

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

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 BSA 12 noon

## **ATTENDEES:**

Peter Kuttner FAIA	AIANE Regional Director, BSA
Art Guadano AIA	AIANE Past-President, (NH)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Michael Hoffman AIA	AIANE President, (VT)
Cindy Gerlach AIA	President AIARI
Mohamad Farzan AIA	AIANE Regional Director Elect
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
E. Russell Learned AIA	Treasurer, AIANE (CT)
Greg Ames AIA	AIANE Regional Director (CT)
Chris Walsh AIA	President, AIA CMA
Kelley Caminero Assoc AIA	RAD, AIANE
Scott Simpson FAIA	NE Fellows Liaison (BSA)
Eric White	Interim Executive Co-Director, BSA
Carol DeTine AIA	AIANE Vice President, (ME)
Casey Nixon	RAD-Elect, AIANE
Tom Haskell AIA	President, AIACT
Dan Lewis AIA	President AIAMA
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, AIA WMA
Erica Gees	AIANE Regional Director, (WMA) via phone
Jen Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Martha Montgomery AIA	Sec/Treasurer AIAMA

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

Michael opened the meeting at 12:10. Introductions were made.

## **2. Regional Directors' Report**

### *Candidates for National Office:*

Candidates were reviewed, with brief profiles by PK, GA, EG, and others who have knowledge of the candidates. As always, it is recommended that those at the convention listen to the speeches. Also, please see the California Council's questionnaire of the candidates at: [http://www.aiacc.org/cgi-bin/html05.cgi/site/setup2.html?pagename=aiacc\\_leadership\\_13](http://www.aiacc.org/cgi-bin/html05.cgi/site/setup2.html?pagename=aiacc_leadership_13)

### *Resolutions:*

Most of the resolutions are formalities, thank yous, etc.

10. 1 - this allows voting representation by proxy for a component who can't send representatives to the convention. Board views favorably.

10.2 – This one is to establish a task force on convention location strategy. Cost of the task force would be \$42,000. There are only limited number of cities that can handle a convention of this size. Question cost...

10. 3 – Int. Green Construction Code backing. This is on ongoing activity and has to be renewed. It is for AIA support and funding of efforts related to the work of the Sustainable Building Technology Committee (SBTC) on the IGCC through 2012 and to assist components as they seek adoption of the code in their districts.

10.4 – Resolution seems too broad and unfocused to be viable for implementation.

### *Bylaw Amendments:*

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10-B – Electronic Voting. Amendment to have electronic voting as the exclusive method of voting at Institute meetings. AIA has been doing this.

10-C – Payment Plan. This amendment is to make the payment plan a permanent option for members.

10-D – Associate Members as Regional Directors. This amendment failed at the last convention and has been reintroduced. NE components still strongly favor this.

*Hanely Wood Agreement:*

New publication agreement to move from Architectural Record to Architect as the official AIA publication. This agreement is a complete integrated medial proposal including the website, convention, and the magazine. The convention takes effect with the 2011 convention, and the magazine changeover should be toward the end of this year.

*EVP/CEO Search:*

AIA has averaged only 4.6 years per CEO. An executive search costs about \$75,000. AIA needs to address ways to retain leadership. Current search is just beginning; there are 16-20 people being appointed to the committee. George is taking nominations; Tom Penny will chair the committee. Hopes are to complete in 6 months; DJ cautioned that more time might be needed to find the right candidate so timetable should be flexible.

*The Weave:*

Several components have executed “the weave,” with general consensus that it is a good exercise. The process is to take a look at component activities via the AIA strategic plan, in order to assess and reevaluate programmatic efforts.

*Financial & Membership:*

AIA is on target financially. Balloon payment is due the end of next year (\$6 million). Discussion on whether to pay off with reserves or to finance the payment (better to keep it in our consciousness!). Resources have been building steadily. Membership is down 6-8%; Convention attendance is down 25%, however the income is up due to exhibitors, sponsors, etc. Document sales are 4% below budget; 10% below this time last year.

*Building Improvements:*

GSA is new tenant. Because of this the major mechanical changes on the top floor cannot be done right now. New phased plan has smaller greening changes on the lower floors.

