

Urban Design Group

AGM 2012: Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Urban Design Group was held at 6pm on Wednesday 20 June 2012 in The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London.

The meeting was chaired by Amanda Reynolds, Chair of the Urban Design Group.

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

All present were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from John Billingham, Philip Cave and Niltay Tosun-Erdem.

2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The minutes of the 2011 AGM (held on 15 June 2011) were agreed, being proposed by Arnold Linden and seconded by Barry Sellers.

3. Annual report and accounts

Amanda Reynolds introduced the annual report and summaries of various sections were provided by committee members:

■ *Accounts 2011-12*

UDG Treasurer Colin Pullan reported on a stable year for the UDG during which a prudent approach to expenditure had resulted in a small profit of £1897. However, with the encouragement of the Trustees, the UDG intended to in 2012-13 to make use of reserves in order to drive forward a number of exciting initiatives, including the new Directory and other outputs which reflect 'fresh thinking' in urban design. It is also hoped that the UDG will capitalise on the success of the awards to further increase its profile and income over the coming year.

However the UDG – like the profession as a whole – will continue to face challenging times ahead and there is a need to reassess our income generating activities and the value of membership. There has been no increase in membership subscription rates for eight years, a trend which is becoming unsustainable particularly in light of recent postal price increases. The first task of the new executive committee will be to conduct a review of membership categories, subscription rates and benefits; there may well be a need to increase fees for certain types of membership but it is hoped that this will come hand in hand with a better offer to members.

Arnold Linden praised the efficient running of the UDG by the secretariat.

■ *Education*

Katy Neaves reported on the recent activities of the UDG Education Group, particularly the second annual education symposium which took place in Birmingham on 23 April 2012. The event was well attended by representatives from a number of universities and topics covered included research, distance learning opportunities and the challenges and opportunities presented by an increasingly international student body.

■ *Editorial Board*

Sebastian Loew, co-editor of the journal (with Louise Thomas), summarised the work of the editorial board, including its membership and topics covered by Urban Design over the past twelve months. He also outlined the editorial board's involvement with the Urban Design Awards, which are published in the journal, and also the Urban Design Directory, a new edition of which will be compiled over the coming months (for publication in spring) under the editorship of Louise Thomas.

Robert Huxford
Director
Robert.huxford@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Louise Ingledow
Development Manager
louise.ingledow@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Urban Design Group
70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ

Patrons
Irena Bauman
Alan Baxter
Sir Richard MacCormac
Dickon Robinson
Helle Søholt
Lindsey Whitelaw
John Worthington

www.udg.org.uk
Charity no. 326123

Editorial board members are also involved in other publications; Sebastian Loew's book on urban design around the world is due to be published in July 2012 and Joe Holyoak is working on an updated edition of Francis Tibbalds' book Making People Friendly Towns.

Arnold Linden proposed a vote of special thanks for John Billingham in recognition of his many years of invaluable work on the editorial board, particularly as editor of Urban Design and the Urban Design Direct Directory and in devising/developing the Urban Design Awards.

Both the annual report and accounts were accepted by those present, being proposed by Arnold Linden and seconded by Alan Stones

4. Election of officers and executive committee

Amanda Reynolds had reached the end of her two year term as Chair of the Urban Design Group. She was thanked for the energy and enthusiasm with which she has led the Group, helping to bring a new vibrancy through many highly successful events and conferences, supporting the development of the Urban Design Awards, expanding the Executive Committee, engaging new patrons and the implementation of a number of practical improvements (e.g. new website; Direct Debit). She will remain as a member of the committee in 2012-13.

Amanda is succeeded as chair by Paul Reynolds, whose nomination for the role was unchallenged. He hopes to build upon the work of his predecessor, using these solid foundations as a basis to communicate the UDG's message more effectively (particularly through use of social media) and make the group a focus for new and innovative thinking in urban design. Colin Pullan will continue for a second year as UDG Treasurer.

There was one new election to the Executive Committee for 2012-13, namely Serena Yao who is based in Cardiff and was a finalist for the 2012 UDG Student Award. Existing committee members Riccardo Bobisse, Philip Cave, Duncan Ecob, Sebastian Loew, Colin Munsie, Katy Neaves, Barry Sellers and Alan Stones, as well as Amanda Reynolds, were all re-elected.

Long-standing committee members Ben van Bruggen and Graham Smith and Jack, as well as Andrew Dakin, all agreed to continue their invaluable work for the UDG and will be co-opted to the Committee at its first meeting in July.

Finally sincere thanks were extended to those former committee members choosing to step down in 2012, including two members of very long standing, John Billingham and Jack Warshaw. Both were applauded for their many years of work and commitment to the UDG; John's pivotal role in a number of the UDG's major initiatives and outputs of recent years was singled out for particular note. Niltay Tosun-Erdem will also stand down after one year on the Committee; however she will continue her involvement with the STREET network and it is hoped she will stand for re-election in the future.

The full list of members elected to the Executive Committee was stated as follows:

Robert Huxford

Director
Robert.huxford@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Louise Ingledow

Development Manager
louise.ingledow@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Urban Design Group

70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ

Patrons

Irena Bauman
Alan Baxter
Sir Richard MacCormac
Dickon Robinson
Helle Sohølt
Lindsey Whitelaw
John Worthington

<i>The following members have been nominated to join the UDG Executive Committee for 2012-13</i>	<i>The following members will be co-opted to the UDG Executive Committee at its first meeting in July 2012</i>
Paul Reynolds (nominated as Chair)	Ben van Bruggen
Colin Pullan (nominated as Treasurer)	Andrew Dakin
Riccardo Bobisse	Graham Smith
Philip Cave	
Duncan Ecob	
Sebastian Loew	
Colin Munsie	
Katy Neaves	
Amanda Reynolds	
Barry Sellers	
Alan Stones	
Serena Yao	

5. Review of Membership Categories, Rates & Benefits

Over the coming year, it is proposed that a review of UDG membership categories, subscription rates, packages and benefits will be conducted (see treasurer's report under item 3). Judith Ryser asked that special consideration be given to the offer for international members.

6. Any other business

No other matters were raised for discussion

[end]

Robert Huxford

Director
Robert.huxford@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Louise Ingledow

Development Manager
louise.ingledow@udg.org.uk
Tel: 020 7250 0892

Urban Design Group

70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ

Patrons

Irena Bauman
Alan Baxter
Sir Richard MacCormac
Dickon Robinson
Helle Søholt
Lindsey Whitelaw
John Worthington