

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Build Boston 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	President-Elect, AIA CM
Jennifer Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Steve Fleshman AIA	President, AIA CM

1. President's Report

Greg opened the meeting at 12:20 pm. And participants introduced themselves. Greg reminded people about the MOU signing directly after the meeting in the Design Gallery. Last meeting's minutes were moved for approval by M. Hoffman. Voted to approve.

Greg thanked Carolyn Isaak, Richard Fitzgerald, Nancy Jenner, Erica Gees, the officers, and Rhode Island for the conference, and everyone for enthusiasm and support. And a special thank you to John Hoffman for his three years as NE Director. John was presented with a certificate. John said that the things he put effort into were the ones he got the most out of, and that he has met great people along the way. Leslie said that John was the voice of reason on the National Board; when he spoke it was relevant to the Board, the discussion, and the Region. He always spoke up when it was needed.

2. Annual Meeting & Conference Debriefing

Next year's officers start their term Jan. 1. Erica Gees AIA, president; Dean Bingham AIA, president elect; Art Guadano AIA, treasurer; and Greg Ames AIA, past president.

Regional Director: Erica Gees was elected to serve 2008-2010;

Greg spoke to the excellence of the AIANE Conference and thanked Steve, Mohamad, and AIA Rhode Island. He has been to three conferences and recommends that people attend. This one was a little bigger and longer and had lots of great educational sessions. He asked what we can learn from their experience in putting this together.

Steve reported that the conference spanned 4 days due to some early calendar errors. They extended one more day from initial planning to deal with conflict with religious holidays. Tried to incorporate younger professionals as well. Had national leaders come

AIANE Board Meeting, November 15, 2006

to speak to them and paired them with established architects. Had a NE architects design panel that was popular. Had 244 design award entries. Had terrific response from around the country, as well as NE architects. Had a People's Choice award program with submissions on display at a storefront. Had five categories for people to vote. Had about 85 voters. Financially, they had a mixed response. The timing of the conference put them in the summer season, which was a problem. They had a problem with the hotel that had not informed them about the date for release of rooms, and \$15,000 is now in contention. Brought in about \$45,000 in design award fees, which did work out well. Only about 35 came from RI, and had trouble with their own board attending. Had 180 people attend. Art sees two challenges, a busy time of year, and four days was a big commitment in time. Erica stayed for all four days and felt the quality was excellent and really appreciated it. It is a much more manageable and pleasant scale than the National convention, and interesting to see what's happening in the region.

3. Annual Meeting Report 2007

Meeting is October 5-6-7, 2007. On October 6 in will have programming at CT Historical Society in New Canaan, CT. Planning private tours of Philip Johnson's Glass House and will provide a map of other residences and buildings done by the Harvard 5 in that general area. They have every hope that a couple of residences will open for these tours. Design awards will be at a dinner that evening.

October 5, they are planning a celebration of Connecticut's AIA150 program, which is focusing on transit-oriented design in Southport, CT. They will invite planners, economic development officials, selectmen, and mayors. Friday evening they will host a New England reception and visits of their firms in the area. They are bringing in a speaker from Oregon who will talk about trolley transportation.

4. National Directors' Report

John and Leslie had sent out a printed report prior to the meeting which is on the website. John spoke about changes at AIA. Chris McEntee has redone the organizational structure at AIA with nine department heads and no COO.

AIA continues to be in good financial condition. Will meet our reserves.

There is a proposal for Emeritus status for disabled members, and also one out there for Associate members who are retiring.

The Members only section of AIA web site has a copy of the 2007-2009 Strategic Plan. The document has an easy format to read. We have a new mission statement: "AIA is *the* voice of the architectural profession and *the* resource for its members in service to society."

Jane asked about long-range planning. The two-year plan actually includes goals and measurements that extend beyond two years.

Membership committee: latest statistics: October 2006, 79,265....last year 76,102. Retention rate is 92%. Architect retention rate is high, 96%. Associate rate is mid to low 80s. Allied, 70s.

As of Nov. 3 \$5 million 509,050 thousand has been raised (AIA gave a million dollars toward this). For Blueprint programs, they have dispersed approximately ½ million.

AIANE Board Meeting, November 15, 2006

Average grant was about \$10,000. Diane Van Buren Jones of Detroit was elected Public Director. AIArchitect was redesigned. AIACT will be featured this Friday.

Component Partnerships Committee: copy of covenant is available. Has been modified since the document seen at the CACE conference. It will remain a living documents. Will be more documents coming out of this committee. The covenant starts with the mission statement. It describes what members may expect of their community and what AIA can expect of its members.

Leslie mentioned that we should submit NE firms and people for awards. We need to remember to put NE names out there. IDP Outstanding Firm award is coming up. Honorary membership deadline is December 15. There is also the 25-year award for distinguished buildings. Jane said that BSA would be happy to help with any submission ideas.

RF said that BSA also nominates people from all over the world for some awards, not just BSA or NE; it is good PR for the chapter, and they make a lot of good friends.

5. Associate Director's Report

Greg commented on the work that Jonathan has been doing in his RAD position. Jonathan reported that the Young Architects Forum needs a replacement for its regional liaison. YAF focuses on architects licensed less than 10 years. Needs help to find replacement. We nominate someone to represent the region. The term is for 2 years (Jonathan will confirm that.). We should mention to our boards; nominations could go through Greg Ames. Jonathan will email the job description.

The ARE timing issue is a big one. They need contacts in each chapter to make inroads with registration board members. Vermont has already changed this process. MA board of registration met with BSA and they are in part waiting for NCAARB. They seem to be on the road to acceptance to all but three parts. CT, NH are there as well; waiting to see what comes out of NCARB.

Michael commented that this should really be a bottom up effort; we should contact our registration board members.

Art asked Jonathan to pull together comments from interns about why they are not taking the exam and pursuing registration. Jonathan commented that the move to change the exam was to change the idea that IDP is now a hurdle to get over to take the exam rather than a way to build their professional experience.

Seven states nationally have already change their law that interns can take their exams concurrent with IDP. It took a number of years for NCARB to come up with a policy on this. There was still a grassroots effort to get a policy change. Reality is states can do what they want, but most follow NCARB. Even if NCARB changes model law there will be inconsistency.

AIANE Board Meeting, November 15, 2006

EG asked what can we do to push this along? If we as a region can go back to state boards and push this it would help. Jane moves that we encourage each of our chapters to recommend to our state registration boards and state NCARB representatives that we support taking the ARE following graduation from architectural school and concurrent with the IDP program.

This should happen before the end of the year. Suggested that the AIANE also sends a letter to each state registration board. (incorporate in above motion) Greg Ames will write and send the AIANE letter.

Steve W seconded. All in favor.

Steve W suggests we also write a letter of support to eliminate the fee for a IDP registration.

If we find a member of our board or a member who is willing to be a strong proponent of this, let him know. He'd like to form a group to go to the registration board meetings of different states

6. Chapter Reports

BSA will celebrate the legislative year and honor Rep. Pedone as legislator of the year. Just finished a Greenway Forum cosponsored with the Rose Kennedy Greenway Association, City of Boston, and the Media Chronicle and the Globe, and the Boston Foundation. Had a 2-night forum at Faneuil Hall, Sept and October, to focus on what is being done and what will be done. The second forum had speakers for SF and Toronto describing programmatic use of public space and fielded questions about vision for a greenway. Have research grants of about \$90,000 available this year. Selection is under way. Met with their registration board. Community Resource Center is underway and is part of their AIA150 program. Had a competition in Somerville, was exhibited there at Build Boston, and in Europe. Also a windfarm competition that is on view in Europe. RF: National Board has endorsed a proposal to adopt emeritus status for architects unable to work due to disability, and also for associates to obtain emeritus status. Both were proposed by AIANE.

AIAS Forum in Boston this year. Student forums are schedule for New Year's! BSA subsidizes a number of students to go to this. They recommend this for other components. Jonathan will be attending.

Reviewed their bylaws this year and their committee structure and making adjustments to both to reflect cohesion among committees.

CT: Barun Basu: Ct has had an active year. One of the best things was to get Phil Simon of AIA who has done a study of the sate of the practice and the state of the AIA and he spoke at their annual meeting.

They are planning AIA150 initiative. About 30 schools participated in CANstruction. They are doing lots of career days. A new magazine, Architect, has a study on architecture and the future. We need to work on getting more architects in this region especially.

NH: Art Guadano: we had our fourth IDID conference in early October; went very well, next one spring of 2008. Had our board retreat last weekend in Franconia Notch. Set

AIANE Board Meeting, November 15, 2006

goals for the year. We are in the process of setting up an Architectural Foundation 501 c 3. Programs coming up are a tour of an assisted living facility; and a continuing ed seminar Dec 12, and awards banquet Jan. 19. They received a 10,000 grant for AIA150. The project is an ambitious workforce housing, mixed use development designed and permitted and hopefully ultimately build. Interns have started a new Emerging professionals website available through the main website. LAs were licensed this year in NH. Interior designers are pursuing this. They are trying to be careful not to infringe on what architects do. We get together with LAs, engineer, surveyors, etc. on QBS issues. In process of a new promotion of that.

Western Mass: Martha: Have had very good attendance lately. Had an SDAT update from Pittsfield and Northampton at the newly renovated theatre in Northampton. They will have annual meeting there and a tour in Amherst. Have a professional development series going on. In February will have a program on marketing. Their AIA150 project is an SDAT for Holyoke. Board retreat is coming up and they are working on a five-year plan. Want to make sure service to members and to the community are compatible. They are trying to decide if they want to have a local Exec Director in the future and a chapter office. UMass has offered space; is that workable?
Erica: working with UMass to support Intern Dev. Program, collaborative efforts, etc. A problem with the office space are issues of parking, etc. and that it's not an ideal public presence. UMass has final accreditation board review in Feb 2007 and it looks like they will get accreditation.

Central MA: have their website up and running. Aiacma.org. Did lose their sec/treasurer and think they have found a replacement. Have had several programs. Have worked closely with Preservation Worcester. Had two walking tours in 3 inches of rain!! Had a tour of the new Worcester vocational school. Upcoming events. Trying to get Jeremiah Eck andCampbell and try to also get public to these events and try to do some education of the benefits of good design. This will be the year for design awards, which they do every two years now.

Michael: Vermont struggling with AIA150 creating the Vermont Tool Box, pulling together all of the people involved in landplanning and construction in Vermont and combine best practices, user accessible, that the Forum on Growth with keep updated. On track, but hard to get meetings together. They are reorganization the board and getting the ex com to think about long range growth, let rest of board run stuff. Called the 1st annual building professional summit....attended by Vermont associations, etc. Got tether to talk about issues of common interest. New VT commercial energy code...will put together a working group consortium to start lobbying.

Will work on statute of repose this year. Have a veto proof majority in house, and close to in Senate. Will take the homebuilders out of the equation as they were the ones that killed it last time. New commercial energy code needs revising. CANstruction had 15 teams. Started a Learning By Design program; have three schools doing a tree house competition. Give a civic award to groups that support architecture and design in the state. There is a group that does accessible tree houses...they get the award this year.

RI: Jennifer: in October they had a "meet the candidates" event. Government affairs board person helped with that; it centered on issues concerning architects. Next week they have their annual meeting and elections. Received grant for AIA150 project, the Gateways project, a series of forums for public, architects, builders, planners to talk

AIANE Board Meeting, November 15, 2006

about transportation and design and planning issues. Have annual design awards at state house next month. Will have their new space at Roger Williams in Providence by the new year. Will develop a strategic plan.

ME: Dean Bingham: Last election they did not vote for taxpayers bill of rights. Maine has some of highest property taxes in the country. Have 71st annual meeting Dec 6. With new officers in one of their design award projects from 2003. AIA National messed up their invoices twice this year. They are redoing their bylaws. Maine was rejected for their second grant; but got the first round. (It was pointed out that only one grant request was allowed.)

7. Fellowship Representative:

Pamela was here to see what the board is about and to offer the Fellowship committee's assistance and interest. Michael suggested building some role for past presidents in the group.

8. Executive Director and Financials

Jonathan will attend regional associate Director conference in October. His term begins Jan 1.

Questions about the budget were answered. Propose 2007 budget presented, discussed expense compensation for officers for the NE Conference. Steve White made a motion to cover presidents/vp expenses for the NE conference this year. Approved.

2007 budget, Steve Fleshman moved to accept 2007 budget as presented. Peter Kuttner seconded.