**3. AIANE Annual Meeting**

Meeting will be hosted by BSA and they are tying it into Build Boston. Dates are Nov. 18 & 19. Thursday evening features a Harbor Cruise; tours and workshops on Friday, with annual awards dinner that evening. The CFE is posted on the BSA website and the AIANE website. CI will send links to other components. The Board changed the date of the AIANE Board meeting at Build Boston from Wednesday to Thursday to make it more convenient for board members (noon, Nov. 18). More info on the AIANE Conference will be available in June.

**4. RAD**

Kelley presented her report, which she also supplied (see attached). Note: Six-month-rule takes effect July 1.

## **5. Fellowship**

SS reported that 6 BSA members and 3 CT members were elevated to Fellowship, which is a very good number of NE. The annual Fellowship dinner was in April. They are still working on collaboration with Young Architects.

## **6. Minutes**

January minutes were approved with minor changes on attendance.

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

Carolyn reported on current financial status. We are stable, though working with a deficit budget this year.

## **8. Chapter Reports**

### **VT:**

Hanne Williams is retiring after 40 years as Executive Director with AIAVT. They held a retirement party with 150 guests on May 21 at Mad River Glen. They have renamed their scholarship the Hanne N. Williams Scholarship. Carol Miklos is the new ED. KC Harris is coming to their annual retreat. VT was proposing a tax on professional services that AIAVT, with engineers, was able to defeat. They also stopped a bill to eliminate apprenticeship as a method for gaining licensure. There were 75 applicants to the ED position; some of them are interested in forming a public policy committee. AIAVT has also opened discussion on sharing the ED job with the landscape architects, as well as combining advocacy efforts.

### **Central MA:**

Had a successful program at Fitchburg State, including students, on adaptive reuse. With changes at BSA they need a new ED and are "regrouping."

### **CT:**

CT is on target for the year. Retention rate is 85%. Their budget is 35% lower than three years ago. They are managing, but know this is not sustainable. CT adopted a new strategic plan, which has been distributed to committees. They have redefined their relationship with their Foundation. No change in state contracts issue. Another organization, CREC, has very bad contract with the potential to be divisive, which they are monitoring. Annual golf event was not as well attended as last year. They had a very successful CANstruction with 200 students and 15 firms, collecting 42,000 cans.

### **WMA:**

- This has been an extremely busy year for our chapter. We have offered 15 programs since January (three films in our *Architecture through Film* series, five programs related to the *Greening the Valley* exhibition at the University Gallery at UMASS, five programs as part of a *Sustainability* series offered by UMASS Facilities, one building tour and our *Smart Growth Awards* presentation). Most of these programs were at no or low cost (\$10-\$15) and have provided ample opportunities for members to fulfill their CEU requirements locally and at a reasonable cost. This is one of the ways we have been able to support our members through the difficult economy.
- Our Smart Growth Awards program ended well with an awards program at Holyoke Community College. As a joint program with the Valley Development Council and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, this program has afforded good public outreach in

the area of Smart Growth. Erica Gees is completing a final publication that will be printed and distributed to the 43 cities and towns in the Pioneer Valley.

- We are continuing to advance the adoption of a HERS rating system and have been engaging affiliated organizations in this discussion. We are planning a program in early June on this timely topic.
- 2010 is also a chapter awards year and we are about to announce a call for entries. WMAIA is hosting the AIANE Conference in 2011 and we are beginning that planning process.

Andrea Olson is their new, and first, IDP Coordinator.

