

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

SPRING MEETING

Date: April 28, 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. Kraft-Guest
A. Hart-Upstate
S. Marshall-Paetzel-Downstate
C. May-Guest
J. Thompson-Upstate

Absent: D. Annese-Downstate (Honorary member)
D. Brackett- Upstate
R. Gibney-Downstate
N. Pouder-Downstate

General Business:

NYSCLA Board Members- D. McCord opened the meeting by introducing a new Upstate Board member, Renata Kraft and a Downstate Board member, Charles May. Ms. Kraft currently works as a registered Landscape Architect for Watts Engineering and Architecture, P.C. in Buffalo. She has a number of years experience in both the public and private sector around the country and received her BLA degree from University of Washington. Mr. May is principal of his firm in LaGrangeville, NY and has over 21 years experience in the private sector. Charles received his BLA from Michigan State University. The status of both Board Members will be confirmed soon via each Chapter's ExComm vote.

Previous Meeting Minutes- the draft minutes from the Jan. 20, 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 received the first quarter rebates from each Chapter with 2nd quarter rebates forthcoming. The budget today reflects the changes discussed last meeting incorporating more funds into the website budget. There are extra expenses associated with this year's Lobby Day for rental of the ASLA Exhibit and to OGS

for exhibit rental space, but reserves are adequate. Printing costs for the Lobby Day brochure and fees to Marshall Goff for production of the brochure have also been included.

Legislative Session Report-Ed Farrell, new Executive Director for AIANY, distributed handouts of our Lobby Day legislation program and another of the updated AIA list of bills currently being monitored. He also noted that AIA offices will be moving to 52 S. Pearl St., 3rd floor, effective May 7, 2007. To accommodate two new staff positions, space in the current location is limited so more space was necessary. All other contact info remains the same. His report was as follows:

Administration-

LA and the Law-no discussion this meeting

Government Affairs-

Lobby Day Report- This year's event will be May 15, 2007 and consist of some changes. AIA will offer 2 Continuing Education sessions for 1 HSW credit each followed by a lunch. E. Farrell passed out the AIA Lobby Day brochure with the registration form included and will email D. McCord AIA's final schedule to be distributed to everyone. Participants this year will convene at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and are responsible for scheduling their lobbying appointments that afternoon. D. McCord and others noted some last minute changes to NYSCLA's Lobby Day brochure, and the final brochure will be sent to AIA by early next week. E. Farrell suggested we clarify and reword our stance on Night Sky legislation and S. Marshall-Paetzel, our Night Sky contact, will revise this now as part of our Lobby Day brochure. Wording will support the Night Sky concept with revisions and recommendations to follow in the future after more information is available. NYSCLA believes Landscape Architects definitely should be a part of this issue as it evolves.

Proposed NYSCLA 2007 Legislative Program- E. Farrell explained that a revised version of the **Wicks Law** was introduced in the Senate this week, and discussion and movement on this and **Corporate Practice** legislation seem likely this session. In addition to Wicks and Corporate Practice, NYSCLA's legislative agenda this year also includes: Smart Growth, Affordable Housing, Historic Housing Preservation Tax Credit, Night Sky, Qualification-Based Selection, Green Trails Initiative, Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Program, Design Liability Reform, Design-Build, and the Community Preservation Fund for local governments.

Old Business:

MCE status- D. McCord reported that the Upstate Chapter application to be a MCE provider was submitted in January to ASLA national via AIA and was approved along with Downstate Chapter in February. S. Marshall-Paetzel who volunteered to update both Upstate and Downstate MCE events on the NYSCLA website, has been passing on MCE announcements to the webmaster, Jeremy Young. She and N. Bateman suggested creating a one-page marketing tool for potential MCE providers which would clearly state the requirements and benefits

to a provider which would be posted on the website. D. McCord contacted Lorimar Seminars to get Landscape Architects on their "target" list and has requested that they use PIE (Professional Institute of Engineers) so Landscape Architects can receive credit. D. McCord also noted that ASLA is still working on certifying MCE credits for participants attending the annual meeting. D. McCord and E. Olinger suggested drafting a letter to state agencies to inquire how they can become MCE providers in the near future.

