

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Build Boston 12 noon

ATTENDEES:

Erica Gees AIA	AIANE Regional Director, AIA WMA
Peter Kuttner	AIANE Regional Director, BSA
Art Guadano AIA	AIANE President, AIANH
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Michael Hoffman AIA	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
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director, BSA
Carol DeTine AIA	AIANE Treasurer, AIAME
Greg Spiess AIA	President, AIARI
Mo Gagnon AIA	YAF Liaison
Casey Nixon	RAD, AIANE (Elect)
Viven Li	AIA Public Director; Exec. Director, Boston Harbor Assoc.
Tom Haskell AIA	President Elect, AIACT
Bruce Bockstael FAIA	NE College of Fellows Rep
Derek Bradford FAIA	Treasurer, AIARI
Bill Austin AIA	President, AIA WMA
Dan Lewis AIA	President-elect AIAMA

1. President's Report

Art opened the meeting at 12:120 pm. August Minutes approved. AG spoke briefly about the challenges we face at the moment. He is interested in initiating a survey of our members on how they are facing the economic challenges.

Meeting dates for next year were approved: 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.

Vivien Li of the Boston Harbor Association and new Public Director of AIA was introduced and spoke briefly about her work and her commitment to the health and livability of our communities.

AG credited Peter Kuttner for his extraordinary work as Regional Directory. We look forward to continuing to work with him as he starts his new position as AIA Vice President.

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2. Annual Meeting

AG encourages everyone to attend the yearly AIANE Conferences.

The board discussed having a small firm category in the AIANE Awards program to encourage another portion of our membership to participate. TK said it makes sense to honor a wide variety of work.

BSA is considering rolling AIANE Annual Conference into Build Boston in some way. Could reduce travel; but plans in preliminary stages.

3. National Directors Report

Board recently met in Philadelphia. Have set up "AIA Legacy" as a 501©3. This will transfer the Octagon, scholarships, Gold Medal, Firm Award and other charitable activity from the AAF back to AIA. AAF will focus on educational outreach and working with mayors and communities. The Center for Communities by Design will migrate to AAF. Legacy Board has 7 people and is appointed by AIA Board.

The Library of Congress has taken over the AIA archives.

EG will get figures on the amount in the scholarship fund.

Board has voted to make installment payment plans permanent.

The Board is pushing to get the three items that failed at convention through this year: creating an International category, permitting an Associate member to serve as Regional Director, and a public membership category. They are working to crate better proposals.

Headquarter renovation will be phased. The first phase will include main building systems and lower level public areas. They have acquired a tenant in spite of construction.

AIA is spending some money on contract documents. Working on making them not platform dependent.

The operating budget is down. 67 million three years ago; trying to keep it to 49.5 million for 2010. There has been staff reduction of 33 people (out of 200). A few positions will be returned in IT. Sponsorships are down, membership is down. Lack of tenant income has also affected budget. Board will review budget in April as we won't know membership renewal rate until then.

The Board is no longer traveling to other locales for meetings. All will be in DC so staff won't need to travel.

Board restructuring is on hold.

Board is working on changes to make operations more efficient, for instance combining many of the AIA newsletters to one. Revenue sharing will not change.

4. Legislative Discussion

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EE reported that their congressional reps were very interested in meeting with them. AIA WMA followed up with items they discussed. Grassroots is good but limited, and he encourages us all to work with our representatives. He suggests an annual award in our Region to reps who promote good design and development and support the architecture profession. MA and CT also do state government networking.

Chris Walsh will put together a proposal for the January meeting.

AIA National has had more requests from Capitol Hill for information than ever before.

5. RAD report:

Kelley presented RAD report. Please see separate document.

6. YAF report

MG discussed the rate newly licensed architects into AIA members. Lots of younger people are not joining. If firms pay membership fee, it is more likely they will join. During these times the fee schedule is especially difficult for young architects, and many are out of work. He noted that components that have strong programming do the best in recruiting young members.

Those who are laid off are not as involved. He wants to promote mentoring at the local level and is trying to coordinate meetings with Fellows and Young Architects, as well as start YAF groups in Maine and Vermont. Maine is coming along. CT has a good program with YAF, interns, students and Fellows.

7. CEU Reporting

There will be a change in CEU reporting in the spring. Univ. of OK will not longer be handling this. The change is financially motivated and because of frequent errors in documentation.

8. College of Fellows

BB reported that AIA National challenged the Fellows to start engaging with Young Architects. NE has had two meetings, with another soon. RI is next target area.

9. Chapter Reports

RI: Membership is up. They are in good shape, which is odd because RI is really depressed. Their emerging professionals are very active and making their meetings more fun. AIARI is doing more public outreach, with monthly exhibitions and a lending library. They are encouraging some kind of metric to be adopted in the state to measure sustainability results. They are working with IBC on a green building code, and have written to all legislators and put themselves out as a resource. A resolution did pass. Their state building commissioner is a good advocate. They have a new website and a small practices committee.

BSA: EW reported on Build Boston highlights: a keynote on economics, Dean Cameron, Ed Mazria. There is an emerging professional lounge, a napkin sketch competition, and speed mentoring program. RDC is April 14-15. They are redoing the BSA website and overhauling the database system. In the coming months they will be doing online lectures. There were 35 schools and 300 students at the College Fair.

MA: The legislative affairs committee is working on getting architects on the mechanics

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lien in the future.

Central MA: EE has done a great job putting together a program on storm water management. They are giving two scholarships. EE and CW are involved in visiting legislators and working on green issues. In good shape financially. NH is leaving at the end of the year.

Western MA:

BA reported that AIA WMA is doing pretty well; membership is strong. Revenues are better than expected.

10. Executive Director's Report:

Carolyn handed out financial reports. 2010 Budget was approved.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 12 noon-3 pm, BSA

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak