

AIA MASSACHUSETTS

52 Broad Street • Boston MA 02109-4301 • 617-951-1433 • 800-662-1235 (in Massachusetts) • Fax: 617-951-0845

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) 10 February 2009

Date: February 10, 2009

In Attendance were: George Bachrach Esq., Joseph Drown AIA, Ernest O. Edwards AIA, Diane Georgopoulos FAIA, David Johnson AIA, Stacey Lucas, Wendy McTyre, John Nunnari Assoc. AIA (co-chair), Paul Pezzella, Chris Walsh AIA, Douglas Wohn AIA, Margaret Minor Wood AIA

1. Beginning of Formal Session – Legislative Update:

Paul Pezzella and George Bachrach presenting.

- a. **New Speaker of the House:** former Chair of Ways and Means, Robert DeLeo: Mr. Pezzella described the Speaker as conservative on social issues. He listens carefully and does not appear to come to office with any hard core ideology as a check on principal.
 - Wants a good ethics/rules reform package
 - Wants to look at transportation/gas tax
 - Principal initial focus – a state budget responsive to reduced receipts, consistent with the business recession.
 - Casinos – hasn't been in favor, but has been a consistent support of "racinos" or slots at tracks. (He represents Winthrop/Revere)
 - Pension Reform – Will probably be taken up
 - State budget - The Governor is considering a major increase in the state gasoline tax – perhaps \$0.26 per gallon, a total in excess of \$0.50 per gallon applicable to the transportation and turnpike budgets. Mr. Pezzella expects that there will be an increase in the gasoline tax, perhaps \$0.20 per gallon
 - Committee Assignments – House caucusing today on the rules package. Will caucus later this week to establish Leadership and Committee assignments. Paul expects more women to receive more Chair positions.

b. Freshman Legislators Breakfast:

Twenty six BSA members attended the event along with eight new General Court members and six of their staff. The event was considered a success by all. The group as a whole were appraised as a very good group of new legislators, especially those that moved up from the House to the Senate.

2. Update of MA Zero Energy Task Force.

No report was available.

3. Update of AIA Grassroots/SGN Meeting/Capital Hill visits:

Fourteen BSA/AIA MA members attended.

The principal agenda item was the Economic Stimulus Bill, now having passed both Houses and moved on to the Conference Committee for reconciliation before it moves on to the President's desk for signature.

The attending members were advised to follow up with thank you notes to the congressional contact persons.

4. School Building Construction:

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Mr. Nunnari reporting.

A conversation occurred between BSA Educational Facilities Co-Chair John Miller and Massachusetts Building Authority Executive Director, Katherine Craven. It was reported that Director Craven expects that the State Treasurer will prevail in using prototype school design for 4 or 5 schools already in the approval process.

Mr. Miller has now noted that he feels the BSA should not address this problem through the press; but instead work with Director Craven. Director Craven acknowledged the BSA's concerns regarding the fact that the Norwood HS architectural selection process completed by-passed the MSBA's own Designer Selection Panel process.

Mr. Bachrach recommends that the BSA agree with the state treasurer that construction cost control is essential even though prototype design does not guarantee this objective.

5. State Government Network

Mr. Nunnari presenting:

This organization meets twice each year. This year the agenda included

- Benefits to the state from the Federal Economic Stimulus bill, especially "shovel ready" projects
- Codes
- Transportation issues

A consultant was commissioned to assist, especially in those issues which concern federal funding.

6. Building Code

Mr. Nunnari presenting:

Mr Alexander MacLeod, the Chair of the MA Building Board of Regulations and Standards, (BBRS) expects to make a principal effort to obtain passage of the next (8th) edition of the state building code by September 2009, based on the ICC code without amendments.

Mr. Nunnari recognized that there may be problems in the hearing process concerning certain regulations including the Architectural Access Board regulations.

It was noted that Chairman McLeod intends to try and mitigate the review and advice process for advisory committees which slowed down the implementation process of the 7th edition. Chairmen McLeod would like to strike all MA specific amendments, front end load with MGL's and require that anything specific be run through the national ICC code development process.

7. Central Massachusetts AIA issues

Mr. Nunnari presenting:

The recent meeting agenda included:

- Grassroots objectives
- Earning credits questions
- Good interaction groups
- Political initiatives

One intent is to bring the Western MA AIA chapter into the political process effectively. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 June 2009 in Marlboro MA.

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Ms. Margaret Minor Wood is the chair of the AIA MA Board. Ms. Wood and Messers Edwards and Walsh shared the discussion constructively.

8. Other Business:

Mr. Nunnari was concerned with finding better ways than e-mail to communicate with our constituency.

- how do we get more people involved?
- How can we keep up with available technology for communications?
- How can we best monitor the information generated?

We may expect more discussion on this subject.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the LAC is scheduled for Tuesday 10 March 2009 beginning at 8:30 am in the BSA 5th floor conference room, 52 Broad Street, Boston MA.