

## **Synopsis of the Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Annual General Meeting**

The 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held in the Ballroom A of the Allstream Centre, Toronto, Ontario on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. with President Toon Dreessen presiding over the meeting.

The Chair introduced the members of the 2016 Council and noted that the new format used for the first time last year would be applied to this year's meeting.

It was moved by Jason Schmidt-Shoukri, Vaughan and seconded by David D. Craddock, Toronto,

*THAT the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the members be chaired by Master of Ceremonies Alain Rabeau.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **CERTIFICATES OF LONG STANDING**

Certificates of Long Standing were presented to the following members who have reached the milestone of 50 years of membership with the OAA:

Joseph A. Bogdan	A.J. Diamond
Milton Katz	Morris Melamed
Barry Leonard Padolsky	Allan D. Rae

A commemorative booklet containing the citations and photos for each long standing member and noting each honoree's considerable achievements and dedication to the profession was distributed to the attending members.

### **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to past Councillor J. William Birdsell, whose term on Council expired in December of 2015.

Executive Director Kristi Doyle read citations for Mr. Birdsell as well as H. Bradford Green and Anthony Sproul acknowledging and thanking them for their contribution and dedication to Council and the profession. Messrs. Green and Sproul were unable to attend the meeting.

### **DEATHS**

The Master of Ceremonies read the names of

members and associates, listed below, who had passed away since the last AGM, and the assembly rose for a moment of silence.

Robert W. Anderson	Robert W. Becksted
Andres Bernal	Denis M. Bowman
Kirsty Lee St. Clair Bruce	Brian L. Curtner
Fiorella Dinoi Giombini	Roger du Toit
David Ross Easton	Robert Gretton
George Fredrick Hamann	Douglas Cumming Johnson
Lauris Kuksis	Martin James Lambert
Istvan Lendvay	Hershel Okun
Aldo Riva	Donald Snider
Arthur F. Taylor	Evan Herbert Walker

### **MINUTES**

All members had received a copy of the Synopsis of the Minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on May 6, 2015.

It was moved by Allan E. Larden, Toronto and, seconded by James W. Farrow, Ottawa,

*THAT the synopsis of the minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on May 6, 2015 be accepted as circulated.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The President reported in regards to the resolution that was brought forward from the Small Practices Information Forum (SPIF) to develop a guideline consortium business model for small practices at the 2015 AGM resolution as approved by the members. The request was considered by Council at its June 2015 meeting where further clarification was requested from SPIF. At the September 2015 Council meeting, a scope of work and budget was defined and phase 1 research has proceeded through Ryerson University.

The Master of Ceremonies invited comments or questions with respect to any business that arose from the Minutes of the 2015 meeting.

There were no comments or questions from the floor.

### **APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR**

It was moved by Gerald P. Pilon, Barrie, and seconded by Todd M. Colbourne, Kingston,

*THAT the firm of Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the Ontario Association of Architects for 2016.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **PASSAGE OF BY-LAW NO. 2**

It was moved by William Pittman Lett Jr., Peterborough, and seconded by Rafid Kustou, Toronto,

*THAT OAA By-law No. 2, 2015 as circulated with the agenda for this meeting be confirmed by the membership.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORT**

The MC invited comments and questions on the Annual Report posted to the OAA Website on April 19, 2016.

The MC asked President Toon Dreessen to make a few remarks to the membership.

President Dreessen presented a summary activities from 2015.

“...We engaged with many levels of government over the year...[sharing] key messages about the impact of architecture, the role of architects in our society and culture with emphasis being placed on the critical responsibility of OAA members in design and how it impacts climate change, the economy and our way of life.

We continue to discuss and prepare for the proposed building renovation... Nationally, we continue to work on files resulting from the 2014 validation conference and hope that specific recommendations will come to fruition this year.

