GLASGOW INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM, THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2020 AT 6PM.

Author:	AR	Date:	10/12/2020

Present

Phil Zoechbauer	(President)	PZ
Alissar Riachi	(Hon. Secretary)	AR
Shona McVicar	(Vice-President)	SMc
Andrew Frame		AF
Andrew Hadden	(Vice-President)	AH
Elspeth Mcneil		AM
Isabel Garriga-Serrano		IG
James Robb		JR
James Watson		JW
Karen Kalkreuter		KK
Karen Nugent		KN
Robin Webster		RW
Scott Abercrombie		SA
Shabnam Komai-Koma		SKK
Victoria Scott		VS
Scott McAulay		SM
Sue Evans		SE

Apologies

Chris Stewart	Massimo Sannino
Jude Barber	Chloe Yuill
Stephen Doherty	Michael Dougall
Will Gunn	Matt Loader
Sam Patterson	Darren Williamson

		Action
1.0	**Introduction**	
1.1	PZ introduced Council Meeting as an opportunity to reflect on the year and an opportunity to set the aims and targets of what could be done next year as committees and as an organisation in general	
1.2.	PZ reflected on year and the improvement and adaptability of the GIA's digital capacity and outreach with CPDs, awards and all events held online. PZ noted there has been positive feedback from members on the GIA's performance considering the circumstances	
1.3	PZ congratulated committee on achievements over the past year despite circumstances and the high standard of work	
1.4	PZ opened up the floor to the committee to reflect on the year and the plan ahead	
2.0	**Online presence**	
2.1	RW noted that digital meetings attract more people and allow people from the periphery to attend, which could not happen otherwise. PZ noted that this opens up different avenues to meeting with the members and enquired how live and digital meetings could be combined for the future. RW noted that virtual and live meetings must not be held together, as they cause confusion. IG seconded RW's note and suggested that meetings could be alternated between live and digital. SMc agreed with RW and IG, noting that participants in a live meeting may disregard Zoom participants. RW noted that screen sharing is definitely easier via digital meetings, with all participant able to equally view the screen. Council to alternate between physical and digital meetings when physical are allowed.	Note
2.2	JW noted that West of Scotland RTPI had Christmas meeting that evening, where they have a quick committee meeting followed by a quiz, which gets people together in a circumstance uncommon for a committee meeting, which can help people interact	
2.3	AR noted that virtual events are more accessible to many people, particularly CPD lectures, as it allows people with various commitments to attend. AR further noted that Council Meetings may be more productive virtually, despite the lack of personal interaction	
2.4	PZ noted CPD and countdown to COP are the big success events via Zoom, allowing GIA to invite speakers from different locations via Zoom. Furthermore, digital events enable GIA to host them during lunch breaks, which was welcomed by people with commitments. EM enquired whether there is any way to find how many people are logging in from Oban, Dumfries and other chapter locations. IG enquired whether there can be a report showing locations. SMc noted Mail Chimp newsletters have a feature that shows where people are logging in from. PZ noted LinkedIn and website also allow analytic tools. SMc noted presentations from	

	home can become more engaging through using Mentimeter as a poll to see where people are logging in from	
2. 5	EM, VS and KK would like to do a survey about events and what people prefer in terms of timing. EM further enquired whether the provision of the recordings online would decrease the number of people logging in to the live events	EM+VS+KK
2.6	SMc proposed a transition to Youtube instead of Vimeo. Design Awards have been uploaded to Youtube as a test. IG proposed that all talks are uploaded to YouTube	SMc

3.0   Digital and Physical Archiving and Storage

3.1	SMc noted that it is important to have an archive where recordings and CPD are stored on the website to improve accessibility on the website. PZ noted restructure must be done on website to improve navigation and provide an easier overview	Note
3.2	AR noted the potential of using the available Google functions with GIA emails, with a necessary restructuring of storage through the adoption of Google Drive as a digital archive for WIP files, as well as an online database of previous projects. PZ supported move to Google Drive and notes the possibility of combining the G Suite into one big space for storage	AR
3.3	SA noted the importance of getting in touch with people who have archives of drawings which can be stored somewhere. This would allow for the digitisation of everything rather than having a physical store. This is a potential discussion with Glasgow City Council on being provided with a space such as NGS or Friends of the Necropolis. IG supported the need for a digital and physical store for the GIA to avoid materials being stored in personal premises. AR enquired on whether materials can be stored in a library. PZ noted the use of libraries may make materials less accessible. SA noted there may be an available space for hire in Glasgow – to be discussed with Glasgow City Council	
3.4	PZ proposed hiring a shopfront for COP26 as a hub space for the GIA, which, if secured on a short-term let, can be used as a trial on how well a facility like that may work for the GIA in the long-term	Note
3.5	SMc noted that there is a necessity for space practicality to allow storage, making assets available to Council regardless of whether individual Council Members continue being involved with the GIA. AR enquired on practicality regarding operating this space. RW proposed including this space as a part of an office. SA referred to a previous proposal of having someone working part-time and full-time as paid staff for the GIA, who can run this space.	
3.6	AR noted the importance of digital archives particularly considering the new generation of architects and students who prefer digital accessibility. SA noted the copyright issues of making things digital as they are in copyright to a practice, referring to the GIA 150 images, which could be printed, but could not be published online due to copyright. PZ noted the importance of making things digitally accessible, with this being financially plausible. SA noted there are grants for digitisation, which	Note

make heritage more accessible. PZ proposed applying for a grant and part-funding the digitisation of these documents

