

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2006 BSA 12 noon

ATTENDEES:

Greg Ames AIA	President, AIANE (CT)
Erica Gees AIA	President Elect, AIANE (WMA)
Dean Bingham AIA	Treasurer, AIANE (ME)
John Hoffmann FAIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region, (CT)
Leslie Thomas AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (NH)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Stephen White FAIA	President, AIARI
Barun Basu AIA	President, AIACT
Jane Wienzapfel FAIA	President, BSA
Jim Dunn AIA	Treasurer, BSA
Diane H Jones	CEO, AIACT
Sony Misiaszek AIA	President Elect, AIANH
Art Guadano AIA	President, AIANH
Amy Bailey AIA	Past President, AIANH
Russ Feldman AIA	President, AIA Mass.
Ernest Edwards	President Elect, AIACMA
Jim Dunn CPA, Assoc AIA	Treasurer, BSA
Peter Kuttner FAIA	National Director Elect (BSA)
Stephen Fleshman AIA	President, AIACMA
Richard Fitzgerald	Executive Director, BSA
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director BSA, Exec. Director AIACMA

1. President's Report

Greg opened the meeting at 12:24 pm.

Convention: Attending the convention are: Greg Ames, Peter Kuttner, Amy Bailey, Leslie Thomas, Russ Feldman, Dean Bingham, Steve White, Jim Dunn, Diane Harp Jones, John Hoffmann, Martha Montgomery, Nancy Jenner, Barun Basu. Caucus is at 11 am, Room 306A, Thursday, June 8. Carolyn will email this list so they can communicate.

Minutes of Jan. 31 and Feb. 8 were approved.

Convention is upon us; we will discuss candidates at this meeting. Greg asked that those attending the convention go to the Regional Caucus. There is a lot to learn from the speeches beyond what you can learn on paper.

2. College of Fellows Representatives

AIANE needs to nominate a rep for the College of Fellows board. Ann Beha FAIA and Pam Hawkes FAIA have volunteered to share the job. The Board voted their approval.

3. National Director Nominations

Election will be at annual meeting in September. Nominating committee will meet soon to determine the slate. Two people have expressed interest.

4. National Directors' Report

There is only one resolution with any meat to it, and that is the resolution on Contract Documents: Full Function Electronic Documents for All Firms, Small and Large. John thinks this will be resolved through leadership at National. They are working on a sole practitioner meter license expected to be available in late summer. Diane H Jones explained the three new options being considered: a lower rate for meter license with left over funds allowed to continue in to next year, individual document downloads, and grouping of high use documents for purchase of specific amounts.

Candidates:

Secretary: Glenn Fellows AIA and David Profitt AIA. This is an important position. You really have to know the by laws; person acts as parliamentarian and serves on almost every committee. There are some touchy issues that the secretary must deal with. Leslie recommends going to the caucus and listening to these candidates.

Vice president: There are two positions and two candidates: George Miller FAIA and Miguel Rodriguez AIA. George is from a large firm and Mike a sole practitioner. Noted that there are only two candidates for two positions: are people being encouraged to participate? Discussion about how to encourage leaders and diversity. Pool could include knowledge community leaders as well as the board. We should try to participate in placing people on committees and knowledge communities as a way to groom people for leadership in AIA.

First Vice President/President Elect: All are good candidates: Marshall Purnell FAIA, Paul Boney FAIA, and John Senhauser AIA. Erica recommended that people read each candidate's answers to the California Council questionnaire:
www.aiacc.org/cgi-bin/htmls.cgi/00184.1.084370146790394586

Richard asked about the Board's response to Chris. They didn't feel there was a lot to say at this point as they've only had two meetings with her and there have been no controversial issues. Her communication is very good. The Board gets weekly updates.

John discussed concerns on fund raising for AIA 150. Goal is 12-15 million dollar goal, as of mid May have about 2 million.

Russ Feldman asked if anyone had any opinions on the bylaw recommendations. Leslie explained that the recommendations are refining the intent of the bylaws. There is no controversy about it. Mainly housekeeping.

Leslie said that we have a chance to nominate someone for the AIA Public Director position, a two-year term. Leslie will send info to Carolyn to distribute. No one from NE has served as a Public Director and this is an opportunity for us to influence diversity on the board. They have to attend the five board meetings a year, but have lighter committee duties. It is still a significant amount of time. John said that Walter Harrison has been approached (Univ of Hartford), and he is highly recommended by Diane and others. Nancy asked what type of person would be good as public director and what issues we'd like to be promoting. Public relations and sustainability are key AIA issues.

5. AIA/EPA MOU: Richard says the signing is set for 3 pm, November 15, at end of AIANE Board Meeting at Building Boston. Signed by presidents of 8 NE chapters and the EPA National Director and regional director of NE. Richard will send text around again.

6. SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION:

Recent version of the memo specialty certification was passed around. It is a revision of the original BSA memo of last February, with changes from discussion with the AIANE Board. Leslie contacted the chair of the Specialty Certification work group to answer the following questions. Has any group you asked to be reviewed by AIA? No group has applied for AIA endorsement. Some members of ACHA have said they'd be interested in going through the process once it's ready. Will AIA solicit groups to develop certifications? No, the intent is not for AIA to solicit making certifications. Will the request for certification be reviewed by the committee and brought before the Board for a vote? that is how it would work. Nothing would happen without the Board's vote.

Diane suggested that past National presidents should be asked about their thoughts as this issue has been before the Board off and on for the past decade. Leslie suggested that this be sent to full Specialty Certification work group to keep this dialogue going at the level that activity is happening. Leslie will get committee list to Nancy. It is a timely moment to get this memo in. Nancy will make recommended changes and get to Carolyn to send out.

7. CHAPTER REPORTS

BSA: Got a grant for AIA 150. With BAC have funded new community design resource center. It is off to a fast start. Started a research grant program 3 years ago. Gave away 65,000 dollars this year. They recently had their annual dinner for NE Fellows.

Central MA: Trying to create some energy in their programs. Are about to select their 3rd annual scholarship recipient. Smart Growth, energy conservation are key issues they are addressing and trying to bring before the public. Are trying to work with kids in Citizen Schools in Worcester and do a charrette with them. Developing a new web site. Trying a couple of discussion programs and are looking at one on Sept 27 on Smart Growth at the Worcester library and one on Sustainable Design/Energy conservation in October at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster.

CT: Thank you to National for the AIA150 grant. CT has had possibly the worst legislative year ever. One success was to strike language that it is illegal to use AIA Contract documents in any state funded project. There is now a cap on funding for change orders, they fear will impact architects. Language on insurability was changed from standard of care to highest standard of care (for architects). Many insurers say that is uninsurable language. One of victories: they were able to get licensing board the ability to fine anyone practicing without a license (\$1,000 with add ons). At board retreat they refined their mission. Had a very busy program year. COTE has had very good attendance at programs. Have put together a visit to the Glass House.

Maine: Getting ready for 2006 Design Awards. Winners and entries are on their website. Presentation will be at Colby College. Maine legislature looked at tax reform, nixed the sales tax on architectural services. In Nov will vote on taxpayer bill of rights to cap government expenditures. Patterned on the CO legislature. AIA 150 committee is meeting; got a grant for \$3000. Pushing for Continuing Ed for licensing. The board is worried about fiscal issues, but are getting less resistant.

Maine State Housing Authority hosted an international affordable green housing competition. All the winners were from Maine. Top prize went to John Gordon. Dean handed out his usual stock of delicious chocolates!

NH: Busy with programs. Tour on Master planning at UNH; Annual House Tour is coming June 15. Seminar on Accessibility Standards in June, Design Day in November. Still doing Learning by Design programs including Walking Tours. Now have IRC 2000 in NH. Licensing board has talked with us about Continuing Ed for architects and are studying the possibility. LA's got a bill passed for licensure. Interior Designers are working on bill. IDID Conference will be October 6 at Crotched Mountain in Greenfield, NH. Steve Strong will be the keynote. We are starting to update our web site.

RI: Just finishing up search for part time executive director. Also will be getting exhibition space in downtown Providence. Conference is Sept 21-24. Awards will be given on the 24th. Will be bringing at an AIA Guide to Newport Architecture at that time. AIA 150: RI declared architecture week April 1-8! Have a bit of controversy in Providence: mayor has invited the public to design a new park. Public forum on this on June 19.

VT (by email): Received an aia150 grant for \$7,500. We met with our six collaborating organizations yesterday and have a solid working group to help develop a 'values workbook' and visualization tools to support the new Vermont Growth Centers Legislation. It is the first time the ASLA, APA, as well as state organizations-the Forum on Sprawl, the Vermont Design Institute and the Vermont Land Trust and Efficiency VT-have ever sat down and worked together. It's very exciting and encouraging.

Have established a designated aiaVT representative on the State of VT Schools Construction Standards Committee. This is an official group to advise the Dept of Education.

We are working with a series of collateral groups to widen the design awards. We just announced a joint award with the Vermont Center for Independent Living (a Universal Design group) to be juried by aiaVT and announced at their Universal Design/ Accessibility conference in 2008.

Reworking the website (again!).

Western MA:

Also got AIA150 grant of \$15,000!! Got all they asked for. They are doing an SDAT in Holyoke. Have plan for looking at Holyoke in an east west axis vs the

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north south axis. Also doing a Learning by Design program in the schools. Have applied jointly with UMass for a practice academy grant. Practice academy grant is to create a formal structure for the exam and involves mentorship and an internship year as part of UMass program. . Have been trying to get an office at the campus for AIA and this might be part of the grant. Looking to do a big regional SDAT with planners in towns in Western MA. They are struggling with leadership on their committee, trying to get new people involved.

8. Executive Director

Carolyn handed out the financial reports and answered questions. We are in good shape.

Next meeting is August 30, 2006, BSA, 12 noon.