



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

Newsletter

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I Current Activities



June 16, 2022

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:04pm.

Attendees:

Bill Caplan

Sara Djazayeri

Robert Esnard

Antonio Freda

Arionnys Hororio

Linda P. Infante

Ken H. Koons, Sr.

Ken A. Koons, Jr.

Laszio Kovacs

Jerin Lisha

Alyssa Manfredonia

Josette Matthew

Julian Misiurski

Matthew Rezkallo

Bryan Zelnik

Guest

Christina Keegan

Architectural Marketing

McKeon Door East, Inc.

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar:

Christina Keegan, Regional Sales Representative of McKeon Door East, Inc. presented a seminar on "Fire & Smoke Rated Curtains." Christina introduced McKeon Door East, Inc. as a manufacturer of fire doors, fire shutters, fire curtains, smoke curtains and security grilles. The business is physically based in Bellport, New York that started in Brooklyn, N.Y. as a family-owned business. Now they have offices in six states with all their products manufactured in the United States.

Christina Keegan utilized slides/photos in her presentation and ended with a question-and-answer period. She illustrated and indicated that fire doors can be manufactured supporting all building required fire code requirements while allowing the buildings to

physically function economically without limiting people from circulating efficiently and safely.

Christina concluded with a summary of McKeon Door Company operations and that emphasized they are a United States company which supplies a unique mix of interior fire door and smoke curtain systems for almost any situation. Christina welcomes questions and is willing to assist architects with their projects large or small and can be reached at:

Christina Keegan
Regional Sales Representative
McKeon Taylor Riley
44 Sawgrass Drive
Bellport, NY 11713
Email: CKeegan@McKEONDoor.com
Cell: 631-466-5597
Ph: 800-266-9392

2. Next Meeting Dates:

The meetings for the near future will continue to be virtual as Members are still not comfortable participating in person or in enclosed restaurant venues. However, the wish and need to have some in-person meetings was again reviewed, as members very much missed the interaction. However, to this day the Chapter still has not been able to find a suitable meeting location near mass transit with parking. In addition, Ken Koons Sr. observed that since we have been meeting virtually, we have had many more members attend. Our in-person meetings historically were between 6-12 attendees, whereas currently there are regularly 12-20 members attending. Therefore, it was agreed that at least until the beginning of next year, the Chapter will continue to be virtual with scheduled meetings on:

September 15, 2022 at 6:00pm
October 20, 2022 at 6:00pm
November 17, 2022 at 6:00pm
December 15, 2022 at 6:00pm

3. Strategy Discussion – At the last meeting in May members observed that with a few exceptions, Bronx Chapter associates have not been consistently involved in Chapter activities. It was suggested that the Chapter suspend its normal agenda process for the June meeting to discuss Chapter goals and strategies, with a strong desire to encourage more associate member involvement. In the May meeting, it was thought that as June is the last meeting before summer break, that the agenda should be modified and/or limited, to allow for the more general strategy discussion. In addition, the hope was to have discussions with as many members of the Chapter as possible including both associates and registered members reviewing how all members could participate, and if the Chapter could assist associates in their professional development.

Bob Esnard, the Chapter Secretary called several associate members who had previously attended meetings but had not been all to participate and/or attend meetings during the winter and spring months. A specific email invitation was sent to associate members to attend the June meeting if they can, suggesting if the 6:00pm timing was the problem, to join around 7:00pm and not to worry about being on time or missing the first hour of the CEU Seminar. (Appendix – Association Invitation to Strategy Meeting)

At this meeting there were approximately fifteen members attending, evenly split between associates and members. All introduced themselves and approximately a 30-minute discussion developed where specifically associates Jerin Lisha, Arionnys Hororio, Linda Infante, and Josette Matthew reviewed their thoughts and ideas. Apparently, one of the stumbling blocks for attending meetings was the starting meeting time of 6:00pm. Associates are almost all commuting home or attending study sessions in early weekday evenings. In addition, associates expressed a desire to be more involved and would like to see if somehow, through a “buddy” system matching associates with licensed members could foster communications, advice, and/or possible assist with their professional development. A major final issue discussed was to have time for study, to pass the various sections of the State Architectural License Exam while working. There was a willingness from some of the older Chapter members to assist them and suggested perhaps to modify our meeting procedure allowing associates easier access and have the regularly CEU seminars separately from the regular meetings, promoting better communication between the younger and older Chapter members.

It was agreed by all, that further discussion was necessary, and over the summer months a meeting and if necessary an additional meeting, could be scheduled to develop an approach to modify the Chapter’s operations to allow associates more accessibility. It was tentatively agreed, that we would try to set up a summer first zoom meeting on a Saturday in summer late afternoon, to explore specific ideas and how programing or changes could evolve.

