



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sustainable Design Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 • 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:
Rutherford & Chekene
55 Second St, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA

Present:

Erik Kneer, Co-chair	ekneer@degenkolb.com
Lindsey Maclise, Co-chair	maclise@forell.com
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I. Old Business/Liaison Reports

1A GreenBuild Convention Kneer/Maclise

Erik and Lindsey presented at the GreenBuild Convention in Phoenix; Petra also attended. The event was very organized, with an impressive array of vendors, and featured Al Gore and Sheryl Crow. Our presentation was well received by an audience of about 200 – 300 people, mostly architects and clients.

At the next GreenBuild, we would like to see more structural presentations. Also, the statewide committee wants to increase our participation in next year's GreenBuild, so we're hoping to take charge of two 1.5 – hour tracks next year. Tentatively, we're thinking of one track on existing buildings (loss, deconstructability, and retrofit), and one on general green buildings. Lindsey and Allen will each champion one track, and abstracts are due on January 15th.

1B SEI Committee Update Maclise

Lindsey, Frances, and Dmitry are on the SEI Committee; Lindsey is the liaison between our group and theirs. They have a book on green design coming out in the early spring, and are spending the rest of their meetings splitting into groups to address thermal bridging, CO₂, life cycle analysis, resiliency, green building codes, etc. Their long term goal is to have a website presence and to move into working



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groups to do small publications, like articles.

- 1C SEAOC Committee Update Kneer
- Erik attended the most recent statewide committee meeting. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the efforts of the different regional committee meetings, as well as to advocate for us on the statewide and national fronts. We're aiming at the California Green Building Code, to review the code and provide commentary. Lisa is heading the effort, and could use help. Talk to her or Erik if you'd like to participate.
- Interesting events in other regions: LA's doing a bike tour of sustainable buildings, which sounds like a lot of fun. We suggest doing something similar in SF, besides meetings and seminars, to engage our members and provide a fun activity. LA is also setting up a green vendor fair, which we may try to incorporate into the summer seminar series. Petra volunteered to spearhead finding vendors.
- 1D Other Old Business All
- Lisa went to Build-it-Green training, and reports that it was very interesting, and focused mostly on residential structures. They did talk about optimum value engineering and advanced framing, but not in great depth.
- The BuildWell Symposium is coming up, and Dmitry plans to attend.
- There is a free webcast through Sustainable Engineer Magazine, 11am December 15th. Also, there's a presentation on sustainable design from the insurance standpoint, to be conducted on Friday at noon, at Severson & Werson Law Firm.
- Lisa plans to run analyses of different structural systems in BEES and Athena, to determine relative impacts of each with regards to water, energy, and CO2.
- The EPA is considering calling flyash a hazardous material, though nothing is yet final.
- LEED accreditation requirements have changed again. Currently, if you already have a LEED AP, you keep your accreditation, but need to take further tests to get a specialty. Also, you don't actually need to do anything until 2011. We're planning to wait a bit to see if the rules are clarified further. We also need to figure out how to get our events accredited as continuing education.

III. Committee Action Items

- 3A Pamphlets for PBD/Disaster Kneer
- The first pamphlets are printed, approved, and laid out at GreenBuild; most of the 200 copies in the first print were taken (only 20 left). We're trying to get the pamphlet template from Michelle, so we can do future pamphlets more easily.
- The committee agreed that a summary of OVE, or "Advanced", Timber Framing methods would make an excellent candidate for our next pamphlet.



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- 3B Joint CEC-SDC Summer Seminar Series Maclise
Lindsey is still working on the seminar series. She and Allen are going to meet with the Continuing Education Committee heads, to verify that they are okay with our plans so far. We will then move ahead and begin contacting speakers in January, and will need a point person for each speaker. We also hope to have a small vendor fair, so need to find out what space is available for this.
- 3C Webpage Maclise/Kyler
Matt suggests keeping the website updated, specifically, adding PE and SE accreditations where earned. We also need to upload Katy Hollbacher's presentation. Alan Kren and Sarah Vaughn wrote an interesting article about carbonation of concrete, which we would like to post on our website once we obtain their permission.

IV. Discussion Topic / Project Updates

- 4A OVE/Advanced Light Framed Construction All
The seismology committee is looking at advanced framing to see how it works in seismic country. Erik encourages interested people to attend Seismology's meeting to learn more about this.
- SEAOC just released a call for special projects submittals; winners will get \$10,000 to pursue their projects. We should consider submitting an idea, possibly addressing the reliability of advanced framing. Allen suggests that education may be more effective than research in promoting the use of advanced framing, specifically to reduce the overdesign of gravity framing elements. Lisa suggests that engineers will feel more comfortable using techniques that have been tested more extensively. Steve points out that redundancy in timber is actually a good thing, because the structure often gets perforated by plumbing, etc.
- The committee agreed that we should attend the upcoming Seismology committee's light framed meeting to provide representation from the SDC and work jointly with them to produce a set of recommendations/action items.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 27 @ 5:30 pm
Paradigm Structural Engineers
450 Sansome Street, Fifth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111

Respectfully submitted by Beth Grote, December 14th.

END OF MINUTES

The above is considered to be a true and accurate recording of items discussed. Should any discrepancies be noted, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible.