
Maryland Board of Architects
Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 28, 2022

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 1306 Concourse Drive
3rd Floor Conference Room
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Videoconferencing: <https://meet.google.com/cmp-vqnj-zic>

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Edmeades, Chair
Cynthia Shonaiya, Vice Chair
Stephanie Hopkins, Consumer Member
Mark Flemming, Architect
Gary Ey, Consumer Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Sneed, Architect
Douglas Polt, Architect

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, Executive Director
Raquel Meyers, Assistant Executive Director
Kenneth Sigman, Board Counsel
Noraida Lozano, Board Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, NCARB
Josh Batkin, Vice President for Council Relations, NCARB
Megan McCabe Marcell, Volunteer Management, NCARB
John Corkill, Architect

Call to Order

Paul Edmeades, Chair, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland Board of Architects to order, held at 1306 Concourse Drive, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 at 11:12 am.

Approval of Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on August 24, 2022. Motion (I) was made by Mr. Ey, seconded by Ms. Shonaiya, and unanimously carried out by the Board to approve the minutes with corrections.

Complaint Committee Report

Mr. Ey presented the following report on behalf of the Complaint Committee:

03-AR-21 – No Change still waiting for Oct 4th trial date

10-AR-21 – Consent Order was received and signed. Should be closed next Meeting

Motion (II) was made by Ms. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Flemming, and unanimously carried out to accept the Complaint Committee Report.

NCARB Presentation

Mr. Armstrong gave a brief overview of him doing his Board meeting visits since 2011. He acknowledged Chair Edmeades, the former Region 2 representative, and Mr. Ey one of the current Directors of the NCARB National Board. Mr. Armstrong shared with the Board that the primary focus of President Bayliss Ward, NCARB, AIA, is expanding impact through outreach. This year he's looking for new ways to communicate with practitioners, particularly with firms. Mr. Armstrong mentioned that the two primary causes for candidates abandoning the pursuit of licensure are cost and culture. He reported on two updates to the ARE. 1) Offering ARE candidates access to a practice exam and 2) accommodation for ESL candidates by providing additional time during the exam (20% extra time).

Mr. Armstrong is anticipating revisiting the model law. They are also considering how they can promote the appropriate recognition of community college as another path toward licensure.

Mr. Armstrong also mentioned that they are continuing to track legislation around the country that intend to dilute the role of the regulatory Boards across the country.

Ms. Hopkins inquired if there're special accommodations for deaf candidates when taking the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Mr. Armstrong replied that special accommodations for visual, hearing, and other disabilities.

Ms. Shonaiya asked how the Council can determine if the candidate is qualified for an extension if English is their second language. Mr. Armstrong replied that the Council conducts random audits to validate them.

Ms. Shonaiya also asked about the updates on the NCARB agreement with the United Kingdom. Mr. Armstrong said that the resolution was passed in June for its approval to go forward with negotiations. The Council will only sign the agreement after they include the NAAB accredited path. The United Kingdom hasn't signed the agreement. It needs to be reviewed by the UK Parliament and the UK is in the process of changing Prime Ministers. They may be ready to sign the agreement as early as February.

Mr. Ey asked about the reaction of the ARE test prep community to practice exams. Mr. Armstrong said that the Council has invited many ARE test prep providers to submit certified prep materials.

After a brief message from Mr. Armstrong, Chair Edmeades asked Mr. Thomas about updates on Sunset Extension Legislation. Mr. Thomas stated that all documents were forwarded to the Office of the Secretary to which Mr. Sigman, Board counsel agreed.

Review of Applications

Applications for Architectural Registration Exam (A. R. E.)

Chair Edmeades presented the report for the Applicants for Architectural Registration Exam (A.R.E.)

There were **four (4)** A.R.E. applications administratively approved:

ELASHRY, HAYMAN
YORK, ABIGAIL

IMES, TAYLORA
WILSON, KEISHA

There were **four (4)** A.R.E applications approved by the Board:

AMAYA, WENDY
VEATER, HANNAH

ARGIRES, THOMAS
ZUNIGA, ALEX

Applications for Reciprocity - NONE

Motion (III) was made by Ms. Shonaiya, seconded by Mr. Ey and unanimously carried out to approve **eight (8)** A.R.E. applications, with **two (2)** ARE denials.

Old Business

Chair Edmeades identified some topics that will be discussed at the next meeting, including the Sunset Extension Legislation and the committees that he created such as DEI, Board Responsibilities to MD Law, and Code Officials. He also suggested the revision of the ARE application be discussed in the next Board Meeting.

New Business - NONE

Correspondence - NONE

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas updated the Board on the technical updates to Google Drive platform. He also updated the Board about the new IPAL program at Morgan State SA+P. The IPAL Coordinator was invited to attend the October Board meeting to discuss the burgeoning program

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Sigman reported the review and approval of NCARB ADA accommodations being transmitted to NCARB.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Motion (IV) was made by Ms. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ey, and unanimously carried out to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm.

The next Board Meeting will be on October 26, 2022, Wednesday at 11:00 am

_____ With Corrections

_____ Without Corrections

(Signature on File)

11/02/2022

Paul Edmeades, Chair

Date