#### **NH:**

- AIANH has offered REVIT and SketchUP courses at reduced rates this spring. We have held two free informal meetings since the new year, the second this Monday when Mark Moeller a Rotch Traveling Award winner in 1990 gave a review of his trip and showed sketches. JSA Inc. treated us to a barbecue, as well. We have managed to keep meeting costs as low as possible the past year, and members have noted that they appreciate the effort.
- AIANH High School Design Competition results, the NH Architecture Foundation Merit Awards, and the Foundation & AIANH Scholarships will be announced at a joint awards event with PlanNH the evening of May 26.
- Our April Chapter Meeting was with the Keene State College Architecture Program. We visited the studios, saw student projects, and attended a dinner with guest speaker William Rawn FAIA.
- Held a Box City program at Windham Middle School through our Learning By Design Program. The school held a presentation evening for parents. The program was very successful and the school and students very enthusiastic.
- AIANH has purchased new ARE study guides for our interns. They will be housed at NHTI and can be taken out on loan.
- We are holding steady with a tight budget. Membership is down about 6%.
- NH has adopted the 2009 IRC but with the requirement for fire protection systems in Townhouses and One and Two-Family dwellings being delayed until April 1, 2012. However, our legislature is close to passing a law that will prohibit the state fire marshal from adopting any code requirements that would mandate the installation of fire protection systems in one and two family dwellings (but not townhouses). This would not prevent local officials from adopting more stringent requirements.

#### **RI:**

- At Grassroots AIARI received an honorable mention for outstanding single program for the collaboration RWU and opening of the storefront "The Windows on Architecture" in Downtown Providence.
  - The Emerging Professionals have raised over 2500 for the lending library, which consists of ARE 4.0 and materials. They are continuing to raise money to add to the collection. They have hosted 6 tours over the last four months and have hosted several events including a revisit of the topic Pen vs. The Layer. All proceeds from these events benefit the library.
- Six AIARI firms partnered with engineers, universities and businesses to compete in the third Construction event at the Providence Place Mall. They raised over 25000 for the RI food bank.
- AIARI opened its doors to the public as a member of Gallery Night Providence. The first exhibition was the 2009 Design Awards Winners. Over 50 people came to view the

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projects. The chapter worked with the ACE mentoring group to show the work of the high school students in the program. The wining project was the “ideal school”. We have a full schedule of exhibitions for the gallery night season including art by architects and RI’s best work.

- In the summer the chapter will host its annual Corporate Affiliate event at RWU in conjunction with a day -long seminar based on Office Culture: Maintaining a Balance in Tough Times.
- This month the AIARI Forum will decide on scholarships that will be announced at our annual Golf Tournament in August. Close to twenty thousand dollars in scholarships will be given out to the selected recipients.

#### **BSA:**

- Tom Keane resigned as ED. Eric White and Ann Fienman are Interim Co-Directors. Richard Fitzgerald and Nancy Jenner had created a very firm base for BSA, which Tom had built on, and they are continuing to follow through with. All regular programs are in place, and some new ones beginning. One of these is “Common Boston” a 10-day celebration of architecture. They are also trying some architecture boat tours.
- Awards programs have shown unusual response, some have increased in submissions, some decreased, with know obvious explanations.
- Several new initiatives, including looking at all of their marketing, updating the database system, new website, and a long-term planning group. They are reviewing the possibility of a move.
- The experience of losing ED suddenly has initiated a look at the bylaws and set up of a new governance task force. Eric suggests we review ours to make sure we are set up to handle emergency situations.
- Search committee is chaired by Keith Moscow and Chris Iwerks. They began by interviewing Tom, the Board, and Staff.

#### **ME:**

Maine’s biennial Design Awards event was held May 20 and set a new record for attendance with 168 members, clients, sponsors and friends. Tom Kundig lead the Seattle-based jury. Elliott & Elliott Architecture received an Honor Award for their House on Casco Bay. Six other projects were also honored. The June issue of Maine Home+Design Magazine, which was unveiled at the event, features the Design Awards 2010 winners. Award-winning work by UMA architecture students was on exhibit for the evening.

The winners and all other entries can be viewed by visiting <http://aiamaine.org/awards2010/>

We continue to present our Ideas Competition entries to interested groups around Portland, where they are enthusiastically received. The City is using the award-winning entries as a guide for small projects at the East End site this summer. A commercial boat ramp that needs to find a new home off-site is the primary impediment to proceeding with all of the work.

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts’ campus, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes and winner of an AIA 25 Year Award, is celebrating its 50th year in 2011 and AIA Maine has been invited to participate. We meet with the director Stuart Kestenbaum this week to brain storm ideas.

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**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 25, 2010, 12 noon-3 pm, BSA**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak