
Joint Chairs Group of Professional Design Boards **Business Meeting Minutes**

DATE: August 12, 2024

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 1100 N. Eutaw St.
5th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(*Teleconference via Google Meet*)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Schein, *Chair, Landscape Architects*
Cynthia Shonaiya, *Architects*
Sallye E. Perrin, *Professional Engineers*
T.J. Frazier, *Professional Land Surveyors*
Robyn Dubick, *Certified Interior Designers*

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Matthew Venuti, *Board Counsel*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Schein called the business meeting of the Joint Chairs of Design Boards to order at 11:10 a.m.

Approval of December 6, 2023 Minutes

Motion (I) was made by Ms. Dubick, seconded by Ms. Perrin, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the December 6, 2023 meeting minutes without corrections.

Legislative Report

Mr. Venuti stated the Design Boards do not have legislation for this session. Some outside organizations are sponsoring bills that may have implications for these Boards. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is proposing a bill for an emeritus/retired license status for Maryland landscape architects. This license status is similar to the other design board's retired license status. The Maryland Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-MD) is proposing a bill that would reimburse the PE Board for its legal costs as part of processing complaints before the board. NSPE-MD is also supporting a bill that proposes all pathways to licensure require both the Fundamental of Engineering (FE) and the Principle and Practice Engineering (PE) exams.

Mr. Dubick inquired how the proposed bill by NSPE-MD for legal fees would affect the general fund. Mr. Venuti responded that since their biggest accrued costs are legal fees, it would greatly assist in the budget.

Executive Director's Report

Budget

Mr. Thomas stated that all of the Design Boards increased their fees to the maximum amount of 12% per fiscal year helped increase revenue. He continues to share the projected revenues and deficits from Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026. He informed the group that the fee increases across all boards went into effect on August 1, 2024.

Board Reports

Professional Land Surveyors

Tom Orisich is no longer serving on the Board. Mr. Orisich has been granted Emeritus status with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering (NCEES). The board's legislative sunset extension passed earlier this year. The Board is currently drafting a letter of support for a mapping and science exam to be included through NCEES. The Ad-hoc Committee concluded their research on title block certification language to mirror the Board of Professional Engineers. The Maryland Society of Surveyors sponsored bill on criminal and civil trespass that was passed by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill grants limited access to licensed land surveyors while working on private property.

Professional Engineers

The Board has been looking into ways to streamline its Complaint Committee system. Members of the PE Board are scheduled to attend their annual NCEES meeting starting later this week from August 13 - 17. The meeting is being held in Chicago, IL.

Landscape Architects

The Board established a committee that spent the last year re-writing regulations relating to Continuing Professional Competency. At the annual Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) meeting, the State Board will be voting for the CLARB new board of directors. CLARB's annual meeting will take place September 18 – 20, 2024. The American Society of Landscape Architects may sponsor an emeritus status since the Department of Labor reached its capacity for the number of bills that it could sponsor.

Architects

The Board completed their Code Officials handbook for distribution. They attended two outreach opportunities. The first forum was held at Morgan State University, School of Architecture in April 2024. They received positive feedback, the main feedback being that the Board appeared accessible. The second outreach will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall of this year. The American Institute of Architects, Baltimore chapter will be holding an end-of-year gala where the Board is hoping to recognize new licensed architects. The Board is putting together a committee in regards to their Practice Act such as the ten-year license requirement to be a board member. The annual National Council of Architectural

Registration Boards (NCARB) business meeting was attended this year on June 13 – 15, in Chicago, Illinois.

Certified Interior Designers

The Board has designated 2 board members to attend their annual meeting of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ). The meeting will be held on November 7 – 9, in Chicago, IL. The Board has continued its ongoing work on a handbook to be distributed to Maryland Code officials.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Motion (II) was made by Ms. Shonaiya, seconded by Ms. Dubick, and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Chair's Signature: _____

Date: _____