



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBER FORUM**  
April 27, 2012

**8:30 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.**

**THE BANFF SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTRE**  
**BANFF, ALBERTA**

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**MEMBER FORUM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Peter Streith called the Member Forum to order at 8:30am. He informed that Agendas are on the tables and floor microphones are available to take comments from the membership at the end of the presentations.

Peter Streith called upon Doug Ramsey to present the report from the Duggan House Committee.

**ITEM 1      DUGGAN HOUSE RENNOVATION**

Doug Ramsey stated that as one of last year's strategic initiatives, Council approved a plan to address the facility issues at Duggan House to ensure it meets safety and building code and have the building barrier-free.

There were a few hurdles in getting starting on the project such as to revise the zoning so that is was not so restrictive yet allowed the ability to build something that respected the historical quality of the building, while addressing the key renovations needs of safety and barrier free.

Once the zoning passed City Council in May of 2011, the AAA went to tender. Tenders were received on June 6, 2011. Bids were higher than anticipated and a period of negotiations commenced with Delnor Construction agreeing to hold their price for this additional period beyond the 30 days. Negotiations resulted in a Letter of Intent being issued to Delnor on July 25, 2011. On July 27, 2011 a construction contract was prepared stipulating a completion date of February 15, 2012.

Since the start of construction a number of issues have conspired to delay construction including the City of Edmonton's delay in issuing a building permit and unforeseen conditions; as with any historical building there are challenges and unforeseen issues. The schedule slipped three weeks and the new Substantial Completion estimate was for March 7, 2012. Due to the delay in getting permanent power from EPCOR, the completion date has been pushed back to March 16, 2012. Duggan House Administration moved back in on March 22, 2012.

The original tender amount was \$977,900. The task force reviewed the tender and was able to reduce some line items and issued a letter of intent for a total of \$962,200. Final cost is coming in at \$998,800 which is a 3.8 % variance. As noted earlier, in the Treasurers report, the cost of the renovation has been covered with cash funds available and will ensure that contributions are made each year to rebuild the funds used.

A total of 10 Change orders have been made, which have dealt with mainly historical / structural issues. The main reasons for the variance: New domestic water line was needed, new Boiler and hot water heater along with heating for the basement, Foundation work as the old was on a sand base, Attic strengthening due to cracking of the brick on back wall, additional brick repairs and lintels, lead base paint removal. A detailed report from our Architect, Burgess Bredo will be available on the AAA website by mid of May.

Seasonal work still needs to be completed and the applications to submit for various grants that are available. Alberta Culture has been working alongside all the way thru the project and have ensured all concerns they may have had have been addressed. Generally speaking, all money used to restore the original building and fees associated with that restoration work will qualify for funding. An Open House will be held on September 14, 2012.

## **ITEM 2**

### **THE PROFESSION IS WHAT YOU CREATE**

Peter Streith stated that through legislated standing committees, a variety of task forces and advisory groups, membership, young and old, new and experienced, are required to develop and provide the strategic leadership to meet the aspirations of the Profession.

Peter reiterated, as mentioned earlier by Scott in the AGM – Council has taken important steps to reduce the tactical workloads of volunteers. Committees have been streamlined by creating a terms of reference that clearly details the mandates, expectations and time commitments. Some committees meet regularly throughout the year while others only come alive when triggered by an event through our legislation. Any member can go to our website and click on the committee and review the terms of reference. In this way, a clear understanding of volunteer roles are available.

Fostering volunteers thru committees to become Council members is a leadership role that your Council has willingly committed themselves to so that our Association is strong well into the future. The Profession is truly what the membership creates. Peter urged the members to take a volunteer postcard from the tables.

Peter called on Doug Ramsey to return for the next presentation.

## **ITEM 3**

### **ARCHITECTS ACT AND GENERAL REGULATION**

Doug Ramsey informed that in 2013, the *Architects' Act*, and General Regulations, will be opened by the provincial government. This will be an opportunity to reassess a number of topics of interest to the

members, and to the general public.

Legislation Committee has started preparing for this major opportunity for the association and its members. There have been several meetings in order to clearly understand the mandate and to identify the issues, such as the opportunity to attend a workshop with Council to develop Guiding Principles which will be used as building blocks for recommendations that are brought forward.

Issues the government wish to include is professional liability, which will involve defining practice standards and practice review processes and policies as well as considering other professionals and membership categories. The Committee is structured where all committee members have taken a lead role to chair a task force that will look at specific issues that have been identified by Council and by the government. These areas are:

- Professional Liability
- Title & Scope
- Practice Review
- Affiliated membership categories
- Practice entities
- Registration
- Joint Board
- Complaints
- Competency Program

In considering all these issues, the government will expect the AAA to look at standards in this province for other professions. The AAA is committed to going further than that and will ensure that the new Act and Regulations compare favorably to similar legislation governing architects in other provinces as well as other self governing professional bodies.