In the fall, we visited each of the local societies on the annual fall tour and met with many members. Common themes of discussion on procurement and the role of architects in society provided fodder for the ongoing tasks of this coming year and proved to us that the passion members feel for the profession remains as strong as ever....in participating in five events in local chambers of commerce across the province, we reached a broader audience of members and the business community, connecting the dots between architecture, the economy and the need to

strengthen the profession.

Lastly, as the year drew to a close, it was a chance to reflect on our role and the critical opportunity we have as a collective to speak to the public interest, to be able to look at procurement, at projects and contracts and insist that there has to be a better way if we want to achieve the Ontario that we deserve.”

The Chair thanked Dreessen for his presentation.

## **PRESENTATION OF 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND 2016 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK BY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER**

The MC called upon Senior Vice President and Treasurer, John Stephenson to report on the 2015 Financial Statements and the OAA's current financial position and outlook for 2016.

Stephenson presented the members with the Auditors' Report which was read into the official transcript confirming that the financial statements represented fairly the financial position of the OAA as at November 30, 2015. The Senior Vice President and Treasurer also reported on a number of highlights from the 2015 financial statements.

Stephenson noted several items that contributed to a surplus for 2015. There was a growth in membership contributing to an increase in income from member dues. There was a budgeted surplus portion for the purpose of allocation to the reserve fund. The remaining surplus was derived from the cyclical increase in attendance at the OAA Admission Course and Conference, and Continuing Education revenue.

Stephenson reported that what is now referred to as the major capital reserve increased by \$800,000.

Next, Stephenson made a presentation to the members on the future financial outlook. There has been a continued growth from 2009 in membership and a flattening out of the numbers of interns. There is an upturn in numbers in 2014 attributed to a growth in student membership, reflecting an increased interest in the profession, improved economic times, an increased engagement with the schools of architecture by the OAA, Council, and staff.

Stephenson reported that there has been an increase in intern members in the early age demographic.

It was noted by Stephenson that in 2015 there has been an increase in advocacy activities, reflective of the OAA's continued emphasis on proactive advocacy in areas of public policy.

Stephenson highlighted points regarding the OAA reserves. The reserve fund policy was first established in 2013 and a major capital reserve in 2015 for capital maintenance and replacement principally of the building. The operating reserve provides working capital and emergency funds.

It was noted by Stephenson that the continued growth in membership means financial stability for the membership and creates opportunities to consider future program expansion, increased member services and advocacy, investment in a sustainable future for the OAA Headquarters.

Stephenson reported that the total budget has increased 9% over 2014 in part due to increased costs but as well, program expansion. Fees have remained static since 2009 and this is the first fee increase in five years. With the diminishing pace of member growth combined with inflationary pressures, it is expected that going forth, subsequent years will see modest fee increases annually.

The MC thanked Stephenson for his presentation.

### **PRO-DEMUNITY INSURANCE COMPANY**

The Chair welcomed Pro-Demunity Insurance Company (ProDem) member, Ted Sievenpiper who made a presentation to the membership, which highlighted the activities and performance for the past year of ProDem.

Sievenpiper reported that ProDem was established in 1987 to ensure that all architects be insured and treated equally and fairly. ProDem values close communication with the OAA and installed four initiatives to ensure this. Three members of Council serve as Directors on the ProDem Board. Semi-annual meetings are held between the Board and OAA's Executive Committee to discuss matters of common interest; A working group has been established between the organizations to consider a study on consultant-related claims, and; in future will be visiting other issues such as RFP's and contractual matters.

It was noted by Sievenpiper that a bulletin was circulated to the members advising of the continuation of the plan credit at 3% and a 2.5% annual increase in premiums. The reduced credit

is attributed by the increase in claims. The Board decided that the mandate of returning surplus funds be upheld despite the small amount and thereby causing a slight loss for 2015. Factors influencing claims have been the continuous level of architectural activity, impact from the short limitation period, and a more litigious climate.

Sievenpiper noted that last year, the professional liability insurance policy was amended to place a limit on the amount of expenses payable for each claim of \$200,000 where excess insurance over \$250,000 was purchased from another insurer. This is so that the excess insurers who are not part of ProDem assist in reducing costs.

