



AIA Bronx Chapter

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Publication Committee

fredadesign@hotmail.com

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, the March and April newsletter was combined and 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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I Current Activities



May 28, 2020

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 7:06pm

Attendees:

Ofe Clarke

Bob Esnard

Sara Djazayeri

Ken H. Koons, Sr.

Ken A. Koons, Jr.

Julian Misiurski

Bryan Zelnik

Martin Zelnik

MINUTES

1. Adoption of March/April minutes

This meeting is the second virtual meeting since February due to the corona virus pandemic. As the meeting venue is closed, all meetings until the health crisis is over will be “zoom”, virtual meetings. The chapter secretary organized the meeting remotely but unfortunately, due to a power outage and new security requirements of setting up virtual meeting seven members who had accepted the meeting invitation were not able to join. Hopefully, any future virtual meetings issues will be minimized as, the chapter Vice President Sara Djazayeri who has more “zoom experience” volunteered to host the meeting. The March/April minutes were discussed, Ken Koons Sr. made a motion to accept. Sara Djazayeri then seconded the motion and the members unanimously accepted the minutes.

2. Next meeting dates and sponsorship

The next meeting dates will be:

June 18, 2020 12:00pm

Sept. 17, 2020 6:00pm

Oct. 15, 2020 12:00pm

Nov. 19, 2020 6:00pm

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. Unfortunately, as was the case with the last few meetings, sponsors 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, we will reschedule them for a future in person seminar.

3. Chapter committees

Audit: Bob Esnard indicated that the Chapter's Audit Committee, consisting of the Chapter's President, Vice President and Secretary, as required by National AIA, reviewed the first quarter. The committee reported that in the quarter, the chapter had \$2,429 in expenses with \$7,094 income and when combined with the opening balance, closed the quarter with a balance of \$40,710. As this review indicates that the financials are consistent with the adopted 2020 budget and that the Chapter continues to operate with a surplus. The audit was accepted by the chapter unanimously after a motion from Ken Koons and a second by Julian Misiurski.

Education:

Sarah Djazayeri reported that several construction related businesses that she has interfaced with had requested that the Bronx Chapter help distribute their old or unused computer equipment to school children who do not have them and cannot access the remote learning only school available to them. Due to her school contacts in developing a Chapter educational outreach she was able to make a quick link assist some needy children on behalf of the Chapter.

Events:

Josette Matthew although was unable to join the zoom meeting discussed her activity with the chapter Secretary. Unfortunately, until the health crisis ends her committee has to be canceled or postponed. The three activities that the Events Committee were planning:

Yankees Stadium Event: to join forces with AIA Westchester Hudson Valley and host a second tour of Yankee Stadium, followed by attending a game.

Baychester Site Visit; A tour of a Baychester nursing home in the Bronx with Willy Zambrano AIA, the project architect and a member of the AIA Queens Chapter.

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 the newer AIA members.

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. The Staten Island AIA Chapter has written a few letters to the DOB and copied the other New York City Chapters strongly questioning the rules allowing only “essential” that require Architects or Engineers to take on liabilities to police activities on the work site that are more appropriate to the Contractors performing the work or the Owners who are requesting/paying for the work.

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. In addition, Bob Esnard reviewed two recent rule changes for construction from **New York City** and **New York State**.

The **New York City** Department of Buildings issued a [service notice](#) that begins the process of ramping up for when the suspension of non-essential construction is ultimately lifted.

As of Monday, June 1st:

- Alt-2 and Alt-3 BIS applications must be submitted through eFiling.
- Inspection requests for non-essential construction can now be submitted through DOB NOW: Inspections. Once the suspension of non-essential construction is lifted these inspections will be performed.
- DOB NOW: Build will allow for submission of initial permit requests for non-essential construction.

As of Wednesday, June 3rd:

- Initial permit submission for BIS applications for non-essential construction will occur through eSubmit.

Even with these changes, the Department has asked us to remind you that while they will be issuing permits for non-essential work, that work must not commence until the suspension of non-essential construction is lifted. The Department continues to perform inspections of both essential and non-essential construction sites.

The **New York State** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published; A [new guidance](#) for office buildings was created that the CDC encourages architects to review. New York State will continue to develop guidance for commercial office buildings and other real estate professionals in the near future.

5. Information Cloud:

Josette Mathew volunteered last meeting to work on the developing the Chapter Cloud to store all Chapter information and documents. She contacted Valerie Brown, the Executive Director of the Westchester + Hudson Valley AIA Chapter and Bob Esnard will put her in contact with the Chapter web site coordinator Bill Caplan. Last year, Bill had done some preliminary investigation on the AIA National's Cloud requirements and may be of some help.

6. Continuing Education:

The Bronx Chapter's Chapter based programs and tours; of the Bronx buildings, neighborhoods and construction developments, all are suspended, due to the pandemic virus. However, in addition to having an agreement with the Westchester + Hudson Valley Chapter to share their CEU generated opportunities, the Bronx Chapter has been sending free or minimum costs, virtual CEU internet web based seminars to membership as the Chapter leadership learns of them.

7. New Business:

The only new business discussed was the impact on everyone, not only in construction, but the world. Members look forward to returning to normal soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next Meeting – As the health crisis is expected to continue through the month of June and the meeting venue Artie's Restaurant will be closed. Therefore, the next meeting will be it will be a virtual meeting on Thursday June 18, 2020 at 12:00PM

THE END