

New York State Council of Landscape Architects

New York Chapter and New York Upstate Chapter-American Society of Landscape Architects
52 S. Pearl Street, 3rd floor Albany, NY 12207 (518) 465-5176

SUMMER MEETING

Date: July 21, 2007

Location: Albany, NY

Present: D. McCord- Officer (President)
E. Olinger-Officer (Treasurer)
N. Bateman- Officer (Secretary)
D. Conklin- Upstate
E. Farrell- (NYSCLA Executive Director)
R. Gass-Downstate
R. Gibney-Downstate
R. Kraft-Upstate
C. May-Downstate
E. Misztal-Guest
J. Thompson-Upstate

Absent: D. Brackett-Upstate
A. Hart-Upstate
S. Paetzel-Downstate
N. Pouder-Downstate

General Business:

NYSCLA Board Members- D. McCord opened the meeting by introducing a new Upstate Board member, Erin Misztal. Ms. Misztal currently works as a registered Landscape Architect for QPK Design in Syracuse. She has several years experience with various project types as a Landscape Architect and received her BLA degree from SUNY-ESF. She will be confirmed soon via the Chapter's ExComm vote. Approvals for new Board members Renata Kraft and Charles May from last meeting have been confirmed. D. McCord also noted that long time Board member Doug Brackett is stepping down and the Board wishes to thank him for his years of dedicated service.

Previous Meeting Minutes- the draft minutes from the Apr. 28, 2007 meeting previously submitted by N. Bateman need to be sent for review/approval via email ballot due to a lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report-submitted in writing and presented by E. Olinger; he has submitted payment to AIA for services rendered and billings for third quarter rebates have been sent to each Chapter with payment expected soon. Lobby Day expenses have been updated and were under budget. The PR item

includes both Lobby Day expenses and Lobby Day brochure expenses to Marshall Goff. CD investments look good. The report was approved.

Legislative Session Report-Ed Farrell, Executive Director for AIANYS, gave his report as follows:

Administration-

LA and the Law-no discussion for this report.

Government Affairs-

Lobby Day Report- He noted AIA was very pleased that this year's Lobby Day was such a success. Next year's event is already set for Apr. 29, 2008 with the reception at the terrace and another Continuing Education event being planned. AIANYS's annual conference is also set for Oct. 4-6, 2007 at the Grand Hyatt in New York City.

Proposed NYSCLA 2007 Legislative Program- E. Farrell updated the Board on key issues from the wrap up of the latest legislative session: After passing the Senat, **Corporate Practice of Design Professionals** died in Committee with the Assembly also wanted to consider including Accountants in any legislation. **Smart Growth** has been referred on to various Committees, the **Historic Housing Preservation Tax** Credit is still alive but not moving but may have some potential next year-the cap of 30% for federal credit is not good and this legislation amends and extends the existing, but what's on the books now is not being implemented. **Qualifications Based Selection** legislation passed and was sent to the Governor yesterday; this will expand the term "state department" to include public authorities and public benefit corporations created pursuant to law where at least one of the members is appointed by the Governor for purposes of letting state contracts for architectural and engineering services. **Design Build** died in Committee and interest is waning-doubt it will come back next session. New legislation proposed (A. 7333) that will authorize cities or towns to impose a tax on real estate transfers and authorizes municipalities to create **community preservation funds** was referred to Committee-this new legislation is a good start for municipalities. **Night Sky** passed the Assembly and was referred to Rules in the Senate. **Wicks Reform**, which relates to separate specifications for public works contracts and payment by contractors to subcontractors, is still garnering much debate-AIA has had discussion regarding a possible next step as limits for Upstate (proposed \$500,000) is of concern to many who feel it should be higher-NYC limits are \$3 million and Long Island and Westchester County are \$1.5 million. D. McCord asked if NYSCLA should draft a letter regarding concern that Upstate limits are not \$1.5 million-consensus was to wait and see.

