

POTOMAC



ASLA

POTOMAC  
CHAPTER  
AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS

P.O. Box 18184  
Washington, DC  
20036-8184

**Executive  
Committee 2008-2009**

*President:*  
Karen Kumm Morris

*President-Elect:*  
Lisa Siri

*Past-President:*  
Ron Kagawa

*Trustee:*  
Faye Harwell

*Secretary:*  
Beth Carton

*Treasurer:*  
Mark Mastalerz

*Members-At-Large:*  
Adele Ashkar  
Jeanette A. Ankoma-Sey  
Melissa Rainer

**Potomac Chapter ASLA – EXCOMM Meeting, Monday December 8, 2008**

Attendees: Karen Kumm Morris Lisa Siri Ron Kagawa  
Mark Mastalerz Jeanette Ankoma-Sey Adele Ashkar  
Beth Carton Melissa Rainer Paul Kelsh

The meeting was brought to order at 6:01pm at the EDAW office in Alexandria.

**President's Report**

EDAW has agreed to print the Awards Banquet certificates. The ExComm will help put certificates in frames at the end of the meeting. The Awards powerpoint was completed and sent to Maryland. Jack Sullivan will be the MC for the evening.

Current DC tax code encompasses all landscape services, including design, under the category of retail taxes. The code enforces retail taxes on landscape architectural services, but professions such as architecture are not similarly taxed. Several chapter firms may face significant back taxes as a result of the tax code. John Fitch of LAB has retained a lawyer to propose changing the tax code and has asked for support by the Chapter. A class action suit would be financially supportable, but not a suit by one entity. The ExComm would support writing letters of support, making phone calls and/or lobbying for a change to the code. Karen will follow up with John Fitch.

The website was updated to reflect the upcoming banquet thanks to Lisa's efforts. The New York Chapter spent 10 hours reviewing the 65 awards submission. Karen and Beth will coordinate thank yous.

**President Elect's Report**

The Time: Space Committee has reserved the George Washington University Jack Morton Auditorium for April 17<sup>th</sup>. A full meeting will be held in early January to organize topics and discuss the NLAM event. The April event is separate from the book/publication. The event's theme is the Principals. The book will be open to all interested professionals who wish to purchase pages. Costs per two page spread are not established yet, but are anticipated to be \$1,200-\$1,500. Affordability will be considered carefully in context with the cost of producing the book.

**Committee Reports**

**Archives**

Jeanette will coordinate to pick up archival material from Johanna Bush and Heather Hammett, and drop it off at the Washingtonian Room.

**Communications**

Melissa has two proposals to overhaul the website. Jeanette and Melissa will clarify the Chapter's website needs and identify options including switching the host, professional support and content management systems.



## **Committee Reports**

### **HALS**

Paul attended the HALS National Meeting Breakfast. At the meeting, a discrepancy was discovered between the Chapters' perception of a HALS Liason and the Park Service's perception of a HALS Chapter Officer. There are three items of concern. First is that HALS funding must be lobbied for each year. \$500,000 has been identified for 2009-2010. The District's lobby day is in February. Secondly, a database of projects to be documented needs to be compiled. An announcement requesting nominations needs to be circulated. 80% of the current list are witness trees/significant trees. The list should include historical and/or significant landscapes. Thirdly, how will this work be accomplished? Should the work be accomplished by student interns with oversight by a historic preservationist? Paul will create a proposal and circulate prior to the ExComm meeting.

### **Fellows Nominating Committee**

From the eligible Chapter members, Doug Hays and John Fitch would like to pursue the process for ASLA Fellow. Early in the new year, the nominees need to meet about the package process, formal process and select a mentor. A one-on-one approach is proposed due to the low response this year. Each nominee will write a letter of endorsement which will be forwarded to the President for signature.

### **Social Committee**

LandDesign has agreed to lead a tour of National Harbor next June. Lisa will follow up on date and status. The visit to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial is set for next fall with Jeff Lee. A visit to the new Capital Visitors Center may be possible. Lisa will contact Mathew Evens, who is the Landscape Architect for the U.S. Capital.

### **Audit**

Ryan Keith is happy to work on the Audit Committee and coordinate responsibilities at the close of the calendar year.

### **Secretary's Report**

The national website is now up and running. In the last month, there were nine lapsed members and ten new members. Letters will be sent out to both groups. The minutes for the November meeting will be reviewed at the January meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The President, President-Elect, and Treasurer will meet on the upcoming budget and present to the ExComm for approval.

The post office box has been renewed.

Mark does not have access to the Smith/Barney account due to the security set up.

Mark will follow up with Ryan Keith who set up the accounts originally. The scholarship fund has approximately \$18,000 currently. The money market fund is at \$31,789 and the check fund is at \$22,805. The Chapter received approximately \$5,000 from the awards submissions. Additional copies of awards certificates were \$7 each, and the Chapter still needs to be paid by the firms. Adele will check the mail for the invoice from National for the awards certificates.



A scholarship fund in Marion Clark's name was discussed.

An email requesting information on construction specifications was discussed among the group. Paul will follow up on the request.

February is Advocacy Month in the District. Last years issues were global warming, voting in DC, and HALS. Wolf and Moran are the Virginia legislators. Follow up in January.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. The meeting will be at the Virginia Tech Alexandria Center at 6:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and all members helped frame the Awards certificates for the banquet.

