



AIA Houston

## Committee on the Environment

### Meeting Notes

Date: December 17, 2006, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: AIA Houston Offices, 315 Capitol, Bayou Place II

Attendees: Tom Hunter, Co-Chair  
Bruce Heiberg  
Mary Ellen Whitworth  
Amanda Thomas  
Blaine Kemendo  
Rives Taylor  
Polycarp OKore

Greg Roberts, Co-Chair  
Kenny Ripkowski  
Laura Kauff  
John Beilne  
Maria Perez  
Minwo Sherkat

The committee discussed and took action on the following topics.

1. Meeting Notes of 10/16/2006 and 11/13/2006 were distributed and reviewed without comment.
2. Green Tool Box:
  - a. Dec. 14, 2006; Filo presented the AIA National COTE Top Ten Awards (Measures, Case Studies, and what needs to be done to submit for award program). Copies of handouts were distributed and attendees encouraged to participate in program.
  - b. January 2007: Construction Waste Management. Brian Yeoman and Greg have consented to speak.
  - c. February 2007: Sustainable concrete. Potential speaker Vance Pool, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.
  - d. Other program topics to be developed: Water shed management and low-impact development.
3. Gulf Coast Green 2008:
  - a. A recap of the GCG Executive Committee kick-off planning meeting held December 5, 2006 was made; copies of the meeting minutes were distributed. Adele Houghton is chair of GCG 2008.
  - b. Attendees were encouraged to participate and chair subcommittees for the event. Volunteer forms were also distributed.
4. Media and Public Outreach
  - a. Brian and Julie are developing post card type flyers for distribution from the new AIA office to (1) catalogue the green features of the AIA office and (2) to simply outline "What is Green Building" in layman terms.
  - b. Tom and Steve Stelzer have been organizing in collaboration with IIDA and Region 4 Education Service Center, a recycling program for offices to recycle old material samples, binders, etc. for use in elementary/secondary school art classes. Tom will be contacting McCoy's, A&E and Ridgeway's about potential drop-off sites for materials. The first effort will be focused on Region 4 with future distributions possibly to parochial schools. Anticipate having three collections during the year. Dates and collection locations to be announced. A flyer has been drafted and distributed to organizers for comment.
5. 2007 AIA Convention – San Antonio
  - a. Convention is May 3-5, 2007 at the San Antonio Convention Center. This year's theme is "Growing Beyond Green".

- b. Filo to investigate further with San Antonio COTE and TSA on how AIAHouston COTE might contribute to the convention.
6. City of Houston Green Building Initiatives:
- a. COH Recycled Building Materials Code Meeting
- 1) Greg recapped the COH Recycled Building Materials Code meeting convened by Sheila Blake, PWE Planning & Development, December 13.
  - 2) Next COH meeting is scheduled for January 31 at 1:30, location to be announced. Attendees encouraged to participate.
- b. Greater Houston Partnership Green Building Committee
- 1) Greg recapped the last GHP Green Building Committee meeting held December 13. Many COTE members participate on this committee chaired by Tim Murray, AIA.
  - 2) An Ad Hoc Green Building Task Force has been assembled to address a green building roadmap for Houston. The Task Force is composed of Houston civic leaders and has a 6 month duration for completing its task.
  - 3) Next GHP Green Building Committee meeting is January 10 at 4:30 in the GHP Offices. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Partnership and are open to anyone with interest.
- c. Bayou Preservation Association
- 1) Bruce and Mary Ellen Whitworth of the Bayou Preservation Association announced the following events and encouraged participation; contact Bruce (281/558-5400) for further details:  
 Jan. 20, 2007: Invasive plant species removal at Timbergrove Manor Park.  
 Feb. 10, 2007: On the Water Clean Up  
 Mar. 31, 2007: Upper Buffalo Bayou Trash Bash  
 Oct. 15-16, 2007: Water Quality Symposium at Univ. of St. Thomas
7. Green Rating Speaker Series
- a. Greg briefly outlined a lecture series being developed to look at the various green building rating systems currently in use.
- b. Session format was outlined as follows.
- 1) Two speakers per session every week for three week series duration.
  - 2) 2 hour session length.
  - 3) Each speaker to be representative of a different rating system.
  - 4) Series conducted in May. Need to investigate calendar of conflicting events
  - 5) Potential green rating systems include (contact person listed in parentheses)
    - Green Globes, [www.greenglobes.com](http://www.greenglobes.com)
    - Earth Craft House, Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association (Filo) [www.southface.org/web/earthcraft\\_house/ech\\_main/ech\\_index.htm](http://www.southface.org/web/earthcraft_house/ech_main/ech_index.htm)
    - GHBA Houston Green Building Initiative (Tom) [www.thegbi.com/houston/](http://www.thegbi.com/houston/)
    - Green Building Program, Austin Energy (Filo) [www.austinenergy.com](http://www.austinenergy.com)
    - Green Guide for Health Care (Greg) [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org)
    - EPA Energy Star (Filo) [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
    - USGBC – LEED (Brian) [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)
8. COTE Membership
- a. Tom to coordinate notice in AIA Friday for committee membership and meeting announcements.
- b. Filo is developing a short membership survey for gauging what AIA members want from the COTE committee.
- c. Filo to update committee contact list with names compiled during Gulf Coast Green.
9. Next Meeting: 12 noon, Monday, January 15, 2007 at Houston AIA Chapter Office, 315 Capitol downtown in Bayou Place II.

Corrections:

Any attendee who wishes to provide additional information or corrections to this record shall provide written comments to Greg Roberts, AIA at [groberts@whrarchitects.com](mailto:groberts@whrarchitects.com) within one week of receipt of this record.