The Practice Support Program (PSP) Task Force is new in 2011 and is an extension of the Practice Review Board and the Legislation Committee. The mandate of the PSP is to develop standards, guiding principles and best practice tools upon which a practice program foundation will be built. Over the next year this group has a very specific mandate in order to be prepared to deal with areas of change within the legislation.

As the Profession grows there is a greater public focus on accountability. This initiative is part of a proactive approach to assisting our members in the conduct of practice faithful to the Architects Act and General Regulation.

As the legislation is very broad in its scope touching on many specialized areas. There is a need of members for several sub-committees, to draw on unique and specialized strengths to ensure that the revised legislation fully and accurately reflects the realities, and serves the needs, of the AAA's professions, and of the general public.

The Mandate of the Committee is to engage members to develop the recommendations for the Act. It's really important to talk directly to as many members as possible about all these issues. These members will

have an impact on professional lives, and it's very important every one has a say.

It will be a busy year in actively recruiting volunteers to fill the task forces. Council has provided resources and funds to ensure the mandate is met and to allow for frequent communications with members and stakeholders on all issues.

Doug asked those members of the Committee who were present to stand as their names were called. Committee Members: Doug Campbell, Dale Taylor, Darryl Rawniak, Randy Krebs, Michele Gunn, Tom Sutherland, Marty Hodgson, Robert Labonte, Judith MacDougall, Beverly Wilson, Scott Pickles, Dianne Johnstone

#### **ITEM 4 NATIONAL INITIATIVES**

Peter Streith stated that on a national level, the AAA actively engages with the regulators in Canada, the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA), on several initiatives. At present there are four task forces, one standing committee, and CExAC, the Canadian Examination for Architects in Canada.

##### **Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects' Program (BEFA) Task Force**

Peter Streith informed that the BEFA Task Force, lead by David Edwards, Architect, AAA, SAA, has the pilot project moving along this year and it is anticipated that the BEFA Program will launch in September of 2012. The regulators have signed an agreement with Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) to run the Program. Assessors have been going through extensive training and we have seen several candidates move through the pilot project. Alberta has the highest number of candidates in the pool for the next phase of the pilot project in early spring of 2012. The hope is to see the result of having the candidates register with in the summer of 2012.

##### **Intern Architects' Program (IAP) Task Force**

Peter Streith stated that the IAP Task Force completed its mandate in late fall and released the new Internship in Architecture Program. It was implemented across the country in January 2012. All regulators are working with their Interns to ensure ease of transition from the old to the new Program. Alberta has also taken this initiative to the Alberta Government and has been successful in receiving a grant through the Innovations Fund to have the IAP manual translated into different languages so that foreign trained architects might look to Alberta first as a place to live and work. The IAP Task Force will be putting forward recommendations to CALA in June 2012 for additional work to be done to try to move more of the items in the Appendix B into the national Program including a national relationship with the new RAIC Syllabus Program offered through the University of Athabasca

##### **International Relations Committee (IRC)**

Peter 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. 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.

Discussions are continuing with NCARB on the approach to mutual recognition in light of the proposed changes to the IAP in Canada and the CExAC – specifically the recognition of competencies as opposed to process for licensure.

### **Continuing Education Harmonization Initiative**

Peter Streith informed that the Council has approved the harmonization of the requirement across Canada being 70 learning hours required over a two year period with full implementation towards this by 2017. The initial adjustment has begun in the reporting cycle from December 31 to June 30. The next step, is how to propose to transition the increase in learning hours into the Program (Members shall be notified in Fall).

### **CExAC**

Peter Streith announced that the AAA is pleased that Jane Pendergast has accepted reappointment as the representative from AAA. The 2011 sitting of the ExAC had more interns registered than ever before. Overall, 579 Intern Architects wrote the Exam with a pass rate of 73.1%. The Exam dates for 2012 are on June 1st ExAC 2012 will be based on the National Building Code of Canada 2010.

### **CALA Spending**

From the AAA dues revenue we subsidize the national activities on a per member basis. Our expenses for these initiatives are lower than last year due to a one time levy for CExAC in 2011.

## **ITEM 5**

### **MEMBER FORUM – QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Peter Streith opened the floor for comments.

Tomislav Cerkvenac (LID) brought forward his concern of the schedule and topics of interest of PD sessions, particularly as they pertain to LID's. He stated that he can only attend the sessions on the Friday and noted that they were of no value to him. He expressed his dissatisfaction of not having a mechanism in place for those wishing to attend some of the seminars. He requested a reason as to why the format has changed regarding how many courses one can take.

### **Response:**

Scott Pickles stated that they had the opportunity to expand the sessions over two days for 2012. Banff committee members and Professional Development Advisory Committee, both of which has LID members on the committee, have looked at and approved the schedule. They will certainly take the comments under advisement for the next Banff Session.

**ITEM 6****CLOSING REMARKS**

Peter Streith thanked everyone for their input for Councils review in the next year. He informed that a survey will be sent out in the May Bulletin and asked for a response to build on the issues that are important in the meeting agendas.

The Members Forum adjourned at 8:45 am.