
Joint Chairs of Design Board

Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 22, 2023

TIME: 01:00 PM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: John V. Mettee III, *Chair of Professional Land Surveyors*
Paul D. Edmeades, *Chair of Board of Architects*
H.C. "Skip" Harclerode II, *Chair of Professional Engineers*
Carmen Sneed, *Certified Interior Designer*
Christopher Schein, *Chair of Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robyn Dubick, *Chair of Board of Certified Interior Designers*

STAFF PRESENT: Kausar Syed, *Deputy Commissioner*
Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Raquel Meyers, *Assistant Executive Director*
Jessica Praley, *Assistant Attorney General*
Kenneth Sigman, *Assistant Attorney General*
Kimberly S. Ward, *Deputy Counsel for Advice and Procurement*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Mettee called the business meeting of the Joint Chairs of Design Board to order at 1:09 p.m.

Approval of September 8, 2022 Minutes

www.labor.maryland.gov

Motion (I) was made by Mr. Edmeades, seconded by Mr. Schein, and carried unanimously by the Board to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes with corrections.

Legislative Report

Ms. Praley reported the following:

- Certified Interior Designers and Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects have sunset bills submitted, and their first hearing is March 3, 2023.
- Occupational and Professional Licensing have bills before the legislature that pertain to the Design Boards including:
 - HB 1152 – The waiving of certain license and permit fees for business
 - HB 636 – Changes made to the Public Information Act
 - HB 906 – Updated provisions pertaining to criminal history when applying for a license.

Mr. Sigman reported that the Board of Architects have submitted for their sunset extension. The current sunset is set to expire on July 1, 2023.

Mr. Mettee added that legislative bill SB 288 is also being reviewed. This bill seeks to grant exceptions regarding land surveyors and trespassing.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas stated that he, along with the Maryland Society of Surveyors (MSS), testified for SB 288. He also reported on the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR), virtual conference that occurred on February 6. It was informative of ongoing national issues pertaining to the design professions. In addition, Mr. Thomas reminded each Chair that ethics and finance paperwork is due on April 28, 2023.

Board Reports

Professional Engineers

Mr. Harclerode stated that the Board for Professional Engineers has five members going to the joint meeting in Houston. There is ongoing debate on whether or not the education requirements checklist should change in Maryland to reflect the NCEES standard. Mr. Harclerode continued to report that the laws and regulations do not allow experience to be gained while enrolled as a student. Maryland law states that candidates must have four years of experience gained after completing an undergraduate degree which is being reviewed by the Board for Professional Engineers. There is movement in the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers to change 305(d) to at least require passing the FE exam along with twelve years of experience. Lastly, the Board is reviewing the issue of how much credit an applicant should receive if their undergraduate degree is not EAC.

Professional Land Surveyors

Mr. Mettee reported that the Board for Professional Land Surveyors had completed the process of changing their regulations due to the Practice Law Act that was passed two years prior. In addition, the Board for Professional Land Surveyors attempted to have an emeritus status bestowed for the retiring board counsel. Regrettably, it was denied as she is not an active Board member. Mr. Mettee stated that he created an ad-hoc committee to review a part of regulations, specifically certification. Two Board members and two members from MSS will research the Board for Professional Engineers regulations and make recommendations.

Architects

Mr. Edmeades stated that the Board of Architects is still working on three outreach committees: 1) Diversity, equity, and inclusion; Code officials; Board responsibilities to Maryland law. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is currently exploring new board positions. Also, the Maryland Board is discussing an approval process for students enrolled in the IPAL (Integrated Path to Licensure) program. This is an NCARB program that provides eligible students to take the architect registration exam (ARE) while completing a degree in architecture and gaining professional experience. Morgan State University, School of Architecture has requested a letter of support from the Board to start an NCARB IPAL program in Maryland.

Examiners of Landscape Architects

Mr. Schein reports that the Senate Bill 716 is on stand-by. The Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects spent the last year updating continuing education competency. Ms. Praley is tracking the proposed regulation as it is being reviewed. At the upcoming quarterly meetings, the Board is considering two topics: a retired status for licensees and a proposal to decouple the experience and non-experience portions of the L.A.R.E. Mr. Schein added that trials have shown more people were retained when the exam was decoupled. Mr. Mettee added that both engineers and surveyors have their national exam in two sections, and fundamentals section has better outcomes when candidates are recent graduates.

Certified Interior Designers

Ms. Sneed reported, in Ms. Dubick's stead, that the Board of Certified Interior Designers have submitted their sunset extension to the legislature. Updates will be received at their quarterly meetings. Also, the Board of Certified Interior Designers have received applications for new Board members. There are plans in place to coordinate activities with the Board for Architects in the near future.

New Business

Septic System Design Licensing

Mr. Harclerode informed the Joint Chairs of Design Board that the Maryland legislature wants to create a separate permit for septic systems. Therefore, if a Professional Engineer who is licensed to design septic wishes to do so, a separate permit would have to be obtained. Mr. Harclerode believes it is impractical since the PE board already regulates civil engineering.

Mr. Mettee inquired if it is intended to be a permit or a certificate. Mr. Harclerode was unsure. Mr. Edmeades inquired if that means other people would be able to do septic design as well as licensed engineers. Mr. Harclerode confirmed this statement.

Mr. Harclerode believes either the Board for Professional Engineers or Joint Chairs of Design Board should take a stand on this legislative bill. Mr. Mettee responded that the Joint Chairs of Design Board can join the initiative if the Board for Professional Engineers begins the process.

Code Officials

Mr. Edmeades stated that his Board is working on a hand-out for code officials on architect's responsibilities and "overlapping practice" with other design professionals. He asked the present Chairs if they would like to add any input. Mr. Mettee responded that the Chairs would give input for the hand-out, and it should possibly be added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of the website.

Old Business

Fees

Mr. Mettee inquired to Mr. Thomas about feedback from the current administration regarding raising of board fees. He stated that one of the tasks of the Joint Chairs is to oversee the boards' budgets.

Ms. Syed stated that the agency is currently in the process of collecting data from neighboring states examine the viability of increasing fees.

Mr. Harclerode stated that the reason specifically firms do not have license fees was because of the administrative costs, and the Boards would be expected to subsidize those costs was an answer he was given in the past. He believes that the Boards should cover administrative costs to have this fee.

Adjournment

Mr. Mettee stated that the next meeting will take place on May 24, 2023.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Harclerode, seconded by Mr. Edmeades, and carried unanimously by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Chair's Signature: Signature on File

Date: 05/24/2023