

MALA 49th AGM (The Saddlery on Market)

Minutes

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE

Full Members:

Meaghan Hunter
Liz Wreford
Lagman, Lindsay
Sommers, Bob
Rosin, Scott
Hakimjavadi, Negar
Grafton, Trevor
Hudson, James
Kaili Brown
Mark Bauche
Glen Manning
Alan Tate
Bhavna Bonde
Nataša Juck
Bruce Dixon
Cheryl Dixon
Chantal Alary
Ryan Epp
Douvris, Constantina
Derksen, Matthew
Jukes Strutt, Vanessa
Lachiver, Blaise
Pincock, Jori
Shauna Prociuk –
Granove, Darcy
Wakshinski, Ryan
Harper, John
Wagner, David
Christiansen, Elizabeth
Wagner, Laurie Lamb
Neirinck, Melissa
Harris, Christina
Kirouac, Rachelle
Reimer, Lana
Struthers, Kristen
LaRocque, Taylor
Suzy Melo
Heather Cram

(by Proxy)

Ana Hodych
Maggie Bonnetta
Stephen Miville
Meaghan Giesbrecht
Brad Wilson
Leanne Muir
Danielle Loeb
Ian Legge
Aaron Hirota
Anna Thurmayr
Chelsea Synychych
Chris Nelson
Shannon Baxter
Marie Etcheverry
Gavin Wyman
Laureen Snook
Stephen Popovich
Stephanie Voyce
Carol Craig
Indy Mitra
Jean Trottier
Victor Lee
Dietmar Straub
Dean Spearman
Cheryl Oakden
David Bodnarchuk
Jackie Wilkie
Susan McGowan
Rebecca Luhn-Jensen
James Thomas
Christine Wilson-MacLeod
Cynthia Cohlmeier
Ron Lausman
Marie Lachiver

Associates:

Hogan, Tim
Mojtaba Hassanzadeh
Roxanne Gratton
Shannon Loewen
Chris Speirs

Madeleine Dafoe
Garcia, Heber
Desiree Theriault
Brennan Fedak
Omar DeMesa
Vincent Hosein

Students:

Emma Dicks
Jiang Yingzhi
Kailee Meakin
Benjamin Gaudes
Sari Halldorson Haines
Lindsay Mamchur
Tristan Osler
Laurel Cowley
Shauma Arnab Das
Nazi Yaghoobian
Ben Boswick
Bryce Stovin
Tasnim Ferdous
BROCK DUECK
Nikolas Friesen Hughes
Cindy Tran
Simranpreet Kaur
Adinna Vergara
Kanika Mehta
Adinna Vergara
Makena Hughes
Smile Singh

Other:

Janet Thomas, ED
Mira Locher
Laney Stewart
JoAnn McFadden
Peter Sampson
Marcela Eaton
Frits Van Loon

Total of full members present 72 (38 member attendees + 34 proxies)
Minimum required for quorum for 2023: 72 (51% of 113)

Therefore, it was established that a quorum existed, and this was a legally constituted meeting in accordance with the By-laws.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The MALA President Meaghan Hunter called the meeting to order at 4:31, gave the land acknowledgement and thanked all in attendance for the 49th MALA AGM and extended a warm welcome to the Association's special guests:

- Liz Wreford (Keynote) and Peter Sampson
- Laurie Lamb Wagner (Life Member Award Recipient)
- Laney Stewart (PIDIM Executive Director)
- JoAnn McFadden, PIDIM President
- Mimi Locher University of Manitoba

Meaghan introduced and thanked the MALA Council Members noted below and the Executive Director, Janet Thomas

- Vanessa Jukes (Past President)
- Marcela Karsin (Vice-President)
- Blaise Lachiver (Treasurer)
- Anna Thurmayr (U of M Rep)
- Matthew Derksen (CLARB / Practice Rep)
- Constantina Douvris (Director)
- Jori Pincock (Director)
- Shannon Loewen (Associate Rep) and Alternate Brennan Fedak
- Smile Singh (Students Rep) and Alternate Emma Dicks

Meaghan thanked all the MALA associates and student affiliates who are in attendance.

Meaghan thanked the many members, associates and students who sit on various task forces and committees and serve on behalf of the MALA, or as representatives on external boards. She also acknowledged the students of LASA for their commitment and dedication to organizing events between LASA and MALA throughout the year. Giving a special thanks to Smile and Emma for their tremendous efforts in organizing this MALA Night and AGM.

Meaghan noted that there are many committees that are looking for some fresh inspiring perspectives to join in on the conversation and support various initiatives and noted that a sign-up sheet is being circulated and further she highly encourage people to volunteer.

Meaghan took a moment to acknowledge the passing of 4 contributors to the L A profession: Marten Duhoux, Todd Reade, Jocelyn Chorney, and Cameran Man.