The Chapter secretary will set up/inform members of a potential scheduled date for the session.

Normal Agenda Items

Since the strategy discussions took longer than expected and as it was late in the evening, it was agreed to abbreviate the normal agenda in the following matter.

4. Adoption of the May Minutes:
Although the Minutes of May 19, 2022 had been circulated there was no discussion. The May minutes would be reviewed and adopted with this June’s minutes at the next scheduled AIA Chapter meeting on September 15, 2022.

5. DOB – New Commissioner

There was a short discussion concerning the DOB and the new Commissioner Eric Ulrich. Commissioner Ulrich requested a special meeting with the five New York City AIA Chapter Presidents, all of whom were present with Sara attending the meeting representing the Chapter. Although our President Sara Djazayeri is currently out of the country, attended this meeting from the Istanbul, Turkey airport. She reported that Commissioner Ulrich was cordial and welcomed a discussion with the chapter Presidents who raised general concerns and some issues that architects and the construction industry are having with DOB. The Commissioner seemed to be open to listening/learning from the industry on how things could be improved, with the hope that DOB operations could be more effective. Sara indicated that the presidents were generally pleased to have this direct communication, especially during these Covid times when personal interaction with DOB staff is next to impossible. The historic/standard way of resolving DOB issues was to visit a borough office. Unfortunately, DOB will probably never return to a “personal” only interaction. However, the industry is hopeful that a combination of; internet, telephone, and some meetings would resolve problems quicker than total, exclusively digital interaction. This type a Commissioner’s introductory meeting, especially for a non-construction commissioner, so soon after appointment, was unexpected and the first time in recent memory that a newly appointed Commissioner had invited the AIA presidents and asked about their concerns in his private office while encouraging a healthy communication between all parties. The Commissioners’ meeting ended cordially with a promise to work together in the future - time will tell!

6. Chapter Committees

The Chapter held its first 2-CEU Tour since the covid crisis started with a Tour on June 4th of the Northwest Bronx titled “The Mixed Uses of Norwood”. Julian Misiurski, as the registered architect for the Tour, joined Roger McCormick of the Bronx County Historical Society. Roger and Julian took approximately half a dozen people on a Tour reviewing architectural, zoning and land use issues that were responsible for the evolution and development of the Norwood Community. It was a beautiful day and Julian indicated that the attendees enjoyed the walk and hoped that we continue with another Tour in the fall. He hoped that members would understand the benefits of receiving some CEU credits while enjoying the exercise, as well as, the interesting history and architectural facts of these Tours.

7. New Business

The meeting concluded with a hope that discussions over the summer with associate members would include some of the associate attendees ideas mentioned during this meeting, as well as, the ideas that Michael Goldblum had suggested at prior meetings. Michael had proposed that a few members and/or associates work on a report of Bronx Development issues creating some “visibility” for the Chapter. In addition, other members wanted to be sure the Scholarship program should also be worked on with CCNY’s Architectural School for a second year which will result in awards being given out sometime in early 2023.

The meeting ended at 7:41pm.

IV. Next Meeting:

Due to the continuing health crisis the next meeting will again be Virtual on:

Thursday September 15, 2022,

at 6:00PM

IV Appendix

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Appendix - Associate Invitation to a Strategy Meeting

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Appendix

Associate Invitation to a Strategy Meeting

Dear Chapter Associate Members:

This email is specifically being sent to all Bronx Chapter Associate Members to highlight a change in our normal Chapter meeting protocol. We have scheduled at our next Chapter meeting on the attached Agenda of June 16, 2022, short first agenda item:

At approximately 7:00pm

To discuss Member Needs/issues with Chapter Associates.

It has been brought to our attention, that many of our associates have trouble attending our Zoom 6:00pm AIA Meetings due to their work/study schedule and/or travel. The hope is to discuss how the Chapter and associates can participate better in Chapter activities and discuss ways for the Chapter to assist in developing the experience and knowledge for you to pass the "License Exam".

In addition, there are many areas where Associates can be involved:

Ongoing chapter operations/organizing,

Be on Chapter committees,

Working on laws and DOB regulations and approval process,

Lobby elected officials that are important to the AIA and the neighborhoods you live in,

Representing the Chapter at;

AIA functions.

At community meetings,

Bronx construction/development issues/events.

Local Schools to talk about architecture.

This invitation is meant to encourage Associate participation in this last meeting before the summer break even if you cannot attend the whole meeting.

Zoom Access Information below.

Topic: AIA Bronx Chapter June Meeting

Time June 16, 2022, 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9948476766>

Bob Esnard, AIA

Secretary



The End