

Minutes

**Toronto Society of Architects
February Meeting**
6 February, 2007 – 6:30pm to 8:45pm
Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm Street

Present:

Andre Delia	Gianpiero Pugliese	Matthew Galvin
Andrew Macpherson	Guillermo Cordero	Max Mcquinn
Antone Frisina	Hamish Goodwin	Meg Graham
Antonio Gómez-Palacio	Heather Dubbeldam	Michael Leckman
Bindya Lad	Ian Chodikoff	Phil Goodfellow
Bruce Semple	Jennifer Conron	Rafael Gomez
Carlo Milessa	Joe Lobko	Rafid Kustou
Charles Campell	Karl Sarkis	Scott Sorli
Christopher McCormack	Leslie Jen	Susan Lewin
Danny Harvey	Lyn Northey	Tania Bortolotto

1. Introduction

- Antonio welcomed the group and indicated that this was the first meeting after the elections; accordingly, the new Executive was introduced.
- A new format for upcoming meetings was briefly discussed; noting the addition of an urban forum portion, and the reduction of the housekeeping portion.
- 'Around the room' introductions followed.

2. Approval of November 2006 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the last meeting, held November 9th, 2006, were circulated.
- Antonio explained the TSA's mandate, set out the initiatives to be discussed at the meeting, and encouraged everyone to become involved.
- Joe motioned to approve the minutes, Phil seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

3. TSA Initiatives

- *Newsletter:*
 - Heather noted that the most recent issue of the newsletter was being published. In the past, the newsletter was a quarterly publication; however, this year there is a possibility of introducing co-editing with sister disciplines. Six publications are being considered for next 12 to 18 months.

- *Website:*
 - Christopher briefly outlined the work that had been undertaken for the website. He noted that the project started during the last half of 2006. The direction for the website is to increase the dynamism and interest in the organization; consequently, the website is to be used as a virtual office. He advised that the website is an opportunity to let the community know what's going on (i.e., upcoming meetings and events); therefore, the graphics and content are to change each month. It was indicated that there is another month until its launch, and that a content management system is currently being established.
- *Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC):*
 - Christopher provided an overview of DIAC, noting that it is composed of the six design disciplines (architecture, landscape architecture, and interior, industrial, graphic, and fashion design). He indicated that in 2004 a study was undertaken of the design workforce in Ontario, which concluded that Toronto has the third largest population of design professionals in North America. It was also noted that DIAC acts as a missing link between the design industry, government, and the general public.
- *NCARB:*
 - Antonio introduced Andrew, the new NCARB coordinator.
 - Andrew indicated that a Structure and a Graphic workshop are planned for 2007. The Graphic workshop is set to take place on June 23, 2007, while the structure workshop has been allotted for the fall.
 - Andrew also expressed an interest in introducing additional workshops such as a LEED preparation exam workshop as well as a BCIN workshop. He noted that there was a 30% NCARB success rate, which was poor.
 - Andrew shared how he had been involved with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), where there was a lot of support for interns, and proposed to foster similar support for members at the intern level through the TSA. He elaborated on some implementing ideas, which included: an intern party at the end of the workshops; putting interns in elementary schools to help foster an intern architect generation; and, a design camp for kids during the summer.
 - Scott and Heather mentioned that the summer camp was an initiative they had pursued three years ago. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful due to publicity issues, and a lack of enrolment.
 - It was also noted that DIAC, OCAD, Ryerson and George Brown have been putting forth efforts to start Grade 8/9 level workshops.
 - It was agreed that getting design in the Toronto School Board as a conscious effort, was of importance.
- *Urban Affairs:*
 - Phil spoke about the new Urban Affairs portion of the monthly meetings. He indicated that different themes are anticipated every month; suggesting 'Heritage' and 'Urban Watershed' as future themes. It was open to anyone to

bring forth themes, as the TSA could provide a forum for funding and connections, and could relay the information to its members through newsletters, the website, etc.