It was reported by Sievenpiper that the increase in mandatory limits of liability was based on existing purchasing patterns of the policy holders based on total gross fees. Out of approximately 1,400 policy holders, 100 were affected by this change.

Sievenpiper noted that the local architectural societies were offered loss prevention seminars for the 2014-16 ConEd Cycle. There have been 90 offered since 2005 with a total attendance of 5,770 members.

The Chair thanked Sievenpiper for his address.

The Chair welcomed additional feedback from the membership before moving out of the formal portion of the meeting.

Pat Hanson, Toronto suggested that the OAA increase its efforts to address issues of gender imbalance in the profession. Despite an increase in female enrollment in schools the increase in the number of women in the profession is insignificant.

Concern was expressed by Hanson that despite a nationwide series of consultations held by RAIC whereby recommendations were made by a group of prominent architects and teachers, there has been no change in retention of women in the profession. To address this, a Toronto group, Building Equality in Architecture Toronto (BEAT) in parallel with other groups has produced seminars, mentor groups, and advocated for equity.

It was suggested by Hanson that the OAA assist by facilitating the participation of women architects in their professional organization and the establishment of an equity advisory committee to address equity and establish sound working conditions with firms. OAA Council and committees should participate in the effort to balance gender

representation.

Dreessen responded that the OAA is aware of the disparity. The statistics show that there is an increased proportion of architects in the younger age range that though not equivalent, demonstrate a larger proportion of females in the profession. The OAA is continuing to manage the imbalance through its committees in an attempt to achieve gender parity.

It was noted by Dreessen that several Council members have focused on issues around safe workplaces which in turn, has resulted in a ConEd course being offered at Conference this year.

**ADDRESS BY 2016 OAA PRESIDENT DREESSEN**

The Chair announced that the meeting would now move out of the formal portion of the meeting and continue with a presentation from OAA President Toon Dreessen.

OAA President Toon Dreessen presented his address to the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association.

"Welcome to the 2016 conference. It's a joy to be here again as the OAA President for a second year in a row. It's an honour and a privilege to serve the membership. Over the past year, I've gotten to know very many OAA members and hope to reconnect with as many of you as I can over the next few days...

...This year in Toronto, we're hoping to continue to build on the great success of previous conferences...I'd like to take a minute to talk about our conference theme. Architecture matters was deliberately chosen to emphasize the double entendre that this theme represents. This includes things that relate to architecture, that matter to the profession, including technical info, business and design options for continuing education, as well as events designed to promote collegiality among members, to work better together. The other meaning, that architecture does matter, is a core message that the OAA has been pushing for the last several years. We believe that what we do matters and that what we contribute to society matters, that what we can do today to affect the future matters. We believe that our voice, the voice of architecture, makes a difference in society at large.

The OAA has been pushing this message through

active and engaged public awareness efforts, to raise the profile of architecture and architects. More than ever, we are seeing the message that is coming through loud and clear. And to push the agenda further, we are engaging even more with industry stakeholders...to convince them that architecture matters, that our services are not easily commoditized and that a never-ending spiral to the lowest dollar is not only bad for their project, but bad business and bad for the public interest. So as we move about through these halls, as we meet together, formally and informally, I encourage you to talk with each other, to keep the conversation going, to talk about what matters to you as interns, as new and seasoned practitioners, as guests and sponsors. Ask yourself in all that you do, how do you demonstrate that architecture matters?

So what has the OAA been doing so far this year? Last year we started down a path of addressing the OAA's vision, mission and mandate. Starting about eight years ago, the OAA established these three statements with some very specific goals. As we looked at them, we came to realize that some of them were great general statements but they lacked the overall aspirational value that gave us a long-term objective, something to strive for. Over the spring and summer and with the help and input of society chairs at a fall workshop held at the OAA headquarters, we narrowed our focus and, culminating in a February strategy session this year, again with the society chairs, we rearticulated these three statements.

