their challenges is to see that these efforts connect to other parts of Mass.

Hunter, VT: VT just getting together on this. Came to hear some ideas about what others are doing. They have discussed the idea that they might not be able to do everything that National has put out there. They will try to be as inclusive as possible in their efforts. Want to come through as leader and facilitator, but as inclusive as can be. Hope to have thoughts together for the grant applications. Have thought a bit about regional possibilities.

Amy, NH: in about same situation as Vermont. Met on a board level. Are talking about the number of things going on in New Hampshire, Learning by Design, Charrettes, etc. We might utilize those with the AIA 150 moniker. More publication of current activities. Gearing some of our monthly meetings to a broader community appeal starting with 2006.

Diane, CT: want to put something in place that is manageable. She handed out a written summary of their efforts thus far and Carolyn will email to everyone.

Hunter: want to make a tangible state wide result, and how do we do that? They are trying to reengage past presidents.

What architects can bring to planning communities is to understand that density around transportation hubs can be very pleasing and successful.

Information sharing: can 150 Champions come again? Encouraged exchange of emails among themselves to stay in contact.

Convention is in Boston in 2008...might be nice to having something from AIANE region to show off at that from our efforts in 2007.

Hunter suggested it might be helpful to share with each other what we are applying for with National grants for AIA150.

National wants a book showing what each chapter did...

6. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR:

Julie Waggoner: Attended conference: opportunity for tomorrow's AIA leaders to develop their skills. Will have meeting at Grassroots. Hot issues: titling issues; exams; intern-friendly and teaching firms. Really salient issue is being able to become registered in a reasonable amount of time with support of firm and mentors.

Candidate from BSA, Jonathan Taylor, MA IDP Coordinator, is interested in being NA Director following Julie. Nominated by RF, seconded by EG. Approved.

7. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Boston Society of Architects

Annual research grants in architecture program underway: can apply from anywhere in the country...

Design awards all open to most everybody...on the website.

Alien Architects Roundtable: people from other countries come to talk and exchange ideas. Has become a local powerhouse. Grants for young designers taking ARE: ARE Success Teams.... a throwback to the way exams used to be. Get group to study together, commit to stay with group until everyone passes exam. BSA is funding a lot of it: study guides...and meals!

AIA Central Mass

Steve: December Annual meeting; planning meeting a week and a half ago. RF presentation. Have advertised for a program coordinator and secured one who also is a web site designer. Goals: increase membership and actively pursue associates.

AIA Connecticut

Have lecture series going on.

Are doing a business award for private industry owner who has benefited directly from relationship with architect on the project.

Have our first mentoring event of the year. Have about 110 attend these events.

Continuing to do traditional residential program each year.

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AIA Maine

Dean Bingham: have a new special project director, who is not interested in becoming Executive Director. So now looking for another person to do administrative work and train. In April Arhchitalx begins.

AIA New Hampshire

AIA New Hampshire completed its first "Box City" program in Nashua, NH, part of its new Learning By Design Initiative. And two additional Neighborhood Walking Tour programs occurred this year in Nashua, NH and Wakefield, NH. These programs are for fourth-grade students, who along with their teachers have thus far responded with enormous enthusiasm. Have been busy with some legislative hearings: IRC, LA licensure. Programming for 2006 is underway beginning with tours of Londonderry and Derry town halls in February and the film My Architect with Nathaniel Kahn presenting, in March.

AIA Rhode Island

Thanked BSA for supplying design award jurors.
Hosting AIA Conference in September. Will bring out an AIARI Newport guidebook.
Annual Meeting, AIANE: CFE is on AIANE web site.

AIA Vermont

Trying to move board meetings around the state. Hope to involve more outlying membership. Goal is to pull in more members to be involved. VT just did a new building code and had a workshop on Wednesday. Efficiency Vermont has been very supportive of Architects and will be Feb 8-9 in Burlington. A high performance school building summit happens in March. Working on Learning by Design projects, next CANstruction. SDA has approached them and are interested in starting a VT chapter. Starting a housing committee.

AIA Western Mass

Erica: looking at revising mission statement and enhancing awareness and dialogue within the chapter and with the public.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Carolyn handed out financial reports and reiterated that she'll inform everyone about the AIANE gatherings at Grassroots.

9. OTHER

Honors for retiring National Board Directors. In 2002 medals were bestowed on Richard Upjohn Fellows. Former board members are offered an opportunity to purchase a medal (\$20 each + shipping and handling). If you're aware of anyone who's not yet purchased one please let Carolyn know. AIANE will purchase them for the retired Board member.

BSA has been working with EPA. Signed memorandum of understanding with NY chapter to link EPA with NY region architects in collaborative events. Met yesterday with local EPA people who asked if we'd be cosigner of this memorandum stating that the AIA in NE and the EPA office henceforth will collaborate to raise public awareness to sustainable design. Richard will pursue.

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7. ADJOURN:

Adjourned: 3:20 pm

Next meetings: Grassroots. Feb. 8
 May 31 at BSA, 12 noon.