Meaghan then provided an update on the following:

Examining Board:

Matthew Derksen will extend his term as Chair of the Examining Board. Rebecca Luhn-Jensen and Kaili Brown will also continue their terms on the board. MALA is currently searching for new members to serve on the board from 2023 to 2026. For those that are interested please reach out to Janet, or you can also sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet circulating around this evening.

Golf Tournament:

The 7th annual MALA Golf Tournament was held on September 16th at the Assiniboine Golf Club. Despite the weather the rain and cold did not deter participants. 73 golfers registered and the event raised over \$9,000. These funds will support student initiatives, activities, scholarships, and awards within the Dept of Landscape Architecture at the U of M.

CSLA:

At the national level actions and developments continue to evolve with the CSLA, including increased communications to raise the profile of the organization and the profession, advancements by the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and the Committee on Climate Adaptation. Further details on activities and initiatives with the CSLA can be found in Vanessa's Past President's report.

Upcoming for 2023:

- Volunteer appreciation event will be planned
- Table for 1200 sponsored table purchased
- Strategic Planning process starting
- MALA promotional video planned
- NameAct – working on next steps

Planning is underway for the CSLA Congress in Winnipeg next spring. Volunteer co-chairs are Vanessa and Meaghan. This will also mark the 50th anniversary of our association.

Meaghan advised that the membership expanded with the acceptance of Sarry Klien and Meaghan Pauls as Full members and Kimberley Bamburak and Herber Garcia as new Associates. Out Of Province new members were Richard Bogart and Bryce Miranda.

Next Meaghan acknowledged some of the Awards and Honours that go out to members and students:

Congratulations to Public City for their winning design for the LGBTQ2+ National Monument titled "Thunderhead".

MALA member Jean Trottier was awarded the 2022 CSLA Schwabenbauer Presidents' Award for service to the CSLA.

The U of M Faculty of Architecture Award Winners were recently announced. Among those, each year MALA provides two awards to deserving landscape students:

The Manitoba Association of Landscape Architects Medal for the 2020/21 Fall/Winter Session has been awarded to Evan McPherson

The MALA Fellowship in Landscape Architecture award went to Aaron Bombback, Madeleine Dafoe, Naomi Ratte, and Kacie Reimer.

At this point, Meaghan turned her attention to the formal part of the AGM and reminded those in attendance that only registered Members of MALA have voting rights.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by R Wakshinski and seconded by C Douvris that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by V Jukes Strutt and seconded by M Giesbrecht that the Annual General Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2022, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

i) Strategic Planning Process (J Pincock)

Jori presented as follows:

Step 1: Establish our starting point

- Review of current strategic plan: objectives, progress gained, and obstacles
- Review of the broader context and external influences

Step 2: Determine the general direction

- Confirm key impact areas where we want to "move the needle"
- Gather input from membership
- Consider core services versus strategic goals and our current capacity

Step 3: Confirm the destination

- Set strategic goals and objectives

Step 4: Chart the course

- Review of existing initiatives: outcomes and alignment
- Propose and review new initiatives
- Review resources and implementation plans

Step 5: Embark on the journey

- Implement initiatives and track key outcomes and indicators

ii) Joint Equity, diversity + Inclusion (JEDI) (D Theriault)

Desiree presented as follows:

What happened in 2022 –

- Working alongside OALA, CSLA, and Capillary Consulting to produce a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Action Plan for components.
- Action Plan encompasses every professional association and foundation in Canada. Components to adapt Action Plan for member needs.

• Action plan was submitted to all components for board approval.

MALA reviewed and approved with a \$8,000 budget line.

Desiree highlighted the opportunity areas and what happens next –

- Creation of National Committee for implementing and guiding JEDI key opportunity areas (COMPLETED)
- Beginning to work on short-term goals identified in the Action Plan, which includes:
- Survey deployment for Associates and Membership
- Policy & Document review - Inclusive Language
- Land Acknowledgement (in coordination with Reconciliation Advisory Committee)
- Community Inclusion

iii) Communications Committee Update (V Hosein)

Vincent noted that the Communications Committee works to increase visibility, education, strengthen relations, increase dialog, and promote members achievements. Vincent then

proceeded to highlight the year's activities as outlined in the annual report, i.e., Landscape Rocks and Bocce Ball to name a couple.

5. CONSIDERATION OF 2023 BUDGET

Janet referred to the 2023 Budget which is attached to the agenda and advised the 2023 budget shows a balanced budget of revenue and expenses of \$92,671.60 presented for confirmation by a vote of the Members.