3.7 JW noted Glasgow district have a big resource centre available on computers allowing the collection of information

4.0 GIA Blog

4.1 SMc proposed an equivalent of a GIA blog, featuring a space for writing, short articles, things of interest, showcase of award projects. PZ noted that this can be a better way to engage more with members across the chapter area and a great resource for the GIA. This can also become a space for posting the President's Chapter updates, which are sent to RIAS on a quarterly basis | Note

4.2 SE has written a short piece that looks to identify the heritage-related submissions in the 2020 awards. This new feature would allow for an opportunity to recycle fantastic content, such as articles by some of the winners and other works that are not necessarily covered in CPD.

4.3 AR noted it can be a useful educational resource as a database for students or professionals sitting their Part 3.

4.4 SMc noted importance of understanding how people would respond to the blog and engage with it. SM further noted it is important to have a regular stream of content. PZ agreed with SMc and notes the importance of structured and regular content with works in the pipeline for a longer period of time, underlining the initial difficulty of getting this project off the ground. PZ noted that the blog need not be scheduled on a regular basis such as magazines or news blogs, but rather used to show quality content every fortnight or so. AR pointed out that the GIA needs to move forward with time and the digitisation of learning environments with the blog allowing for a space online where the GIA could address and respond to immediate issues, rather than only work on longer-term projects to address them. PZ proposed that this could be a space for regular contributions

5.0 Sustainability

5.1 JR noted that sustainability should become one of the focuses of the GIA not only with the Sustainability Committee, but across all committees. | Note

5.2 SE noted the importance of answering the questions when submitting award nominations, with some quality schemes from a sustainability standpoint failing to address the questions due to practice marketing teams submitting the appropriate information. SE suggested where new categories are appearing in the run-up to awards, more time could be invested in encouraging people to think about what it is they submit, which can improve their chances of being shortlisted with having submitted the appropriate information. PZ noted that in previous years people only submitted a project description, with 2020 being the first year, in which there were more criteria and notes for submitting. Furthermore, sustainability was presented as a special category, with practices addressing sustainability as a specific criterion

5.3	SM noted that sustainability needs to be addressed beyond architectural design awards, with COP being a great example of addressing the public en masse regarding the built environment. Less that 3% of conversations on climate change address buildings at all. There is a good base of people doing similar things around the built environment in Scotland, with many resources available online. SM further noted that it would be a very good time to link in with people around the country for events that could be very public-facing. SM noted that having COP on 'home soil' allows for a great opportunity in addressing the issue. Groups such as Climate 2050, Friends of the Earth Scotland, PassivHaus Trust, SEDA, Historic Environment Scotland. The GIA could help the platform and engage the public beyond architects. PZ agreed with SM and noted that Chris's Put a Cone on the COP is a great event, which can be expanded on, allowing for a great opportunity to engage with a much wider side of the public. SMc enquired on how this must be done proactively, such as creating partnerships, with the GIA becoming a platform	Note
5.4	AH enquired about vacant land from Lateral North for COP26; AH and SM can come together for a combined approach SM noted that the pandemic brought a lot of interest to certain partnerships and suggested that GIA should go beyond architects and engage the public on the buildings that the use	AH + SM
5.5	PZ enquired whether the GIA website should include events done by other organisations that have similar aims to our own. AR noted that smaller organisations over the past year, particularly ones led by young people, have been supportive of one another through sharing each other's events via social media and suggested that the GIA could do that, creating a support network. SMc noted that the calendar could be kept as a separate, more formal tool. A new tab could be created on the website to include events that are beyond the GIA's. PZ suggested that other 'partner' organisations could be added to the bottom of the website	Note
5.6	JW noted that as an events manager for Landscape, he had collected all seminars and events. He suggests looking at organisations that have started up again digitally such as RIAS, RTPI, RICS, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, etc and making mention of them	
5.7	SE noted that Doors Open Day theme for September next year is Climate Change. She enquires if practices could open their doors physically or digitally and provide more info in January if of interest	SE

6.0 Education

6.1	AR introduced a new idea for the Education Committee based on LASC's Peer Reviews at the start of the pandemic, which can be done in the context of Glasgow to engage students from Strathclyde and the GIA. The project size and ambition is large and therefore requires liaison with student societies from both schools. It is suggested that the GIA collaborates with MASS (GSA) and A131 (Strathclyde).	AR + ZI

7.0 Diversity

7.1 PZ notes the importance of diversity and addressing that issue within the GIA across a number of different avenues. PZ would further like to do a review of how the GIA functions as an organisation	Note
7.2 AR notes that guest speakers is a good way to increase diversity and encourage diverse role models for younger people	
7.3 PZ noted that special care must be given to selecting judges and encouraging a diverse group	

8.0   Any other business

8.1   None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th of February @ 6.00 pm via Zoom