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NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS INC.

Minutes of General Meeting held at the Ministry of Works Building, Worcester Street, Christchurch on 3rd November 1973.

The Meeting was opened at 9.33a.m. by the Chairman of the Executive Committee Tony Jackman, who welcomed everyone and commented briefly on the significance and importance of this, the first General Meeting of the Institute.

Members Present:

Associates - Tony Jackman (Chairman), Frank Boffa (Secretary/Treasurer), Neil Aitken, Robin Gay, Charlie Challenger, Hedley Evans and George Malcolm (all Executive Committee), Joe Volpe, Earl Bennett and Alan Petrie.

Affiliates - Hugh Baxter, Patricia Shiel, Ken McKenzie, Pete Sergel, Jan Woodhouse, Derek Fry, Sally Mason, Janet Moss, Gilbert Brakey, Paula Parsonson, Julian Caccia-Birch, John Marsh and Mary Calver.

Students - John Boyd, Diane Lucas, Alan Titchener, Kwi Gon Kim, Diane Menzies, Esmae Sage, Lois Bain, Dennis Scott, Graham Densem, Terry Emmitt, Peter Rough, Mike Barthelmeh, Alan Herring and John Henry.

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Eleanor Ironside, Bill McLeary, Bart Buma, Michael Littlewood and (from the floor) Frank Spacil.

2. Chairman's opening address sounded airs of optimism and it was stressed that we all have a job to do in "a quality way" befitting "a quality profession"; a profession which offers both individuality and creativity in seeking that new quality of New Zealand life many people say they are striving for. Although we as a profession of landscape architects have a long way to go in the future we do have a good future provided we all do our job with sincerity.

3. Treasurer's report indicated that to date the Institute had a bank balance of \$604.00 and outstanding debits of \$58.38, leaving a total of \$545.62. The Treasurer reported that when all entrance fees and 1973/74 dues are paid up, we could have a balance of approximately \$900. The report was accepted by the Meeting.

The Secretary/Treasurer advised the meeting that we had a membership of 42, this comprising 13 Associates, 15 Affiliates and 14 Student members. Members were introduced by the Secretary and it was noted that there was a 100% student attendance and a total attendance of 37 of the Institutes 42 membership.

4. Constitution and proposed amendments. The proposed amendments as put forward by the Executive Committee from their meeting of 26 September 1973 were tabled by the Chairman. All the proposed amendments were accepted as tabled, the exceptions in the form of modifications being the following.

Article 7(e) Joe Volpe suggested that the age of 18 required for student members should be dropped and proposed the following motion:

"That the following is not less than 18 years of age and" be deleted from the proposed amendment.

Motion seconded by Charlie Challenger.

Motion carried.

Article 7(f) Some discussion was held on whether the age 18 limit in the new subscriber membership should be eliminated. Charlie Challenger suggested that the classification was designed for related fields rather than for recruiting students and therefore felt an age requirement should remain.

Joe Volpe made the following motion "that the age 18 requirement be deleted from the subscriber class membership". The motion was seconded by Frank Boffa.

Motion was lost (Chairman used deciding vote).

Earl Bennett proposed "that the age requirement for subscriber should be amended from 18 to 16 years of age" Motion seconded by Neil Aitken.

Motion carried.

Discussion on whether subscription rates could be lowered when one was not "employed or engaged" in landscape architecture. The two major areas of concern were for women and for other members who went overseas. The general feeling among the corporate membership was that there was no need to amend or make provision for any new membership class. Joe Volpe did not concur with this general consensus.

Discussion on the "grandfather clause" (Article 7c(iv)) was held and it was suggested that the Institute should invite those who met the requirements of the Institute to apply for membership. Members were also advised to notify the Secretary of any potential members in this category and any other potential members.

Meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes at 11.15a.m.

Janet Moss was excused at 11.30a.m. and the meeting resumed.

5. Papers were presented by members of the Executive Committee. The following papers were presented.

Publicity and Publications - Neil Aitken. Neil pointed to the need for these, particularly initial publicity. He stressed that there was a danger in being too bold, emotional or ambitious, without the necessary resources to sustain and back up the effort. We should pursue a middle of the road line, taking care to avoid any suggestion of timidity or apology. A press release was suggested through the "Christchurch Press" who would be prepared to release this to the N.Z.P.A. A list of professional bodies was given to whom we should notify of our existence.

Initial Approaches to Central Government - George Malcolm. Insufficient recognition and understanding by many Government Departments of the role of the landscape architect was stressed. Biggest problem was that landscape architects had to gain a higher occupational class with the State Services Commission than at present. George stressed that the top priority was to get landscape architects out of Landscape & Garden Class 235.1 and into Town Planning Class 213.1 He did not see the need

for a special class at this stage and felt that considerable status could be gained by being attached to Town Planning at this stage. Other approaches should be made to heads of Government Departments.

Local Government Approaches - Hedley Evans. The large number of local authorities throughout the country should be notified of the existence of the Institute. This would be the first priority and in time should be followed up with approaches by delegation to major authorities. A publication of the N.Z.I.L.A. could be sent to subscribing authorities and the Institute could provide speakers to selected local authority conferences.