Janet brought attention to the **2022 budget** and advised that actual total **revenues** came in slightly higher compared to what was projected with a variance of approximately \$5,300 mainly due to golf tournament revenue, and other misc. fees and charges being higher than anticipated. Actual total **spending** in 2022 was less than what was projected by \$8,611. For another year, expenses were down, mainly due to the pandemic and meetings, travel and events not taking place in person. It is worth noting that the MALA Council unanimously agreed in 2022 to increase its contribution to support student initiatives, scholarships and bursaries, and activities within the Department of Landscape Architecture. \$7,600 + went toward student initiatives and the Council plans to continue to allocate golf tournament profits toward these student initiatives. The MALA Council also decided to contribute \$5,000 to the U of M 50th Anniversary events in 2022.

Regarding the **2023 budget** presented, Janet advised the MALA Council continues to take a prudent approach to the budget-making process. No member increases were initiated for 2023, however, as the country continues to struggle with inflation, so does the MALA. The MALA is seeing increases across the board. Increases in our insurance costs, the CLARB membership dues (+ low Canadian dollar doesn't help), courier costs and subscriptions to name a few. A resolution that addresses inflation and operational practices will be presented later on the agenda. The MALA is also collaborating with CLARB to reduce CLARB membership dues for 2024.

Janet noted that for 2023 that Council decided to put some of its accumulated profits in the bank toward special activities that will benefit both the profession and the association. \$8,000 is budgeted for the JEDI Action Plan initiative in order to accomplish some of the immediate steps, \$10,000 is budgeted for the creation of a MALA landscape architecture promotional video in prep for the 2024 CSLA/MALA congress to be held in Winnipeg, and \$1,000 is slated for a Volunteer Appreciation Event to thank the MALA volunteers for their countless hours of contributions - essential to the operation and wellbeing of this association.

At this point, as there were no questions, Janet asked MALA Treasurer, Blaise Lachiver, to make a motion to receive as information the unaudited MALA Financial Statements as at December 31, 2022 and to confirm by vote the Council approved MALA 2023 Budget as presented.

MOVED by B Lachiver and second by V Jukes Strutt that the unaudited Financial Statements as at December 31, 2022 be received as information, and the 2023 Budget be confirmed as presented.
CARRIED

6. SPECIAL ADDRESS

i) MALA Life Member Award – Laurie Lamb Wagner

Shauna Prociuk announced that MALA was proud to bestow Life Member Status Laurie Lamb Wagner. Life status grants all privileges of membership, but recipients are exempt from paying annual membership dues.

Elizabeth Christiansen spoke briefly and concluded asking all in attendance to join in congratulating Laurie Lamb Wagner on receiving the 2023 MALA Life Member Award. Elizabeth presented Laurie with a gift.

Laurie thanked Elizabeth and Shauna, the membership, and MALA for the lifetime membership and gave a brief speech.

7. **NEW BUSINESS: Resolution #1 2023: MALA MEMBERSHIP DUES, FEES AND CHARGES**

Meaghan welcomed Blaise Lachiver to present the Resolution #1 attached to the Agenda. Blaise presented the Resolution highlighting very briefly the background. Blaise advised that no MALA membership dues increase is proposed for 2024. However, after careful consideration, the MALA Council has determined it is in the Association's best interest that the MALA Council have the autonomy to set annual dues, fees, and charges at its discretion. The Council will only consider increasing fees and charges up to a maximum amount equal to the annual rate of inflation, based on the *Consumer Price Index, across all categories, rounding up to the nearest dollar, if deemed necessary to do so. Any increase shall be announced at an Annual or other General Meeting.

Further, given that the members of the MALA elect their officers and directors and those officers and directors in return are responsible for overseeing its operations and setting its strategic direction that benefits both the association and the profession, it stands to reason they have autonomy to set the fees and charges. Having members set fees is no longer a contemporary practice and authority resting with Council is consistent with that of the MAA, CSLA and other CSLA component associations.

Blaise then made the motion:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MALA by-laws, *Article 9, Dues and Fees*, 1st paragraph, be amended, effective immediately, to read as follows:

Association dues, fees and charges shall be payable by the MALA membership as shall be established by majority vote of the Council, up to a maximum amount equal to the annual rate of inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index, across all categories, rounding up to the nearest dollar. Any and all increases, if deemed necessary by the MALA Council, shall be announced at an Annual or other General Meeting. The MALA shall invoice the membership annually for Association dues plus dues, fees, and levies established by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

Supplementary fee increases beyond the annual rate of inflation may be required at times and shall be established by a majority vote of the MALA Council. These additional increases shall become effective only when announced and confirmed by a vote of the members at an Annual or other General Meeting.

CARRIED

(one against for the record)

Meaghan thanked everyone and noted that there was a lot of consideration and research and discussion that went into this proposal, and she appreciates the membership's commitment.

8. **QUESTIONS**

Meaghan opened the floor up for questions from the membership.

Meaghan concluded by thanking all in attendance and asking for a motion to adjourn.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by R Wakshinski that the meeting be adjourned (at 5:25 pm).