
Maryland Board of Architects

Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 24, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 100 S. Charles Street
3rd Floor Conference Room
Tower 1, Baltimore, MD 21201

Video Teleconferencing via: <https://meet.google.com/tbt-uxif-gth>
Phone Number: (US) +1 567-250-3071 PIN: 211 193 419#

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Shonaiya, Chair, RA
Paul Edmeades, RA
Douglas Polt, RA
Kevin Sneed, RA
Casey Dawkins, PhD
Gretel Lott, CID

MEMBER ABSENT: Kuo Pao Lian, RA

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sherry Nickerson, AIA Maryland Representative

Call to Order

Ms. Cynthia Shonaiya, Chair, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland Board of Architects to order at 11:06 a.m. via [Google Meet at https://meet.google.com/tbt-uxif-gth](https://meet.google.com/tbt-uxif-gth), Phone Number: (US) +1 567-250-3071, PIN: 211 193 419#.

Approval of Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on August 27, 2025. Motion (I) was made by Mr. Polt, seconded by Mr. Dawkins, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes without corrections.

Complaint Committee Report

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

03-AR-25 - Referred to the Board for review

11-AR-25 – Awaiting recommendation from the Attorney General’s (AGs) office

12-AR-25 - Requested additional information from the complainant

13-AR-25 – Pre-charge

01-AR-26 - Recommended closing

Reinstatement application - recommended approval upon receipt of the fee and meeting of continuing education requirements for the two (2) previous license cycles.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Sneed, seconded by Mr. Edmeades, and carried by the Board to accept the Complaint Committee Report.

Review of Applications

Applications for the Architectural Registration Exam (ARE)

Mr. Edmeades presented the report for the Architectural Registration Exam (ARE) and reciprocity applications.

There were **twelve (12)** ARE applications administratively approved:

CUSIMANO, Colin Michael

FERRANTE, Nina

GRAVEN, Sarah Jane

HOUCK-MELONI, Valerie

LEVINAS, Mihal

MENGENS, Alexis

NOBLEZA, Melody

OXENDALE, Nicholas

SHAEFFER, Lori Arianna

SUGGS, Javad

TANNIR, Joseph

YARNALL, Emily

There were **five (5)** ARE applications approved by the Board:

BRIGHAM, Henry

GALANTE, James

KULPAK, Kyle

LEONNIG, Viviana

WERKMEISTER, Amanda

Applications for Reciprocity - None

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Polt, seconded by Mr. Dawkins, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve **seventeen (17)** A.R.E. applications. No reciprocity application was submitted.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Pathways to Licensure Forum

Mr. Dawkins confirmed that the committee would proceed with the plan to hold the next Pathways to Licensure Forum on October 21, 2025, at Montgomery College. The committee's next meeting will be on Thursday, September 25, 2025, to finalize the event. Announcements will be out soon.

Ms. Shonaiya encouraged members to attend the event to have the opportunity to interact with the potential ARE candidates. She confirmed that Mr. Sneed, Mr. Edmeades, and she would be on the panel. The speakers from NCARB, AIA, and Montgomery College will join the event.

Outreach Committee- None

New Business - None

Correspondence - None

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas reported that he would be representing the MD Board at the NCARB Region 2: Student/Educator/Practitioner (SEP) Symposium in Philadelphia, PA on September 25-26, 2025, at Temple University, Tyler School of Art + Architecture. He will provide a report during the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas acknowledged and introduced Ms. Sherry Nickerson, a representative of AIA Maryland, who joined to observe the Board Meeting.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Venuti reported that the Legislative Task Force met on September 22, 2025, to review the Board's regulations. He will finalize a draft of the revised regulation. The Board can then discuss the draft during the October meeting and vote on initial approval. Once approved by the Board, it would be sent for public comment and later approved by the Office of the Secretary.

Mr. Thomas interjected that a copy of the updated legislative report was furnished to AIA Maryland. Ms. Nickerson mentioned that AIA Maryland has some comments and questions that could be expected at the next meeting.

