



AIANE Council Meeting

June 2, 2021

9 – 11:35 am, Conference Call

Present:

Elizabeth Cox AIA	AIANE President (BSA)
Mike Lassel AIA	AIANE President Elect/Small Firm Exchange (ME)
George Fellner AIA	AIANE Secretary/Treasurer (CT)
Helen Fantini AIA	AIANE Past President (AIA WMA)
Sarah O Donnell	Executive Director, AIA VT
Catherine Lange AIA	President, AIAVT
Jeannette Schram	Executive Director, AIAME
Carolyn Isaak Hon. AIANH	AIANE Executive Director
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, AIA WMA
Paul Hauser AIA	President, AIA RI
Roni Phipps	Executive Director, AIA RI
Tom Hartman AIA	AIA Strategic Councilor (AIA WMA)
Danielle McDonough AIA	AIA Strategic Councilor (BSA)
Eric White	Executive Director, BSA
Cris Salomon AIA	President, AIANH
Gina Calabro	Executive Director, AIA CT
Tom Chung FAIA	College of Fellows Representative (BSA)
Caitlin Osepchuk AIA	NE Young Architects Regional Director (BSA) 2020-2021
J. Christian Whittsett AIA	President, AIA WMA
Mariana O'Brien, PhD, Assoc. AIA	President, AIA Central MA
Bonnie Kastel	Executive Director, AIA NH
Angela Cahill AIA	President, AIA CT
Randall Anway AIA	President-Elect, AIA CT
Dominique Moore, Assoc. AIA	AIANE RAD (CT)
Emily Grandstaff-Rice FAIA	Candidate, 2022 First Vice President/ 2023 President-elect for the AIA (BSA)

Not attending:

John Nunnari Assoc. AIA	Executive Director, AIA MA
Gregory Minott AIA	President, BSA
Kathryn Wise AIA	President, AIA ME
Jim LaPosta FAIA	College of Fellows Representative (CT)
Russ Feldman AIA	President, AIA MA (BSA)
Monica Cunningham	Executive Director, AIA Central MA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Elizabeth opened the meeting at 9:03 am. Introductions were made.

- Elizabeth voiced our collective relief that Covid infections are falling and vaccines are up. We hope to start seeing people in person.
- Helen moved to accept February meeting notes. Marianna noted one correction (Assoc. AIA designation for her instead of AIA). Gina seconded. Approved.
- Elizabeth updated us on some good conversations between Feb meeting and now in regards to EDI/J.E.D.I best practices. Will continued this conversation. The Executive Directors conversed on the future structure of the AIANE Council in light of the AIA vote coming up on June 10 to go to State-based representation.

AIA ANNUAL MEETING: BY LAW AMENDMENTS, RESOLUTIONS, AND CANDIDATES

By Law Amendment 21-A, Dissolution of AIA Regions:

- The study on this was thorough; the change will strengthen New England representation. Tom Hartman noted that the effectiveness of the Strategic Council – and other bodies such as NAC, COF, YAF – is the result of the moderator/chair, not the size of the group.
- The AIA Board voted in favor of this resolution.
- Elizabeth asked Dominique and Caitlin about the NAC and YAF thoughts on this. Both think it provides a better connection with each state, though there is some concern about finding reps from each state.
- Lorin noted the potential loss for our region, less collaboration and it will be harder to make connection. Angela noted that these concerns should be part of the revision of the Council structure over the next few months.

By Law Amendment 21-B, Votes Required for Election of At-large Directors:

- This amendment will require that election of at-large directors have a majority of the votes cast, not a plurality.

Three resolutions put forward by AIA PA —

- Resolution 21-1, Conduct Research into Investments Made in Underserved Communities:
 - BSA took no opinion on this. Eric thinks it has not been completely fleshed out yet and we should be cautious about what position we put the Association in. The idea for this research is good, but need more specifics.
- Resolution 21-2, Arch-Elect Initiative:
 - This is for training and support for members running for office. This is not campaign support, but rather training to get architects interested in and skilled for public office.
- Resolution 21-3, Promotion of the U-Dream Program:
 - This was a program, not now functioning, to increase diversity. Eric noted there are lots of good programs out there in many different chapters. We might be cautious in supporting one local program over another...

