

New York State Council of Landscape Architects

New York Chapter and New York Upstate Chapter-American Society of Landscape Architects
33 Elk Street, 2nd floor Albany, NY 12207 (518) 465-5176

WINTER MEETING

Date: January 20, 2007

Location: Albany, NY

Present: D. McCord- (President)
E. Olinger-Officer (Treasurer)
N. Bateman- Upstate (Secretary)
D. Brackett- Upstate
D. Conklin- Upstate
E. Farrell- (NYSCLA Executive Director)
A. Hart- (Guest)
J. Thompson (Upstate)

Absent: D. Annese-Downstate (Honorary member)
R. Gass-Downstate
R. Gibney-Downstate
S. Marshall-Paetzel (Downstate)
N. Pouder-Downstate

General Business:

NYSCLA Board Members- D. McCord opened the meeting by introducing our new Upstate Board member which he nominated, Andy Hart. Mr. Hart currently works as a registered Landscape Architect for Bergmann Associates in Rochester where he is approaching his 15th year. Andy received his BLA from SUNY ESF. Mr. Hart's Board Member status will be confirmed soon via the Chapter's ExComm vote.

Previous Meeting Minutes- the draft minutes from the Nov. 4, 2006 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 had sent a draft 2007 budget for review noting that the 2006 budget year ended with a surplus. After discussion, it was decided to revise the budget showing updated membership numbers as well as an increase for budgeted website expenses. It was agreed that due to a lack of a quorum along with these corrections, that a revised 2007 Budget would be sent via email ballot. This needs quick response since quarterly transactions cannot be made until the 2007 Budget is approved.

Legislative Session Report- D. McCord introduced Ed Farrell, new Executive Director for AIANYS succeeding Barbara Rodriguez. Mr. Farrell gave an overview of his background and expressed interest in assessing how he can best work with us to achieve our goals. He also noted that they will be hiring a Communications staff person in the near future which should be a big asset. He submitted in writing and presented handouts for AIANYS's 2007 Legislative Program, the 2007 combined list of bills, and the 2006 combined list of bills. His report was as follows:

Administration-

Landscape Architecture and the Law- D. McCord and E. Olinger briefly gave an overview of "LA and the Law". E. Farrell said he will try to get the NYS Building Officials mailing list and would pass their contact info on to N. Bateman. We did not mail out "LA and the Law" last year so we will try and improve targeted recipients this year.

Government Affairs-

Lobby Day Report- This year's event will be May 15, 2007 and consist of some changes. AIA will host a continuing ed event from 10:00 am to noon followed by a lunch. Lobbying will follow throughout the afternoon although no reception will follow. They may consider doing the reception next year. E. Farrell requested a list of our key issues-for tracking and for serving as our Lobby Day Legislative Agenda. D. McCord requested each Board Member review the 2006 and 2007 Bill list distributed today and return to him in 3 weeks what key issues with related bill numbers we feel are most important. This info will then be used for Position Papers included in our Lobby Day packets.

Proposed NYSCLA 2007 Legislative Program- The **AIANYS 2007 Legislative Agenda** was recently passed by the AIANYS Board. The same bills will be tracked yet these will be assigned new tracking numbers which will be available before Lobby Day. In addition to the same issues, two new issues were added this year: **Green Building and Sustainable Development** and **Certificate of Authorization** for Architectural and Landscape Architectural Firms. Passage of the Certificate of Authorization for Architects and Landscape Architects would bring these professions in conformance with Engineers and Land Surveyors so each design profession can strengthen protection of public health, safety and welfare as well as serving as a deterrent to illegal practice. Of note, since the Historic Preservation tax credit was recently signed by the Governor and adopted last year, this issue is no longer on the tracking list.

Wicks, Workman's Comp and Smart Growth are 3 issues which may progress with the new Spitzer administration if packaged with practical limits. In the past week, **Corporate Practice** legislation could see Design and Health issues being separated, a first time for this. Once E. Farrell has our list of key issues to track, he will work to plug us in to the status of those bills. Ideally, the best way to get the hottest updates on bills, is to monitor those coming out of Committee. Discussion continued as to how we can streamline issues for AIANYS to track for us.

Old Business:

MCE status- D. McCord reported the Upstate Chapter application to be a MCE provider was recently submitted to ASLA national via AIA with approval expected soon. Falling under a "passport" provider status, there will be no additional cost to the Chapter. The Chapter would then have potential to offer MCE events. Upstate's first MCE event for 2 hrs of credit has already been scheduled for Feb. 23 at ESF and will focus on Building Codes for Landscape Architects. D. Conklin suggested that it may be a good idea to send another mass mailing containing updates of MCE items in addition to putting the MCE link on the NYSCLA website. He noted that Downstate Chapter's President confirmed that their new Trustee will serve as the MCE coordinator. S. Marshall-Paetzel has volunteered to update both Upstate and Downstate MCE events on the NYSCLA website.

State Agency reports- N. Bateman reported that she has been working with DEC divisions and related groups to see if future invasive species training can be tailored for MCE credits.

Web Site update and update of LA Finder- Several suggested a link for our LA Finder on each Chapter's website would be beneficial. N. Bateman reported receiving a couple Directory inquiries and answered their questions. D. McCord will follow up on this.

New Business:

Lobby Day 2007-D. McCord said that once he receives our key issues from our review of AIANYS's Legislative bills, he will coordinate the position papers for Lobby Day packets. He will also talk with Marshall Goff to do revisions for the 2007 Lobby Day brochure. This should run about \$700 and once again we plan to run 500 copies. Last year R. Gibney was able to get LA magazines and Lobby Day packets need to be put together by AIANYS. A. Hart volunteered to search and track Senate/Assembly bills on the NYS government website based on current sponsors (which could change) based on the list distributed by E. Farrell today. J. Thompson volunteered to assist. D. McCord will follow up and monitor all this since it must be done prior to our Apr. 28 Spring meeting.

New Board member nominations- D. McCord noted that 1 Upstate and 2 downstate vacancies exist on the Board. He noted that Pauline Burns has decided not to join Upstate

Teleconferencing- This issue was brought up last meeting to investigate. J. Thompson volunteered to check the status of AIANYS's facilities at 33 Elm St. for teleconferencing. Several pro and con opinions of teleconferencing were discussed noting that both attendance and the ability to have a quorum are key concerns.

Other Business: **

Calendar:

Feb. 23, 2007	Upstate Chapter MCE Code Training at ESF
March 23, 2007	Tentative BEST Green Building MCE Training at ESF
Apr. 28, 2007	NYSCLA Spring meeting
May 15, 2007	Lobby Day at the Capital in Albany
Summer, 2007	NYSCLA Summer meeting (TBD)

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned; the next meeting set for **Saturday, Apr. 28, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the NYSCLA's office, 33 Elk Street, Albany.