

Holiday Greetings!

This is overdue, but vacation combined with the trip to Minneapolis set me back a bit and I've finally dug my way out of a mountain of catch-up work. The Autumn 2006 BOT meeting produced the usual amount of concrete agenda items and decision points. I never fail to be amazed at what a great job Nancy and the ASLA staff do on our behalf. In addition to the usual amount of business, both the CPC and the BOT had the opportunity to attend a reception hosted by our own Ted Wirth at the home of his grandfather who was the longtime director of the Minneapolis Park System and colleague of the Olmsted's. Ted seemed to be doing very well having gone through some re-calibration of his meds and also having the full time help of friends and family. It was really great to visit with him and catch up a bit. It was also terrific to see him take his place next to all those past presidents on the stage at the annual meeting

Key actions and activities of the BOT include:

- Approval to begin the process of moving our cash reserves and investments out of 'green' and SR filtering and more into mainstream investing. This proposed action fostered quite a bit of passion in the debate toward a vote, but ultimately majority on the Board recognized that the Finance Committee engaged in the proper amount of due diligence in arriving at their recommendation.
- Approval of a host of new financial policies to get us in compliance with federal law. Actions included the formation of an audit committee to work in concert with the newly re-named Finance and Investments Committee as well as with Gerry and Nancy with respect to financial matters of the Society.
- Introduction of the ASLA Advocacy Network. Please take time to visit the national ASLA website to become familiar with this new program and to fill out a profile.
- Approved the ASLA/LAF Memorandum of Understanding with respect to support for LAF activities.
- Heard reports from the Disaster Response Exploratory Task Force.
- Heard a summary from Anne Looper on the Public Perception (of the profession) Study
- Engaged in some 'vital issues' visioning on the heels of a challenge from the CPC to produce as many or more issues than they did for consideration.
- Passed a motion to direct ASLA staff to explore ways to make next year's annual meeting in San Francisco as sustainable as possible.

In addition to the above, the national legislative priorities have been established for next year and will include the following:

- Historic American Landscapes Survey

- + Goal to secure specific and adequate funding.
- Small Community Visioning Pilot Project
+ Goal to use 2007 Forum Bill as a new avenue for LA's to assist small communities to develop tangible plans to meet pressing needs.
- Sustainability/Sustainable Infrastructure
+Goal to engage LA's in the development and implementation of policies supporting sustainable design.
- Active/Healthy Living
+Goal to advance and promote active/healthy living policies at a national level.
- Security Design
+Goal to shape development of security design policies that integrate principles of Landscape Architecture.
- Hazard Mitigation/Disaster Response
+ Goal to integrate LA's in policy making efforts in developing hazard mitigation and disaster response measures.
- National Landscape Conservation System Organic Act
+Goal to protect important public lands by establishing the National Landscape Conservation System into federal law.

These initiatives will be taken up, all or in part, next spring at our annual Lobby Day effort in Washington, D.C. If any of you have a specific issue that you have a question about, do not hesitate to contact me.

With respect to my own committee activities in this 5th year of my trustee tenure, I have continued to be involved in the work of both the Finance and Policy Committees and had a good year with both. However, based on increasing workloads with these committees, I had to make a choice whether to scale back involvement with one or both. After some reflection, I elected to work solely with the Finance Committee and resigned both my position and chairmanship of the Policy Committee. This was not easy to do as we were in the process of evaluating and converting all ASLA Public Policies to be in alignment with the Millennium Assessment on worldwide ecosystem health. We were 50% finished in that effort. The completion of that effort was left in the capable hands of Gregg Everhart from Oregon as the new committee chair.. In addition, Debowden Bauer from our chapter has agreed to serve and has been appointed to the Policy Committee.

In coming ASLA President, Pat Caughey, has appointed me to serve as Chair of the Finance and Investments Committee, which will be an interesting leadership opportunity as this committee

has broad representation coupled with bright and capable intellect. The term service for this committee is three years.

As I look to this last year of Trustee service, I would encourage any of you that are interested to consider putting your name forward to stand for election next summer as our next trustee. There continues to be important work to be done and you'll find the involvement to be very rewarding.

If you all have questions about a direction or an activity or an action on my part, please email me @ jon@hatchmueller.com .

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all.