



MEMBER FORUM

APRIL 15, 2011

SALONS 8 & 9
THE SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE
9797 JASPER AVENUE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Pickles called the Member Forum to order at 2:50 p.m. He then welcomed members to the forum and provided a general review of the items that will be presented and reviewed.

Scott Pickles called upon Doug Ramsey, Immediate Past President to approach the podium to present the report from the Duggan House Committee.

ITEM 1

DUGGAN HOUSE RENNOVATION

Doug Ramsey stated that one of this year's strategic initiatives, Council approved a plan to address the facility issues at Duggan House. He noted that Duggan House currently does not meet the current building code; there is only one means of egress from the second floor; the building is not barrier-free; and the operations of the Association also have outgrown the building, and space is at a premium.

As background information, Doug reviewed the summary of the Historical Summary of Duggan House since purchased by the Association in 1981; noted more than 15 plans/studies to address facility issues that have been commissioned, at a cost to the Association of more than \$300,000; the commissioned plans that varied from renovation/addition options for the existing house, purchasing and renovating other buildings and lease opportunities.

Doug also noted that over the past 30 years historic Duggan House has become the symbolic home of the Association. Despite the options to relocate, past Councils and the current Council recognize the asset that the Association has and that Duggan House is centrally located with a prominent address on Saskatchewan Drive and is complete with street parking for members and visitors.

Doug then reviewed the motion passed by Council on June 5, 2010 to accept the design of Burgess Bredo Architect Ltd. for the Duggan House renovation; the establishment of a Duggan House Committee that consisted of Carol Mannas, Ron Wickman, Dianne Johnstone and himself; the action plan brought forward by the Committee that included a budget of \$900,000; the present existing building areas; the proposed building areas; the operations and statement of change in net assets documents; and the conceptual drawings of the Duggan House renovations prepared by Burgess Bredo Architect Ltd. Scott stated that the renovation respects the historical quality of the building while addressing the key renovations needs of safety and barrier free access. The Duggan House renovations will be paid for from the AAA cash reserves and he ensured the members that the Association will continue to be on very solid financial footing even

when the steps to modernize the Association's most valuable material asset Duggan House have been completed.

Doug Ramsey then notified the membership that the Duggan House administration will be moving to a temporary location (10650-113 Street) in Edmonton during the Duggan House renovations; that all necessary applications have been made to the City of Edmonton with the final application being finalized on May 16, 2011; the Duggan House renovations are to commence about June 16, 2011; and the targeted date for completion as January 2012.

Question/Comments from the Floor:

Members inquired about a possible auditorium space to be included in the Duggan House renovation.

Response: Doug Ramsey referenced the conceptual drawings of Duggan House and the existing areas and proposed areas of Duggan House slides that were presented to the membership during his verbal presentation on Duggan House Renovation. There will be no auditorium space due to the base dollars required to have Duggan House meet the Building Code.

ITEM 2

AAA WEBSITE

Scott Pickles stated that it has been a long-term initiative of the AAA to modernize their administrative systems at Duggan House with the most efficient and current information management technology. In 2010, the AAA system has been updated to the iMIS database system and in early May 2011, we will plan to launch the public face of the system which is our website as Phase 1 of this system.

Scott stated that all aspects of this new website are directly linked to our internal iMIS database; members will be able to access their own information and make changes to it; all changes made will be reflected in real-time; the website will always up to date with the latest information; and the Duggan House staff administration work will reduce.

Phase 2 will be unveiled in the Fall of 2011, where we will be able to do much more online, including: Registering for events; Voting on future Council members; registering for continuing education courses; Members will be able to track your own core and self-directed continuing education; and the overall reduction in administrative time and expense for the Duggan House staff.

Phase 3 will be completed in 2013, where new members will be able to register online, and interns will be able to upload their logbook information. The website has been designed to be very easy for members to use. He noted that members who need more help will be distributed details on how to get started. In closing, Scott stated that the website is above all for the members and we would welcome the members feedback during all the three implementation phases.

Questions/Comments from the floor:

There were no questions or comments from the members regarding the AAA website project.

ITEM 3

ARCHITECTS ACT AND REGULATION

Scott Pickles stated that in 2013, the *Architects' Act*, and *General Regulations*, will be opened by the provincial government and it is anticipated that this will be an opportunity to reassess a number of topics of interest to our members, and to the general public. He stated that at the April 14, 2011 Council meeting, Council struck a Legislation Committee to begin fully considering and preparing for this major opportunity for the association and its members and are still working on developing a full mandate for this key committee.

Scott noted that the present issues under consideration are: professional liability; continuing education, practice standards, and mandatory practice review and issues that we want to consider include: scope of practice, clarifying the scope of practice for LIDs to ensure it's the same in the Act as in the Regulations; current restrictions on corporations; and filling in any regulatory gaps.

He further stated that our legislation is very broad in its scope touching on many specialized areas and due to that we need members for the Legislation Committee, as well as for several sub-committees. He stressed to the members that members will be drawn upon for their unique and specialized strengths to ensure that our revised legislation fully and accurately reflects the realities, and serves the needs, of our professions, and of the general public. In closing he stated that in considering all these issues, the government will expect the Association to look at standards in this province for other profession, therefore, we will ensure that our new *Act* and *Regulations* compare favorably to similar legislation governing architects in other provinces.