- *Guide Map:*
 - Joe provided an update on the Guide Map initiative. In 2003, the TSA published a guide map. Work on publishing a second in the series was underway. The initiative has been ongoing for one and a half years, and a May deadline is anticipated so that the map can debut at the Festival of Architecture and Design (fAd). The upcoming map will focus on Open Spaces. A grant was not received from the Canada Council for the Arts; however, the initiative will still proceed.
- *fAd:*
 - Antonio explained that fAd is an initiative that is being headed by the City of Toronto, and includes events such as Doors Open, TSA Film Series, etc. The organizers are currently recruiting people who are initiatives that coincide with the festival, and in the past, the TSA has also contributed by organizing a poster competition.
- *TSA Film Series:*
 - Scott gave a brief overview of the Film Series. He noted that viewership has increased since it began showing at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The series runs during fAd, one day a week for four consecutive weeks. As the ROM is currently under renovation, we are waiting for confirmation for its use. Scott welcomed any ideas and suggestions for loose themes noting that it was an architectural film series.
 - Rafael noted that it was the 40th anniversary of Expo in Montreal, and suggested that this may be an appropriate theme.
- *120th Year Initiatives:*
 - Antonio informed the group that this was TSA 120th year of operation, and that we may want to pursue initiatives that highlight and/or celebrate this accomplishment.

4. 2007 Budget

- Copies of proposed 2007 budget were distributed.
- Susan indicated that the 2006 expenses were used as a guide to develop the budget for 2007, and went over the original budget for 2006, and actual expenses for 2006. Expenses in 2006 were \$131,000, and resulted in a small surplus. It was noted that every year there had been an increase in revenue and more spending. A balanced budget was presented for 2007.
- Antonio moved to approve the budget for 2007, Scott seconded the motion and the budget was approved. A copy of the budget is attached to these minutes for information.

5. Current Affairs – Shaping Communities

- Antonio introduced the format for the remaining portion of the meeting; indicating that there were three presenters, who would be given five minutes each to speak about key initiatives that were being undertaken within the City.

a. Charles Campbell – Queen West Triangle | Active 18 Steering Committee

- Charles noted that he is a lawyer who works with Active 18, a citizens, residents and business-owners association, formed to answer to proposed development located south of Queen St West in the Queen St Triangle. Active 18 had been fighting the case with the City against the developer for three years. The case was heard at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) where it was approved in favour of the developer. The City of Toronto Council has decided to appeal the OMB decision.
- Issues with the OMB approved development were discussed. These included:
 - The role of the OMB;
 - A reduction in industrial and non-residential land uses, which was against the City's no-net loss of industrial lands policy, and its implications on zoning, tax policy, and jobs;
 - Challenges to the City's Planning Department given the amount of workload versus the number of staff and the lack of Planning Department budget;
 - Massing and substantial intensification;
 - The City's unsuccessful attempt to save the warehouse building at 48 Bell Street for future use as art studios under the Heritage Act through cultural rather than historical significance;
 - Issues with the park location; and,
 - The need for proactive planning in Toronto, and the need to invest in neighbourhood planning to provide context for future development.

b. Tania Bortolotto – Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) Design Review Panel

- Tania, a member of the TWRC Design Review Panel (DRP) presented an overview of the TWRC and the work of the DRP. She noted that the lands from the Humber River to the Beaches formed the Waterfront, and the DRP reviewed requests for proposals for these lands. The mandate of the panel is to achieve design excellence. The panel meets once a month. Projects are reviewed at various stages of the design process. The panel undertakes a high level of co-ordination as it deals with community groups as well as City staff.
- Several issues were discussed, including:
 - The City of Toronto is to launch a DRP as a pilot project, and ample participation from our membership is encouraged;

- The importance of getting the right people on the panels, and that the organization of the panel is critical, and its implementation should be systematic;
- How the TWRC DRP incorporates community input in their design process;
- The supportive roles of the TWRC DRP and the Planning Department was discussed; and,
- Whether the TSA should be supporting the DRP rather than City Planning Department was questioned. It was agreed that together both the Planning Department and Design Review processes resulted in increased due diligence, and better projects, which is particularly important for contentious sites.