Our vision is an aspirational statement. We imagine an Ontario in which architects are valued contributors to society by creating a safe and healthy built environment that performs at the highest levels and elevates the human spirit. I think we can all agree that this is something we strive for, an Ontario in which architecture matters and that embraces all that we contribute to society, including the diversity of practice that OAA members embrace. Our mission, the means by which we will reach our aspirational goals, boils down to one sentence. To serve the public interest through the regulation, support and promotion of the profession of architecture in Ontario. What this means is that we serve the public interest, we work with the regulations to support and promote the profession so that all of Ontario benefits. Our mandate is in a way even simpler and it's set out by the Act. To regulate and govern the practice of architecture in Ontario in the service and protection of the public interest in accordance with the Act, its regulations and bylaws, to develop and uphold standards of skill, knowledge, qualification, practice and

professional ethics among architects, and to promote the appreciation of architecture within broader society. Put simply, what the OAA does every day is ruled by the Act. The continuing education seminars, the cease and desist letters issued by the registrar's office, the awards program that promotes the appreciation of architecture, these are all privileges and responsibilities set out by the Act. Both Council and staff are energized by these statements and are using this vision as a guiding principle in our decision-making framework.

Late last year, the OAA made a submission to the Minister of Culture in response to the Ministry's public consultation on our proposed culture strategy for Ontario. We were incredibly disappointed to discover that the word architecture did not appear. The Ministry has now released its draft strategy document and still, there is no mention of architecture. We believe that architecture is culture. The OAA will be responding officially once again. However, we need all members to support to make architecture and design cultural priorities for Ontario. Last week, we launched a campaign to encourage members and others to sign a petition.

Also this year, we've had an incredibly successful jury day which culminates with our awards gala on Friday. The media intensity on this is already strong and has resulted in more media coverage of the awards program, the role these projects have played in the economy, in climate change and in the profession. Also, we are working on bringing back this media attention to the challenges of site plan approval, with hopes to bring this back to the table for planning reform, to address this challenge that our members face. We believe that reforming the planning process is not only good for architecture but is in the public interest because it will reduce not only the cost of construction, but lead to better cities, better projects and better architecture...

..It's the 25th anniversary of the Building this year, built to support the profession. Over the past year, we've continued to work closely with the consultant team to realize the best balance of financial options that show that the OAA and architects are trusted voices in leadership when it comes to climate change and how architecture can play a critical role in changing our impact on the environment. One of the things we've heard loud and clear over the past year and continue to ramp up is that members want more services from the OAA. I can say that over the past year I've had the pleasure of working with most of the OAA and Pro-Demnity staff. This is a group of people, most of whom aren't architects but who care passionately about architecture and the

profession, so as we add staff to provide more services to members and focus on the key things that members want, we want to make sure that to attract the best talent and deliver the best services to members possible, we need a good building that works and is sufficient to be able to do that. We also want to show our leadership in built form by making sure that architects are trusted voices in responsible leadership.

The Conference this year. There are a few things that are new. First of all, we've launched an app. It's a free app and it will help with locations of events, speaker info and sponsor information. We are hoping that in future years we'll be able to add personalized schedules and more interactivity. Also this year, we're using beacons to streamline and make more efficient the process for members to receive credit for the learning hours they undertake during the conference...

...As always, the conference will culminate in the awards gala on Friday night. We're honoured again this year to have the Lieutenant Governor in attendance this year and I hope to see many of you there as well. We continue to work hard to make the design excellence awards the springboard for a yearlong engagement with the public on the value of architecture. In this, we ask that all of you take time to celebrate this year's winners and finalists, as well as the emerging practice, landmark, concept and service award winners, and take away the key messaging, that architecture matters, to use as inspiration in your own practices.