Questions/Comments from the Floor:

Karel Porkorny brought forward comments on the membership fees charged to a sole proprietorship vs a large firm; the fees charged to a Visiting Project Architect; the role of the Association in charging fees and collecting taxes; the present and future role of the Practice Review Board; and the importance of having a Peer Review System established in the profession of architecture.

Response: Scott Pickles stated that Council would review the fee items that were brought forward. He also noted that the Practice Review Board is already working on developing a Practice Support Program that will become the defined Practice standards.

ITEM 4

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Scott Pickles stated that the AAA actively engages with the regulators in Canada, and the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA), on several initiatives. He noted that presently there are four Task Forces, and one standing committee with CACB and CExAC, the Examination for Architects in Canada. He then reviewed the following National Task Forces:

Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects' Program (BEFA) Task Force

Scott stated that the BEFA Task Force, is lead by David Edwards, Architect, AAA, SAA, and has a mandate to develop an evaluation system for foreign trained architects. He noted that the Task Force is a partnership consisting of CALA, Architecture Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. The project has been awarded \$1.6 million grant from HRSDC and has started its pilot project which will run to the end of 2011. A competency matrix for architecture in Canada has been developed for the pilot project and will be fine tuned over the course of the year. The end result will then be handed over to Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) to take the evaluation to the next phase of implementation. Assessors will be required and trained for the Assessment Panels (a least two representatives from each jurisdiction) as well as candidates selected for the pilot project. If candidates are successful in the BEFA process they would then be eligible for registration in any provincial jurisdiction. If unsuccessful, they will be given information on how to obtain the training, education or examinations necessary to become eligible.

Intern Architects' Program (IAP) Task Force

Scott Pickles stated that the Task Force is proposing that a new IAP Program be translated and implemented by July 2011. The Task Force acknowledges that there are various legislative/policy/administrative issues which will need to be further resolved in each jurisdiction and that implementation may take longer in some provinces/territory than others. He noted that the base line changes to the Program is in relation to discretionary hours and minimum experience required has been approved by all regulators and CALA will review the recommendations in May 2011.

International Relations Committee (IRC)

Scott Pickles stated that every time Governments reach agreements with other countries, they realize that regulation of the profession must come into play after the fact. Therefore, it is important that the Regulators be at the table on such issues. He noted that Peter Streith, Councillor, has been playing an active role on this task force and is happy to answer any specific questions that member may have on active files.

Scott stated that the IRC is currently working on the following files:

- Inter-Recognition Agreement (Canada/US)
- Tri-National Agreement (NCARB/CALA/FCARM)
- Architect's Council of Europe (ACE)
- Asia/Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Canberra Accord
- Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)
- Quebec/France Bi-Lateral Agreement

Scott stated that discussions are continuing with NCARB on the 'three silos' approach to mutual recognition in light of the proposed changes to the IAP in Canada and the new CExAC – specifically moving away from that approach to recognition of competencies as opposed to process for licensure. The Task Force recently attended an APEC meeting in the Philippines that was very productive in bringing together 37 economies, 14 of which are at the APEC Architect table. There appears to be a push to take down some of the barriers and formulate bi-lateral agreements in the region.

Continuing Education Harmonization Initiative

Scott Pickles stated that "Harmonization will be possible if those who are able to make changes to their programs are willing to do so." He noted that the proposal before each Council is a two-year cycle commencing July 1st which will require 70 hours of learning. Regulators were asked to provide their feedback on the proposed recommendations on what they are able to comply with at the May 2011 CALA meeting. Those who are able to accommodate the recommended changes may do so in order to achieve gradual harmonization. The AAA Council has voted in favor of the recommendation and is working on a gradual implementation plan with an expected completion in 2017.

CACB Standing Committee

Scott Pickles stated that the Standing Committee has worked with the CACB to continue to establish communications and understanding between the CACB, CCUSA, and CALA. He noted that recently a review of the operating budget for the CACB was completed; work is being completed on the development and revisions to the Conditions and Procedures document that should be finalized in 2011; and the committee will make a series of recommendations for consideration by the Regulators. In closing, Scott stated that the Association is fortunate to have Dr. Branko appointed to Council, as he also sits on the CACB as the CCUSA representative.

EXAC

Scott Pickles stated that the EXAC continues to be administered in Alberta. He acknowledged that in Alberta 28 interns registered in 2010 and the Alberta's pass rate was just over 82% compared to the national pass rate was 73.8%.

National Initiative Expenditures

Scott Pickles stated that the total expenditure on CALA initiatives was \$81.54 per member for 2011 and that this represents a 25% increase from the previous year. He noted that the fees are paid out of the membership dues collected by the Association and would be considerably higher had there been no funding received from the Federal government to assist with costs for the BEFA project.

Questions/Comments from the Floor:

Robert Merchant brought forward comments on the following items: the role of the Registration Committee; the role of Mentors vs employers; present log book submissions process; and the importance of members that are supervisors and mentors to be responsible in ensuring that interns are receiving the support and guidance an experience they need and that the log book documentation on the work experience obtained and /or lapsed is completed accurately and in a timely fashion.

Daryl Rewnak brought forward comments on the importance of internship; foreign trained professionals; CACB application process; additional requirements needed to be completed by the interns; and the present frustration for interns in becoming registered.

Response:

Scott Pickles stated that in 2011, Council and Duggan House will be working on improving the Intern Program and the registration process.

ITEM 5**CLOSING REMARKS**

Scott Pickles thanked the members for attending the Member Forum and encouraged members to contact Duggan House administration or him directly if they had any further questions on the items that were brought forward.

The Members Forum adjourned at 3:25 p.m.