c. Rafael Gomez – Stripmalls of Scarborough

- Rafael presented a project from ThinkTankToronto. He noted that there is a negative connotation with the east end (i.e., Scarborough). To create a positive connotation, ThinkTankToronto is working on a project in an east end neighbourhood in Scarborough - Wexford. The project site comprised of one block, with four major intersections: Victoria Park; Birchmount; Pharmacy; and Lawrence. The block had been 'tuned out' over the years.
- Rafael indicated that gathering people with creative talents was one of the mandates of his company.
- He touched upon other projects his company has been working on, including:
 - 54 East – a soundtrack for the 54 East bus route that provides a connection to the community it services; and,
 - Orphan Spaces - a design competition for public squares in forgotten places (resultants of amalgamation) being implemented in conjunction with Canadian Architect magazine.
- A discussion on public and private spaces in suburban areas followed, including:
 - A recognition of unrecognized spaces and the opportunity to provide them with rejuvenated roles;
 - The vital role of mixed-use environments to shapping communities; and,
 - Acknowledgment of the lack of design in public gathering spaces in these areas, and a realization that many of the effectively public spaces are found in strip malls, with private spaces being used for multiple causes (i.e., restaurants doubling as community centres).
- Phil recognized the emergence of a self-organization theme in Toronto. He noted that members of these groups crossed over, and if these different interests came together, they could help each other.
- Joe raised the issue that the architecture community was downtown centric, and needs to be less downtown centric. It was suggested that the TSA encourage discussion on North York, Etobicoke, and other suburban places through its newsletter, etc., and that the TSA become more active through the use of competitions.



The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next TSA General Meeting will take place on Tuesday March 6th, 2007, at 6:30 pm, at the Arts and Letters Club.

**TSA
2007
BUDGET**

3/3/2007

		BUDGET		BUDGET
		2006	2006	2007
		BUDGET	DEC.31/06	DRAFT
	REVENUE			
1	Previous year Surplus / (Deficit)	25,698.48	25,698.48	37,818.49
2	Membership- OAA	28,000.00	30,025.00	30,000.00
	Membership- Other	3,000.00	1,646.75	1,500.00
3	OAA Special Projects Funds- Archives	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
4	OAA Per Capita Funding- TSA	14,000.00	14,980.00	15,000.00
5	NCARB Seminar Income	30,000.00	40,990.00	40,000.00
6	Guide Map Income	2,500.00	1,585.34	1,500.00
7	FSA Income	0.00	950.00	500.00
8	IDEX Income	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
9	Canada Council Grant	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
10	RAIC Support	0.00	1,100.00	0.00
11	OALA Income	0.00	3,800.00	4,300.00
	TOTAL ASSETS	124,198.48	130,775.57	141,618.49
	EXPENSES			
	Regular Expenses			
12	Overhead**	5,300.00	7,182.15	7,250.00
13	Staff	7,200.00	6,600.00	7,200.00
	Website Hosting- 10 months at \$500			5,000.00
14	Bookkeeping	1,100.00	767.20	1,100.00
15	Accounting	1,070.00	0.00	1,070.00
16	Newsletter- 4 @ \$2000	6,000.00	4,039.71	8,000.00
17	DIAC Membership Fee	1,000.00	535.00	530.00
18	University of Toronto Scholarship	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
19	Ryerson Polytechnic Scholarship	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00
	SUB-TOTAL	23,670.00	20,624.06	32,150.00
	TSA Activities			
20	Ballenford Exhibitions 4@\$800	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
21	Doors Open Toronto	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
22	Film Series	2,500.00	1,785.70	2,500.00
23	Heritage Toronto Awards	2,500.00	3,014.07	3,000.00
24	Toronto Urban Design Awards	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
25	Competition	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
26	AGM expenses	1,500.00	705.30	3,000.00
27	Architecture Month (Fad)	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
28	CANstruction	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
29	FSA @ TSA	2,500.00	884.00	1,000.00
30	Guide Map	10,000.00	548.96	10,000.00
31	NCARB Seminar	30,000.00	35,225.25	35,000.00
32	IDEX expense	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
33	Forums	2,000.00	4,984.64	5,000.00
34	Website Development	10,000	5,961.25	5,000.00
35	OALA Party	0.00	8,153.48	8,000.00
36	Intern Function	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
37	Other Projects***	9,000.00	5,370.37	6,000.00
	SUB-TOTAL	80,200.00	72,333.02	99,200.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	103,870.00	92,957.08	131,350.00