District Level Organisation - Robin Gay. Because of the relatively small numbers of members involved at this stage it could be unwise and impractical to divide the country into districts. Four to six was seen as the minimum number of members in any area to form a group. Three alternatives were suggested:

1. No district groups in the first year.
2. Have a North and a South Island group.
3. Have a Canterbury group with regions such as Otago and Southland being serviced from this central group. The same principle to apply in Wellington and other North Island regions.

District organisation should not be over-emphasised at this initial stage of the Institute. Perhaps informally, groups could get together on a casual basis in the various areas.

Education, Foreign Relations and Seminars - Charlie Challenger.

The attention to education standards and the dissemination of information to our members and others was seen as being an essential part of the Institute's existence. The role of the Institute was seen as being that of a watchdog on the teaching Institutions and not taking on the role of teaching ourselves as an Institute. Mention was made of a future Institute examination system, however, this was not considered a priority at this stage.

Several topics were suggested for future seminars. Charlie stressed that we should not over reach our capabilities and what we do must be done well. He also suggested that we must be able to produce the results of seminars in such a manner as to reflect credit on the Institute and the profession.

Two fields of opportunity existed on the foreign relations aspect. Firstly through direct contact with neighbouring associations and secondly through international organisations of national bodies of landscape architects. It was considered essential that we seek membership with I.F.L.A. in the very near future.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Ministry of Works for the use of the building for the General Meeting and also to Patricia Shiel for organising the refreshments. Seconded by Hedley Evans and carried.

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.35p.m.

The Meeting resumed at 1.34p.m. Janet Moss returned.

Publicity and Publications. A motion was put forward by Charlie Challenger that "a news release be made through the Christchurch Press and the N.Z.B.C." Seconded by Hedley Evans and carried.

Neil Aitken and Hedley Evans were given the task of preparing the news release.

A Publicity and Publications Sub-Committee was set up. The following members were nominated and proposed for the Committee:

Neil Aitken - Chairman
Derek Fry
Sally Mason
Paula Parsonson
Earl Bennett

The Committee was instructed to prepare a general and a technical paper on the Institute and Landscape Architecture for use in professional and general journals and magazines. The Secretary will let the professional groups know that we exist and this will be followed up with the technical paper.

Central Government Approaches. A motion that "a delegation seek an invitation to meet the State Services Commission. The delegation be from the Executive Committee of the Institute and that they seek to gain professional recognition of landscape architects equal to all of the design professions. This and subsequent Meetings with the Commission should be initiated as soon as possible".

Proposed - Esmae Sage
Seconded - Diane Menzies - carried.

Paula Parsonson was excused from the Meeting at 2.45p.m.

A motion that "the Secretary write to the State Services Commission and the other departments listed in George Malcolm's paper advising these bodies that the Institute is formed, our objectives and our educational requirements for corporate membership"

Proposed - Joe Volpe
Seconded - Earl Bennett - carried.

Local Government Approaches. Discussion was held on whether we needed a Sub-Committee. It was generally felt that a Committee not be formed at this stage.

A motion that "a letter be sent via the Secretary to relevant local authorities advising them of our existence".

Proposed - Hedley Evans
Seconded - George Malcolm - carried.

District Level Organisation. After some discussion it was generally felt that no formal regional grouping be established. It was suggested, and generally met with overall approval, that informal 'get togethers' should be encouraged on a regional basis. Patricia Shiel volunteered to look into the setting up of a Christchurch group.

The Secretary with the assistance of the Publicity and Publications Committee would produce an area list of members names and addresses for circulation.

The students were informed that the Executive Committee supports the formation of their group.

Education, Foreign Relations and Seminars. Charlie Challenger offered to take on the role as editor of a newsletter for internal publication possibly coming out three times a year. The Meeting was quite enthusiastic about this idea and offer.

It was recommended that a letter be sent to the Australian Institute regarding examinations and the possibility of combining these. The general feeling of the Meeting was that a combined examination would be better than sitting the Australian exam.

An education Sub-Committee was formed.

Charlie Challenger - Chairman
Joe Volpe
Jan Woodhouse
John Boyd

Robin Gay left the Meeting at 4.12p.m.

On the question of seminars it was felt that one be held in conjunction with the 1974 Annual General Meeting which is to be scheduled in August 1974. The details regarding the Meeting and the seminar would be left to the Executive Committee.

The Meeting felt that we should seek registration with I.F.L.A.

A general discussion was opened by the Chairman.

It was felt that a Professional Practice Sub-Committee be set up to look into scales of fees, conditions of engagement and specifications and the like. The Sub-Committee nominated and accepted is:

Frank Boffa
Gilbert Brakey
Peter Sergel
Hugh Baxter

Joe Volpe and Earl Bennett offered their services if, and when required by the Sub-Committee.

The Secretary was authorised to proceed with obtaining a number of printed letterheads for the Institute.

The motion that "the Executive Committee be left to handle requests for speakers to conferences".

Proposed - Joe Volpe
Seconded - Neil Aitken - carried.

The Meeting closed at 4.40p.m.