

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 29, 2009

BSA, 52 Broad Street 12 noon

ATTENDEES:

Art Guadano, AIA	President, AIANE (AIANH)
Peter Kuttner FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (BSA)
Erica Gees AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (WMA AIA)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Greg Spiess AIA	President-Elect, AIARI
Mo Gagnon AIA	NE YAF Liaison (AIACT)
Michael Morin, AIA	President-elect, AIANH
Kelley Caminero, Assoc. AIA	RAD, AIANE
Carol DeTine AIA	President, AIAME
Jen Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Greg Ames AIA	AIANE Regional Director-Elect, AIACT
Bill Austin AIA	President-Elect, WMA AIA
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, WMA AIA
E. Russell Learned AIA	President-Elect, AIACT
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director BSA
Ernie Edwards AIA	President, CM AIA
Chris Walsh AIA	VP/Pres-Elect, CM AIA
Bruce Bockstael FAIA	College of Fellows liaison (AIACT)

President's Report

Art opened the meeting at 12:10 pm. Introductions were made. Minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting were approved. Art spoke about the opportunity for collective action by the AIANE Region. Communication among chapters at AIANE Board meetings is probably the biggest value of the AIANE region and promoting the value of architects through this group and the chapters is a goal for the year.

A major concern is the health of our chapters. The stimulus package will benefit the construction industry. AG suggests we push legislative representatives to support the stimulus package. Several chapters have already done this. NJ has been in touch with the Governor and the Economic Development under-secretary. They are interested in creating design excellence guides for state work. There are architects on all but one of state task forces, and MA is putting some money into training. MA has a "creative economy" director. CT is working with other associations around economic indicators and design and construction industry with the goal of speaking as one voice.

Regional Directors Report

PK and EG are both on the Strategic Directions group. They are looking at member retention and bringing younger professionals into the Institute. There is discussion about an International Chapter.

The Governance Committee is looking at the possibility of a smaller board. There could be local and regional peer groups to obtain more direct connection. The board is now unwieldy with 48-50 members. The board is working to sunset many committees (have sunset 1/3 of board level committees). A board meeting costs about \$2,000 per person. They are looking at other organizations for ideas about board size, keeping in mind that

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regional representation is very important. They are also discussing making it more of a strategic board as opposed to a micro-managing board. In this case all nominated members would represent strategic areas. A nominating committee would be required and they would need to make sure there is representation. That committee would have members from each region. Board responsibilities: oversight, strategy, and fiduciary responsibility.

Governance committee will have proposal together for Board to vote on in March. Connecticut is thinking of putting a resolution forward for the Convention to make this changes according to a timeline. The AIANE board favors reduction of the Board size and would like to see qualifications of Board members. AIANE thinks the regional representation is important, but they must be qualified people.

PK will email an organizational chart.
EG will email proposal for Grassroots to AIANE Board.

There was some discussion as to how people get assigned to committees. Also discussed "one voice," and whether this is actually happening. EG asked board to think about what National's role is and should be. NJ: profession needs a collective voice, but saying that we are THE voice and THE resource is not serving us well. Need to embrace diversity and all of the issues and recognize expertise of others.

Regional Associate Director Report

Kelley indicated that ME and VT need a state associate director. She asked components to review associate contact list. Also, Board needs to think about finding her replacement, as the "shadowing" will start in the fall. Various RAD's are working to help associates looking for work with portfolio reviews, mock interviews, and help with resumes. Please inform Kelley of any programs you have.

Kelly distributed a complete report of NAC activity.

Young Architects Forum

Mo Gagnon has been working on communication and structure of YAF in New England. ME, VT, MA, and BSA need a YAF director. Please contact Mo with suggestions. A list of interns and YA's (under 10 years of licensure) is being developed. He will be working on an eNews for emerging architects. Please share with anyone in your offices. Mo distributed a report of goals and intentions for 2009-2010.

Both the RAD and YAF reports are available if you did not save them. Contact Carolyn, office@aianh.org.

By-Laws

AG made the suggested changes from the last meeting. Board voted to approve changes, contingent on provision that AIA National submits comments within 60 days. Moved by EE, seconded by CT. All present voted affirmative (VT and BSA not available for vote).

Chapter Reports

Central MA: Awards program is coming up and programming for the year is planned. They are working on a by-laws update. EE asked if other components have activities with legislators. They are looking at being more aggressive in the political arena. This

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gives the component more leverage and adds value to membership. They are working on sustainable issues with like-minded organizations and have established a lending library for LEED material.

BSA: The Residential trade show is April 1-2 with lots of workshops and exhibitors. The call for Build Boston workshops is up until mid March. There are a number of awards programs available on the BSA site, including one titled "In Pursuit of Housing" for students and EPs.

BSA has a career resource network the first Monday of every month with speakers and networking opportunity. Also, they are holding free training series in AutoCAD, business issues, LEED, etc.

The annual Job Fair is coming up, limited job ops this year. They are creating a volunteer corp. The posting for BSA Executive Director goes up in February.

RI: RI now has a number of committees working on various concerns and initiatives. The committees have non-AIA members as well. They are also holding LEED courses and committed to making the learning and studying more fun. In September they will hold an event that discusses various energy solutions. RI's ACE program is mentoring high school students.

RI continues to work on their Emergency Response program. Many of them have been trained in building assessment. Trained participants will be given an ID card. There is a bit of a hold-up as some of the paperwork is stalled.

CT: CD has a reception with state legislators this evening. They are promoting a bill that every building over 5 million must meet LEED silver standards. There was a law toward this end but it specified that buildings had to be equivalent to said standards without specifying what that is.... poorly written. Now working to create a green code with LEED as a model. Probably no change in the bill until July.

CT is committed to providing free or low expense CE for this year. They have reduced their budget. Sponsorship is down. CT did not raise dues for 2009. They are assisting members with resumes and talking about a career day. The board is completing a Strategic Plan and reviewing all policies.

NH: NH is holding several LEED seminars this spring in conjunction with The Jordan Institute, including one on Energy Modeling in March. Chapter meetings include a tour of the Children's Museum in Dover in March, Architecture 2030: Next Steps for the Design & Construction Community in NH in February, screening of Bird's Nest in April. Mark Kalin FAIA will present on Green Specifications at a daytime CE program at the end of March.

NH is looking at requiring CEUs for licensure. Bill is in progress through legislature.

NH's high school design competition is going well. Volunteers will visit schools in the spring to give critiques.

NH is committed to keeping programs at lowest possible cost this year to help with economic situation.

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ME: Maine has launched ARE Success teams. They are starting an Ideas Competition and it will be open to all of New England. They met with the state board of licensure about continuing education and sense a softening on this issue. They have made progress with state board members, but the staff person is still against it. AIA Maine is working with the legislature on affordable housing funding.

Western MA: Holding a 0-energy House Competition in conjunction with the Home Builders and Habitat for Humanity. They also worked on a grant with UMass for a program for inner city teens that exposes them to architecture. A SDAT program was accepted for Orange MA. They are holding a Pioneer Valley Smart Growth Ideas competition open to students and professionals. Their professional development series will focus on energy modeling, low impact development, and disaster training.

College of Fellows: Bruce Bockstael said the College of Fellows is looking for second NE rep. CI will send out request to ME, NH, MA components to solicit someone.

Executive Director's Report:

Carolyn handed out financial reports.

Other:

Board discussed sponsorship of the BSA-Architecture Schools reception at the Convention. Moved to *not* participate this year; moved by Russ Learned, seconded by EE. All in favor.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 12-3 pm BSA.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak