

# **Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 BSA 12 noon

## **ATTENDEES:**

Erica Gees AIA	AIANE Regional Director, AIA WMA
Art Guadano AIA	AIANE President, AIANH
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Michael Hoffman	AIANE President-Elect, AIAVT
Tom Keane	Exec Director, BSA
Ernie Edwards AIA	President, AIA CMA
Russ Learned AIA	President, AIACT
Peter Kuttner FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region, BSA
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Greg Ames AIA	AIANE Regional Director Elect
Chris Walsh AIA	President-Elect, AIA CMA
Kelley Caminero Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Scott Simpson FAIA	NE Fellows (BSA)
Jennifer Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, AIA WMA
Eric White	Executive Director, AIA CMA
Carol DeTine	AIANE Treasurer, AIAME

## **1. President's Report**

Art opened the meeting at 12:12 pm. Tom Keane, new Executive Director for BSA was introduced. Minutes approved.

Set meeting dates for next year: Jan. 27, May 26, Aug. 25, noon at BSA, and Nov. 17, noon, at Build Boston. Grassroots is February 3-5. The 2010 AIANE Regional Conference is yet to be set. BSA will host the event.

Art initiated a discussion on the state of the economy:

- ∞ Still slow
- ∞ Signs of improvement
- ∞ Biggest issue is financing
- ∞ CT has frozen spending on colleges and university; spending at state level is down
- ∞ This is having a big impact on interns and young architects
- ∞ 20-40% of young architecture graduates in CT are not working in architecture
- ∞ CT interviewed 400 firms with 200 responses; almost all had laid off people
- ∞ In West. MA seeing a little improvement in SF housing
- ∞ CT has two meetings set up with Federal reps to address stimulus money

Art asked that each component check on the % of unemployed so that we can get some facts of the unemployment rate in our profession. Also, underemployed. We could feed information to the media. E.G. will forward info from Business West on the economy.

## **2. Nominating Committee**

Nomination committee determined 2010 slate of officers as:

Michael Hoffman, president  
Carol DeTine, president-elect  
Russ Learned, secretary/treasurer

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Art Guadano will continue as past president  
PK moved to present slate at the annual meeting. Seconded by EG. Approved.

Both Mohamad Farzan and Michael Hoffman are interested in running for Regional Director, 2010-2013. Nomination committee will receive a statement from each and will make a recommendation before the Regional meeting.

### **3. National Directors Report**

EG urges us to sign up for Webinars on the strategic plan. PK stated that governance issues have been tabled for work on the strategic plan and he gave a presentation on the work the board has done on the strategic plan. One of the key goals is to remove redundancy, refocus on "one AIA," and how the Institute members can be seen as thought leaders. He reviewed the AIA vision, mission, goals, strategies, and initiatives. Goals included increasing member value, serving as a credible voice, be the authoritative source, and being a high performing organization.

PK is emailing the strategic plan. CI can post on website and email board.

Each component must approve by October 31. PK and EG will visit components to discuss if needed. Feedback on the strategies goes to the Strategic Plan committee to get ready for Grassroots. We can email anyone on the board, including Chris, the committee, and PK and EG.

Challenge is to make the strategic plan relevant to components.

Each component should review the programs list with an eye toward what is needed, what is redundant, what can go, what are priorities.

Board is trying to reduce budget by 10 million or more.

Dues increase is related to the cost of living index. National needs to hear from membership on dues issue. Only component in New England raising their dues this year is Maine, and they have not raised them for many years now.

Board discussion: membership retention and projection for 2010.

The Board held a lengthy discussion regarding AIANE dues for 2010 and the way the membership count for invoicing is made. Michael Hoffman moved to continue to confirm the number of members per component as of October 1 including full members, associate members, and active Emeritus members. Seconded by Tom Keane. Approved.

Tom Keane moved, Russ Learned seconded, that AIANE give a 50% dues reduction for 2010, for one year only, to be funded by a budget deficit. We have been in the black for the past five years or so and have a healthy sum in the checking account and a healthy reserves fund. Approved. Measure taken as a gesture, to give back to our chapters. DJ mentioned that National would not send hard copy invoices this year. We should let our members know. There is the potential for some members to be lost this way, i.e. never receiving an invoice.

CT requested that the Regional Directors ask that every effort be made to insure that the member database errors with our at-risk members or partial payment members are cleaned up so that we don't lose them.

#### **4. Annual Meeting Report**

All is going well with Annual Meeting planning. There were 271 Awards entries, and 57 entries into the People's Choice category. Postcard reminders have been mailed, and registration can be done online.

#### **5. By Law Changes:**

Since the resolution to allow associate members to be Regional Directors failed, our proposed by law amendment needed to be revised. Art presented new phrasing for 5.1.2.1.4 to read "The Regional Directors shall be Members of AIA in accordance with Institute By Laws." This will allow for any future changes, without rewriting our bylaws. Moved by Carol DeTine; seconded by Michael Hoffman; approved. AG will send final version adopted as of today. CI will post on website.

#### **6. RAD Report:**

Kelley presented RAD report. Please see separate document.

#### **RAD Shadow:**

Five people submitted letters of interest and resumes for the RAD shadow position. There was a discussion of the merits of the five, all very qualified. A vote was taken, and Casey Nixon was elected as the shadow this coming year, and her term to begin in October 2010. Art will inform the applicants.

#### **7. Chapter Reports**

**BSA:** Tom Keane is the new Executive Director. Build Boston is Nov 18-20. The BSA website has a lot of information on the recession and recovery; we are welcome to use what we need in our own components. Architecture Boston magazine is now available online. The ARE Success Teams continue. BSA is willing to help other components order materials at a discount.

**MAINE:** The state continues to say no to a continuing education requirement. They see it as an added level of administration.

**CT:** Connecticut is fighting professional service fees. There has been a 50% reduction in school spending in the state. AIACT, working with other organizations, encouraged rewriting a law requiring all 5+million new buildings ha to be equivalent to LEED silver, because the law was vague. Changes will now go before the Codes and Standards Committee.

**NH:** AIANH is busy preparing for the AIANE Annual Conference October 2-4 and processing design awards submissions. The jury met this past weekend. People's choice awards will be online for voting and in an exhibit at the Discover Portsmouth Center, September 27-October 3.

AIANH Design Awards deadline is Oct 17.

The Licensure Board is working on administrative rules for the new CEU requirement passed by the legislature in May.

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We will be collaborating with The Jordan Institute again this year to present a variety of LEED courses. Regular programming continues and we have a joint meeting with AIAVT September 17 at the AVA Gallery and the Upper Valley Aquatic Center. In November we go to the NH Technical Institute to tour new buildings.

Our High School Design competition had over 22 students submit. We awarded \$4500 in cash prizes. The 2009-2010 program is nearly ready to distribute.

Our new Foundation distributed its first scholarships to three recipients, totaling \$2500. We also awarded five Merit Awards, which are book awards. AIANH representatives presented the Merit Awards and one scholarship at school assemblies.

HB 2, which seeks to revamp the licensure boards and move them under another state department, met with a strong reaction and there is now a committee to study the change.

**Central MA:**

Sponsored a Legislative Discussion: Economy, Energy and the Environment Wednesday, June 24, also had a May program "AIA-CM Small Scale Residential Workshop" also we have met with Congressmen McGovern, Olver and Congresswoman Tsongas on AIA issues

**Western MA:**

W MA has worked with the other chapters comprising AIA-Massachusetts on several legislative initiatives. In August, met with Congressman John Olver to discuss global Warming, Markey-Waxman bill, MAP initiatives, how the Stimulus money will be dispersed, removing the \$1500 tax credit cap on home energy efficiency work, and ways that local AIA chapters and legislators can work together. Later this week we will be meeting with staffers in Senator Kerry's office to cover similar issues. We plan to continue this cycle of legislator meetings until we've met with them all. Ernie is looking into scheduling an October meeting with Rep. Neal from Springfield. We participated in an AIAMA summer phone conference and are looking towards quarterly AIAMA meetings.

A long planned architecture film series will hopefully launch this fall. We're working with the Five College Architecture program (this group includes UMASS, Smith College, Mt. Holyoke College, Hampshire College and Amherst College) to organize this event. This will be an opportunity to expand the dialogue around architecture to a broader audience that includes our members, students, faculty and the general public. Each film will be followed by a discussion led by chapter members and academics. The venue will be Amherst College.

We're partnering with UMASS on a series of programs focused around issues of high energy efficiency and sustainability related to construction on the UMASS campus. The focus will be the real-life challenges to achieving high environmental performance along with presentations on the state-of-the-art from a design, engineering or scientific perspective in each of these areas.

The call for entries for a Smart Growth competition that we're sponsoring in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission should be available early in September.

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We've been working on by-laws revision, which we expect to take to our membership in December. We're also continuing our work on a membership campaign focused on increasing our number of corporate and individual affiliates.

#### **8. Fellows**

Scott Simpson reported that he and Bruce would be connecting with Young Architects with the goal of setting up a system for guidance. Please send ideas to him. DJ said that Ct has four mentoring evenings a year for all associate members and non-members. Four of their Fellows do a presentation on how they've moved through their career path. It creates an opportunity for future dialogue and ways to connect.

#### **9. Executive Director's Report:**

Carolyn handed out financial reports.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 12 noon-3 pm, Build Boston.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak