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Published by the Bronx Chapter AIA Publications Committee to highlight activities and information of interest to the Practicing Architect.

## Newsletter

**NOTICE** :Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic corona virus the March meeting was canceled and this newsletter combines March and April's activities. In addition, due to the work from home order, this and subsequent newsletters will be abbreviated to include only the basic activities of the AIA Bronx Chapter until the health crisis is over.

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• AIA Convention 2020 - <b>Canceled</b> May 14-16, 2020 Los Angeles, California Link: <a href="https://conferenceonarchitecture.com">https://conferenceonarchitecture.com</a>	
• Bronx Center Tour – 2 CEU - <b>Canceled</b> May 9, 2020 – 10am to 12:00pm Meet: At the SW corner of Grand Concourse and East 161st Street Contact: Bob Esnard at <a href="mailto:besnard@dzco.com">besnard@dzco.com</a> Tel: 212-977-4800	
V Next Chapter Meeting is Thursday May 28, 2020 at 6:00pm.	

## I Current Activities



APRIL 16, 2020

### AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 12:16pm

#### Attendees:

Bob Esnard

Antonio Freda

Sara Djazayeri

Ken H. Koons, Sr.

Ken A. Koons, Jr.

Josette Matthew

Julian Misiurski

Frank Molinini

Martin Zelnik

#### MINUTES

##### 1. Adoption of February minutes

This meeting is the first meeting since February due to the corona virus pandemic. There was no March meeting as the meeting venue is closed. The chapter officers suggested that until the crisis is over all meetings will be “zoom”, virtual meetings. The chapter secretary organized the meeting but unfortunately, due to “inexperience” of set up and meeting participants, six members who had accepted the invitation were not able to join. Hopefully, if future meetings are virtual the “inexperience” we be solved and all will attend.

The February minutes were briefly discussed. Since members did not have copies in front of them to review, it was agreed by acclamation to accept them with members reviewing them in the next few days to indicate if any changes should be made for the record.

2. Next meeting dates and sponsorship

The next meeting dates will be:

May 28, 2020 7:00pm

June 18, 2020 12:00pm

Sept. 17, 2020 7:00pm

Oct. 15, 2020 12:00pm

Members discussed the above dates and decided to leave them stay as planned, as luncheons and dinners at our meeting venue restaurant all include sponsorship seminars. The chapter has sponsorship agreements for the rest of the year's meetings. Unfortunately, as was the case with this month's meeting, the sponsor preferred to reschedule and not be part of a virtual meeting. The chapter will attempt to hold to the scheduled sponsors with seminars, but if an in-person meeting is not possible encourage them to provide the credits as part of a virtual meeting. However, if a future sponsor declines, we will reschedule them for a future in person seminar and we will attempt to secure another sponsor willing to participate in a virtual meeting.

3. Chapter committees

Education:

Sarah Djazayeri reported that the proposed educational outreach program on March 11, 2020 at PS86, in the Kingsbridge Heights section of the Bronx was  **canceled**  due to the increasing impact of the virus indicating that all New York City schools were to be closed. Sara organized publicity on Cable TV broadcasting from PS86. The group of students was to meet in the Bronx and then have a workshop in a Manhattan architectural firm. The idea was for students to experience a theoretical project and "work" as an architect. Sara's hope is to reschedule this wonderful event in the next school year when school resumes.

Events:

Josette Matthew also indicated that the three activities that the Events Committee was planning had to be  **canceled**  or postponed due to the health crisis.

**Yankees Stadium Event;** was to join forces with AIA Westchester Hudson Valley and host a second tour of Yankee Stadium, followed by attending a game. A future date will be developed when baseball is resumed and will include one 1 CEU unit for attendee credit.

**Baychester Site Visit;** This tour is of a Baychester nursing home in the Bronx with Willy Zambrano AIA, the project architect and a member of the AIA Queens Chapter. The event date will be scheduled after the crisis ends and will also include 1 CEU unit for member credit.

**Joint Networking Event;** Josette Mathew is currently a member of the AIA State Committee for Emerging Professionals (EP) and will organize a networking event for

newer AIA members. Frank Molinini, the Chapter's representative indicated that the last meeting in Albany was cancelled due to the health crisis. The State Committee will reschedule the meeting and planning for the Joint Networking event will also have to wait for the end of the health crisis.

**Audit:** Bob Esnard indicated that the Chapter's Audit Committee, consisting of the Chapter's President, Vice President and Secretary, are required by National AIA to quarterly review the Bronx Chapter financials. This year's first quarter audit may be a little late due to the health crisis. The paper statement from our bank was sent through the mail to our Treasurer's closed office and was delayed. However, the committee will shortly be able to perform its' work, assuring the chapter that the financials will be consistent with the adopted 2020 budget and that the Chapter continues to operate with a surplus.

4. NYC – DOB

Due to the pandemic virus, the Department of Buildings has promulgated several urgent directives and bulletins over the last few weeks concerning the construction industry in terms of; filing for projects getting approvals and permits as well as safety requirements for ongoing construction. Tony Freda reviewed some of the rules and highlighted the fact that the DOB's staff continues to work, but mostly electronically. Construction is allowed only for the safety of the public, construction employees and must be limited to "essential construction". The only work permitted must be; related to protecting the public, governmental infra -structure, or affordable housing. All other work is to be completed, stopped or suspended until the health crisis is over.

All new work deemed nonessential will be disapproved or delayed until the crisis passes.

5. Information Cloud:

The National AIA has requested that all Chapters develop a "Cloud" to store all Chapter information and documents in a secure way and be accessible to members. After a short discussion, Josette Mathew volunteered to work on the Chapter cloud. She will contact National AIA and review what other Chapters have done to develop our cloud to be at the "level" of operation required by National AIA.

6. Continuing Education:

The Bronx Chapter's Spring Tour of the Bronx Civic Center scheduled to take place on Saturday May 9, 2020 was **cancelled** as well, due to the pandemic virus. This tour of the Bronx was to be co-sponsored by the Bronx County Historical Society. Lloyd Ultan the Bronx County Historian and Julian Misiurski of the Chapter, were to lead the tour for 2-CEU credits. This tour will be rescheduled for early fall.

7. Chapter Directory:

E&M Consulting a private marketing company has proposed that they will publish and

market a Directory of Chapter members, highlight its' activities, as well as Bronx architecture. They have created this kind of Directory for other Chapters and professional organizations. The Chapter has discussed this at several prior meetings and a directory was/is seen as an asset, especially if there is no cost to the Chapter. However, the Chapter would be taking on an obligation, providing information and coordinating materials in a, timely and "acceptable format" for publication. In addition, the Chapter would have to assist in updating the material and other information, which would require a significant amount of member's time. After, a short discussion, there were no volunteers willing to work on the directory. Membership chose at this time, to decline E&M's proposal.

8. New Business:

The Chapter Vice President Sara Djazayeri suggested The Bronx Chapter start publicizing/informing our members and the Bronx construction about government or foundation programs and opportunities for help and assistance. As professionals living in NYC with the pressures created by the business shut down, any available extra help and assistance would be appreciated. Marty Zelnik also indicated that the Real Estate Industry is severely impacted as many tenants both residential and commercial are having trouble economically and are suffering. He seconded the suggestion and the Chapter agreed that through our Chapter notices and its' web activities, the Chapter should share as much information that will help architects and the Bronx business community as much as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.

Next Meeting – If the health crisis allows and the meeting venue Artie's Restaurant is open, the next meeting will be an in-person dinner meeting at 6:00pm. Otherwise, it will be a virtual meeting. The meeting notices will specifically indicate in-person or virtual.

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THE END