Building on bridges established in previous years, we continue to work with industry partners. We are working with ARIDO, the OBOA and the LMCBO to press for reinstatement of the professional design requirements table back into the Code. This has been a long-running project that's met with resistance from the PEO and allied organizations, but we and allied organizations believe that this is in the public interest and is a necessary tool to bring clarity to when an architect is required to be involved in a project. Likewise, we're beginning the process of reminding planning departments in Ontario of the requirement that where an architect is required for a building, that the site plan also be prepared by an architect. And as I mentioned, we're continuing to push for reforms of the Planning Act to improve the planning process. We also continue to act with our national counterparts at CALA on updates to the student performance criteria as outfall from the validation conference with the CACB to strengthen the accreditation and education experience for students which will see

long-term benefits in strengthening the profession.

...Last fall during the society tour, as well as at the workshops with society chairs, we heard even stronger concerns about the state of procurement. This year, we are again participating as part of our role with the Construction Design Alliance of Ontario in the fifth annual procurement day, an event that brings together procurement leaders from around the province to address issues of risk transfer, risk mitigation and procurement. At the OAA, we're continuing to monitor and respond to poor RFPs. We're advising members more often, through RFP alerts, and this is having the effect that we want. Some procurement departments are starting to listen...however, it's an incredibly resource intensive process and in order for it to be effective, we need members to also be able to do their part by carefully considering whether to respond...When the RFP is incredibly poorly written, with unclear language, with unclear deliverables, and an over-emphasis on fees, clearly steering the selection process to low bid, when the OAA listens to members and engages with the municipality that has issued the RFP, we struggle for credibility when members respond to the RFP anyway. So the actions of one affect the many. And to restate the obvious, we can't enforce a fee structure. We can recommend that everyone follow the fee guideline, originally written by the OAA and then adopted nationally through the RAIC fee guide...So collectively, we're a stronger profession when we work together, when our voices sing from the same songbook.

So our goals for the year ahead. We're working to reintroduce the site plan report and continue a dialogue with the Ministry about planning reform. We're hoping to get traction on our efforts to reintroduce the design table. We continue to work with champions of architecture at local and provincial and federal levels. This means working with municipal councils, mayors, building officials and planners to address issues of planning, permitting, design requirements and of course procurement. It means working with provincial ministers who want to champion architecture as an economic and social driver, that sustainable buildings are a key component of addressing climate change, who want to work more efficiently with members on RFP concerns and challenges...These are part of a national movement involving other regulators since these issues are not unique to Ontario or even unique just to Toronto...

Of course, Act enforcement is an ongoing key

priority for the Registrar's office. As always, I urge you to report transgressions into our scope of practice. So if you see development applications without an architect, where there has to be one, or someone advertising themselves as an architect but isn't, please let the OAA know...

...As we near the end of the ConEd cycle, there are many opportunities here at Conference, as well as others in additional weeks remaining to the end of cycle. If you do find that you still need learning hours, I want to stress that there are many, many opportunities for members to obtain their hours outside of the OAA offerings. In fact, all learning hours can be done outside through distance education or through learning opportunities of your choice...

We are all running at full capacity but it never ceases to amaze me how dedicated and responsive staff, members of Council and volunteers are. It's incredibly humbling to work with such dedicated people and I humbly thank every single one of you...I encourage you to put your oar in the water with ours, add the strength of your voice to the choir, and volunteer on a committee, task group, or Council election, to not just make a stronger OAA but a better, stronger profession. Thank you."

### **RECOGNITION OF NEWLY LICENSED ARCHITECTS AND LICENSED TECHNOLOGISTS OAA**

The Chair introduced the OAA's newest licensees, Ontario's newest Architects and Licensed Technologists OAA, who were welcomed by Council and attendees at the AGM and were congratulated for their accomplishment.

Each individual's name was announced and each was invited to the podium where they were greeted by the President. The full list was posted to the OAA's Website.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Sean Patrick O'Reilly, Barrie and seconded by J.E. Sievenpiper, Toronto,

*THAT the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting be adjourned.*

**MOTION CARRIED**