Certificates for past members-as discussed in recent meetings, R. Gibney made draft Certificates to honor the service of past NYSCLA members. Copies were distributed and final copies will be made once a couple of revisions are complete.

Web Site update and update of LA Finder- S. Marshall-Paetzel said she had communicated with Jeremy Young on ways to improve the website. Consensus was for everyone to review the website soon and send their suggestions to S. Marshall-Paetzel by the end of May. We can then discuss this with Jeremy next meeting via a possible conference call. R. Kraft noted that recently when seeking more general info on NYSCLA as an organization, she had difficulty navigating the website. S. Marshall-Paetzel suggested a facelift in some areas would not only improve the website overall, but also greatly facilitate the ease of access to MCE info which is growing in popularity with website users. Another popular website feature, the LA Finder, continues to receive heavy web traffic. A. Hart volunteered to take on the responsibility of updating all the LA finder applications previously handled by N. Pouder.

Teleconferencing- J. Thompson has investigated the possibility of teleconferencing for the meetings and found this is possible in our new location. She has been in contact with AIA staff who confirmed that in the new location teleconferencing will require a small fee, whereas internet access during a meeting is possible at no charge. E. Olinger noted that incorporating teleconferencing will require a change in NYSCLA Bylaws and more discussion will follow. As it stands, bylaws state a quorum is possible only with 3 Upstate members, 3 Downstate members, and at least 1 officer present. Otherwise, NYSCLA business must be conducted via email ballot or postponed until the required members are present. A change to 2 Upstate, 2 Downstate, and 1 Officer present with others teleconferencing is a possible alternative.

LA and the Law mailings- J. Thompson reported progress on creating a database to use for LA and the Law. She has collected all municipal listings and will now begin to add Planning Department and Planning Boards as much as possible.

New Business:

New Board member nominations- D. McCord said that both Upstate and Downstate ExComms will need to concur with the two new nominees attending today.

New Address- As noted by E. Farrell earlier, AIA's new address change begins May 7. S. Marshall-Paetzel will update the NYSCLA stationary accordingly.

Landscape Architect "Empowerment" Committee- There is a common challenge throughout the state to educate local officials regarding the variety of services Landscape Architects are legally entitled to provide such as drainage, erosion control, stormwater and certain related design services. Several at today's meeting concurred with this observation. To begin to address this challenge, D. McCord suggested forming a Committee to explore a strategy to improve this. N. Bateman noted that this could be the new priority of NYSCLA now that MCE is law. E. Olinger concurred, noting that in some municipalities, home rule may trump State Law, thereby creating barriers to practice. Landscape Architecture practice law should be clarified and State Ed should take a position so towns are sure to include Landscape Architects in local ordinances. C. May agreed and offered several examples where barriers to practice exist. C. May, R. Kraft, and D. Conklin volunteered to serve on this Committee. D. Conklin suggested that a two-tier approach be taken-a mega-view in comparison to Engineers and a second approach with municipalities. Everyone agreed it may be a good idea to consider adding a link to the website that would highlight barriers to practice.

Licensure Summit- D. McCord noted that this year's annual ASLA Licensure Summit will be held June 22-24, 2007 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. D. Conklin suggested a NYSCLA Board member attend and S. Marshall-Paetzel or N. Bateman expressed tentative interest. D. McCord will notify ASLA by May 4 who will attend from NY.

Other Business: **

Calendar:

May 15, 2007	Lobby Day at the Capital in Albany
June 22-24, 2007	ASLA Licensure Summit, Grand Rapids, Mi
Oct. 18-19 2007	Upstate ASLA Annual Conference, joint w/ Downstate in Binghamton
July 21, 2007	NYSCLA Summer meeting
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, July 21, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the NYSCLA's office, 52 S. Pearl Street, Albany.