

POTOMAC



ASLA

POTOMAC

CHAPTER

AMERICAN

SOCIETY OF

LANDSCAPE

ARCHITECTS

P.O. Box 18184
Washington, DC
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**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 January 12, 2009

Attendees: Karen Kumm Morris Lisa Siri Ron Kagawa
Mark Mastalerz Mike Hill Adele Ashkar
Beth Carton Melissa Rainer Paul Kelsh

Chapter Member Attendees: John Fitch, Don Hoover

The meeting was brought to order at 6:15pm at the Virginia Tech Alexandria Center. The November and December meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Report

John Fitch presented the recent issue concerning the DC retail tax law that applies to all landscape and landscape architectural services. The tax law exempts professional services such as engineering and architecture, but applies to landscape architecture. John Fitch's office has taken measures to pursue an administrative change to the tax law. Andy Oehmenn, a tax lawyer has been retained for this purpose. Mr. Fitch has requested monetary support up to half the anticipated cost, or \$2,500, and other forms of support, such as writing letters, as needed. The chapter is ready to support our DC members and forward the cause and visibility of the profession. Karen will talk to National about getting their support for this item and discuss letters of support and financial support. A possibility of providing financial support with a match from National was discussed, as long a group, not an individual, is being represented in the case. Mr. Oehmenn will be contacted on what measures the chapter can assist with and timing. A motion was made that, 'In principle, we support this initiative to change the DC tax code and are ready to provide letters, and member support, and some financial support to be determined in further conversations with National and solicit National's support.'

February 18th is District Advocacy Day. Projects to promote include the Four Mile Run Restoration Project, National Mall Maintenance, Anacostia Waterway, and HALS. The chapter should have a list of additional local shovel-ready projects to promote. On February 11th there is a web-inar educational opportunity about how to support our cause on the 18th.

There is an upcoming Arlington Girl Scout project at the Shirlington Library about Zen gardens. The troop has contacted the chapter to request a landscape architect to provide design guidance and critique their designs at the end of their project. The same troop may have contacted Adele about the project previously. Karen will follow up with the contact.

2010 Coordination

National will prepare and coordinate with the Potomac Chapter after the 2009 National Meeting in Chicago. A Potomac Chapter 2010 Committee will be formed to plan and prepare for the event. Karen will head the committee and Elliot Rhodeside and Faye have offered to be on the committee. The chapter will not solicit sponsors and will be receiving \$25,000 from National. The committee will propose brochures, information items, tours and field sessions.

Time:Space Committee - NLAM

The committee is preparing a timeline to solicit participants. The event space has been reserved for the whole day, and the committee is considering splitting the day into two halves depending on the participants. A list of participant candidates is being compiled, including all directors, presidents and principals across all aspects of the profession including the public sector. Public sector members who are a Division Chief or higher will be solicited. Academic/education related members will be reserved for the fall event. Lisa will be coordinating the event and will come back to the ExComm when further details/duties are set. The committee will develop a timeline for the book and forward it to Faye.

Committee Reports

Communications

The proposals for the website came in at \$5,800, \$7,200, \$5,000 without re-design, and \$18,000. The consensus among the responses is that CMS will require a re-design of the website. Melissa will try to get more information on the best quotes, \$5,800 and \$7,200, about monthly costs, host locations, etc. It was stressed that we need CMS capability on the website. The website needs to be ready for upcoming events, but especially the 2010 National Meeting. The ExComm members will give feedback on the problems, ideas, changes, etc to the current web design and report back in February.

Thank you to Lisa for getting the website updated with the awards.

Membership

With the changing job market, many of our members may have incorrect contact information in our database. This is an important time to improve networking. Beth will place a reminder for members to update their contact information in the next newsletter. Beth will also compile a list of email bounce-back contacts to share with the ExComm in February.

Fellows Nominating Committee

Lisa Delplace contacted Doug Hayes and John Fitch, who are now working on their applications. They will send letters of endorsement to Karen to modify and sign.

Social Committee

Lardner/Klein will host the Open Office Happy Hour in February. The exact date will be coordinated by Lisa. LandDesign previously agreed to lead a tour of National Harbor next June. Lisa will follow up with Matt Clark or Aaron Harnden on the status of the tour. Jeff Lee's tour of the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial needs to be coordinated with other ASLA events, especially the 2009 National Meeting.

Sponsorship

Karen will send Mark the folder with the list of previous sponsors, script, etc.

Secretary's Report

There were seven new members since December, and seven lapsed members. Letters for these members are ready to be signed and sent. The total number of current members is 340.

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Treasurer's Report

Mark reported on the accounts. The money market account has approximately \$31,800; the checking account is at \$28,735; approximately \$680 was collected from chapter dues; CIP funds of \$5,577 have been awarded for the Time:Space Project; and approximately \$18,500 is in the scholarship account.

Student Chapter Report

Student elections are to be held in January. A first and second President-Elect will be selected to ensure coordination through the years. Dues-paying membership is up, but active members are down. The student chapter is working to engage the membership. There will be a portfolio review in February/March. There will possibly be a small film series of three films and one speaker, possibly showing the films from last year's September film event. The students are working to organize a kickball tournament in April between the professions – Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning- as a fund raising event. There will also be a year-end farewell party.

Marion Clark Scholarship

A scholarship fund has been set up at George Washington University. Adele will send Karen a letter explaining the scholarship to include in the next newsletter. The ExComm voted to support the new scholarship fund by donating \$1,000 from the regular fund and contributing yearly if possible.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 9th of February. The meeting will be at the Lee Center in Alexandria at 6:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