Elections:

- Emily is running for president-elect. She noted that she sees big changes coming and believes she can help things move along. She's happy to represent AIA New England and invites us to contact her with concerns or questions. Emily expressed her thanks to all of us.
- There are two speeches from each candidate at <https://www.aia.org/pages/6345869-2021-aia-annual-meeting>
- The Council members exchanged notes on candidates and what they know about them.

AIA NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL: LOOKING FORWARD

- The NE Executive Directors participated in a couple of work session on how the Regions amendment will effect the NE Council. They have a summary sheet about these initial discussions that Jeannette will distribute. More talks between now and August, and Presidents and other group Chairs will participate.
- Jeannette reported on their initial efforts. The value of the AIANE Council was discussed. They agreed they'd like to insure continuation of: Design Awards, EP Friendly Firm program, connection with others in the region, and leadership development.

- They came up with two ways to go forward and include those. One involves a loser structure, using the Design Awards as a way to organize the functions of the group. The other option would be to hire someone to run the Awards program and 3 AIANE meetings each year with a stipend. (See document from Jeannette for more information on these approaches).
- Another big question is how we would handle the increase of representation on the Council if Amendment 21-A passes. We would have six Strategic Counselors, six reps to NAC, six reps to COF, YAF, etc. Tom noted it's important they all participate in AIA New England in some way.
- Mike reported on progress in the Small Firm Exchange in dealing with these changes. In invites you to send him your thoughts.
- Helen thanked the work group for their efforts on this.
- Lorin also noted that there will be a transition period for all of this to take place.
- Elizabeth said that she views this as a great opportunity for New England to lead. If we put together an MOU that outlines representation from all of the groups and states, it could be a useful tool for others.
- Caitlin said that the NAC and YAF had a joint task force on how to handle this. They are not changing a lot, just moving to a bigger group for now. They will still have staggered positions. They are still working on details.
- Dominique noted that during the transition they will be evaluating.
- Eric noted that a number of states already operate on this model of representation.

COF Report

- COF is figuring out how to best utilize their experience and knowledge. They are redoubling efforts on mentoring on the national level and have a renewed commitment to promoting sustainability, EDI, and systemic racism. It's not determined how they will handle the new State model of representation.

DESIGN AWARDS AND CONFERENCE UPDATE

- Mariana reported that AIA Central MA is working hard on the Design Awards program. The theme is: Place Making through Architecture and Design Excellence in New England. Registration for the Awards is due by July 15. Submissions due Aug 15. Jury has a month. Winners will be notified by Sept 22. The dinner and conference is October 16. The Awards Dinner will be at Polar Park in Worcester, and the sessions at a local Marriot Hotel.
- They will include awards for the best project from each NE component, a People's Choice award. They are also interested in having a YA on the jury. They are still seeking jury members.

Continuation of Minutes: by George Fellner (Carolyn had to leave at 11)

RAD

- Caitlin spoke about continued discussions regarding how to continue outreach, resources, and support for young architects.
- They are reviewing additional strategies for mentorship along with a test pilot program for larger regional groups.
- They now have a knowledge group putting out: "Now You Know."
https://issuu.com/youngarchitectsforum/docs/2021_connection_q1_climate_action_final

YARD

- Dominique relayed their work with securing mentorship in its various forms.
- They are involved with ongoing housekeeping and planning to use surveys.
- They also are looking to share resources with AIA and NOMA.

SMALL FIRMS EXCHANGE

- Mike discussed how each member was assigned a Knowledge Committee. He is part of COTE.
- With the proposed transition from regional to state model, they are looking at having working groups for a knowledge base within each state chapter.

COMPONENT REPORTS

CONNECTICUT

- Gina announced that CT's first in-person outdoor event, "Equity and Diversity in the Workplace" is scheduled for June 23.
- Angela announced that the NOMA Charter party will also be occurring.
- The AIA CT annual conference will be held in October.

VERMONT

- Sarah announced the planning for a golf tournament.
- They are also surveying AIA membership regarding potential program/events.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- They are anticipating upcoming outdoor events.

RHODE ISLAND

- Paul said they are surveying AIA membership regarding upcoming outside events.

AIANE FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Elizabeth reported that the Net Worth Balance as of 6/1/21 is \$8,309.02.
- The Income/Expense Estimate as of 6/1/21 is \$14,485.00.

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Upcoming 2021 Meeting Dates

AIA New England

August 25 9 am – 11:30 am (virtual)

Oct 2 To be confirmed

AIA:

AIA Conference on Architecture: June 16-19 (Virtual)