

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Grassroots

5:45 pm

ATTENDEES:

Greg Ames AIA	President, AIANE (CT)
Michael Hoffman AIA	President, AIA VT
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Christine Royal AIA	AIARI
Stephen White FAIA	President, AIARI
Michael Abbot AIA	Vice President, AIARI
Barun Basu AIA	President, AIACT
Jerry Tepe FAIA	Building Performance Knowledge Committee & AIANH
Deb Pierce AIA	Knowledge Committee, BSA
Hanne Williams, Hon. AIA	Executive Director, AIAVT
Erica Gees AIA	President Elect, AIANE (WMA)
Martha Montgomery AIA	President, AIAWMA
Jane Wienzapfel FAIA	President, BSA
Jim Dunn AIA	Treasurer, BSA
Jim Lapasta AIA	AIACT
Bruce Boxwell AIA	AIACT
John Hoffmann FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region, (CT)
Diane H Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
John Gordon AIA	President, AIAME
Sony Misiaszek AIA	President Elect, AIANH
Dan Weston AIA	President Elect, AIACT
Lauren Davis AIA	Vice President, AIAVT
Art Guadano AIA	President, AIANH
Leslie Thomas AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (NH)
Juliana Waggoner Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Steve Fleshman AIA	President, AIACMA
Michael Ayles AIA	AIACT
Gregg Spiess AIA	AIARI

AIA 150:

Leslie: AIANE seems to be ahead of the game in regard to planning for the region, based on the Board meeting they just attended. We have had some ideas discussed and some components are ready for grant applications. Would be good to collectively work at the region level on parts of this. Grant deadline is April. Will be another deadline later.

RI and VT are having counseling sessions with National and will share with us any pertinent information.

In general the Board meeting was pretty much a business meeting. Had a discussion about fundraising for AIA Legacy. There have been many conversations but no one has been asked yet.

If we get the grants in, this will help get more people fired up to donate. One million has been allocated from our budget for AIA150. Now we need corporations and individuals to donate. Jim Dinegar is moving to the fundraising end of AIA150.

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION:

National Board has looked at this issue and come up with some procedures. National Board has set up a review process to evaluate an outside organization that wants to set

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up a certification process. There are 7 or so criteria. There are no pending certification requests, but they wanted something in place.

Since our meeting Jan. 31, BSA has formulated a position paper on this and distributed it. Jane W: With what the National board has done, it is clear there was a feeling of inevitability about certification. There were many voices at the Jan. 31 meeting regarding this. We didn't come to a conclusion. But we did feel that it might be useful to have a NE position. Separately, at the BSA Board Meeting, JW put together a couple of paragraphs and reviewed this with their board. BSA position is that if the AIA is deemed to serve the public it might acknowledge certain architects with such specialty knowledge. Recognition should not take on the prerogative of state licensing registration boards. So do it in a way that doesn't confuse the public.

Discussion:

Two issues: licensing an architect vs. a specialty architect

Is there additional knowledge that makes you more informed on a particular topic, not that you have to be that, but that you have that extra knowledge?

The whole discussion is around whether AIA endorses it. These other organizations can and already do start certification programs.

Has anyone talked to NCARB? M. Hoffman feels that it is their issue. Yes, AIA did have meetings with NCARB about this.

Jerry Tepe pointed out the big issue: will this come to limiting what architects can practice as governments demand that only a "library" architect can do libraries, etc.?

Knowledge communities help us expand our knowledge; Certification of specialties is a narrowing of knowledge.

The reality is that there are organizations that are developing these certifications. How do we respond?

1. Outside agencies have no legal standing to certify. Any certification that uses the word architect should be referred to state boards.
2. We should resist temptation to legitimize these groups.

Leslie said the Board was referring to horizontal knowledge, and understood that it was understood they're were not infringing on what state licensing boards responsibility is.

The language from the Board is not tight, and will not be clear perhaps to a new board in a few years.

The market will drive this issue.

Is AIA not doing enough to let the public know what registration means?

Specialization through knowledge communities should be our focus. We could partner with other groups. Through CE we will deepen expertise over a career.

Protecting the brand of AIA. Anything other than AIA behind the name is a dilution of the brand.

Via Email we can add to the BSA statement so that at the next AIANE board meeting we can take a vote.

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We will send Board draft to everyone. Goal will be to come back to AIANE board to agree on a position to present to the National Board.

Adjourned, 7:15 pm