Old Business:

MCE status- D. McCord reported that the Upstate Chapter MCE event June 6 in Buffalo was a big success with 40 attendees offering 8 MCEs. He noted that now that ASLA national is a provider under AIA, Chapter events such as these can now qualify for credits. Oct. 17 and 18 dates are set for the joint Upstate/Downstate Annual Conference in Binghamton being coordinated by Jen

Cooper and Mike Haas. R. Gass reported he is interested in organizing a joint APA MCE event on Long Island and R. Kraft mentioned she would check with her APA contacts to see if they could help. R. Gibney said he would confirm with S. Paetzel to see if Downstate is passing on MCE events as they are announced. R. Gass is also considering organizing a hazardous tree workshop for MCEs but must check into questions with DOT regarding location and use of a public facility. N. Bateman reported she and Landscape Architecture Board Chair Jim Tinney have discussions underway to promote coordination among state agencies for the purpose of setting up MCE events for Landscape Architects. NYSCLA welcomes the partnership with Mr. Tinney and LA Board as we try to address this challenge.

Certificates for past members-R. Gibney has Certificates ready for past NYSCLA members and will send.

Web Site update and update of LA Finder- Website still in need of updating; D. McCord will follow up on website updates with S. Paetzel who is the contact for both Upstate and Downstate.

Teleconferencing- E. Olinger will ask E. Farrell for software recommendations for webcam for absentees rather than pursuing a phone hook up.

New Business:

New Board member nominations- D. McCord will confirm with Upstate ExComm the new member nomination.

New Address- S. Paetzel has updated the new NYSCLA stationary to reflect the new AIA address and will send it soon.

Landscape Architect “Empowerment” Committee- There is a common challenge throughout the state to educate local officials about what Landscape Architects are legally entitled to do. To address this, D. McCord set up a Committee at last meeting to explore ways we can accomplish this goal. State Education Department has offered their support for developing Town packages to familiarize them with the skills Landscape Architects offer. R. Gibney suggested we also send “LA and the Law” to municipalities. C. May said we need to further clarify what the law means with respect to “structures” as Landscape Architects can design gazebos, catch basins, retaining walls, decks, pedestrian bridges, etc. E. Olinger noted it may be best to seek the advice of an attorney to clarify any wording before promoting it, as we do not want this issue to become a target with the Registration Board. R. Gibney noted that four Long Island municipalities allow Landscape Architects to design those structures mentioned above and R. Gass said this discrepancy statewide among local governments is a due to the fact that New York is a home rule state-as it stands, the term “structure” can be seen as vague and open to interpretation. R. Kraft agreed that consulting an attorney once we have a tool kit in place would be a good move to build our case internally. E. Olinger felt that if we could get the LA Board’s support on this, it would carry weight with State Ed. N. Bateman suggested starting by looking at examples of success stories with respective

locals/villages. C. May and R. Kraft agreed we could do our own research first, develop a tool kit-at that point an attorney's opinion would be beneficial. D. McCord suggested C. May and R. Kraft work together to start a draft toolkit to send to S. Paetzel-this would consist of a pictorial description/flyer of what Landscape Architects do and a draft narrative. D. Conklin also expressed interest in helping with this at last meeting. D. McCord will also ask ASLA for Landscape Architecture Task info.

Licensure Summit- S. Paetzel attended the ASLA Licensure Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 22-24 and sent in a written report. Highlights included: discussions to remove road blocks to practice, the ASLA and CLARB MCE database efforts currently underway, and ASLA's Advocacy Network and their email alerts. S. Paetzel mentioned that NY is beginning to organize a "tool kit" which can be downloaded to educate local officials about the expertise and skill sets offered by Landscape Architects. ASLA has shown an interest in helping us and their may be grant money to assist in the creation of a tool kit and for adapting it to put on our website. Another benefit is that NY's tool kit could become a model for other states.

Upcoming Board Officer changes- D. McCord noted that his term as President is up this Fall. He will stay on as a Board member. Two other Officers, E. Olinger, Treasurer, and N. Bateman, Secretary, will not seek renomination. A. Hart has expressed interest in the Treasurer's position. E. Olinger has been on the Board for 30 years, serving the last 15 years as Treasurer. N. Bateman has been Secretary for the past six years, and she will still stay on as a Board member.

Calendar:

Oct. 18-19 2007	Upstate ASLA Annual Conference, joint w/ Downstate in Binghamton
Oct. 5-10, 2007	ASLA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Ca.
Nov. 3, 2007	NYSCLA Fall Meeting

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned; the next meeting set for **Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the NYSCLA's office, 52 S. Pearl Street, Albany.