



MEETING MINUTES CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

September 18, 2020
Teleconference Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

On September 18, 2020, Board President, Tian Feng, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer (EO), called roll.

Board Members Present

Tian Feng, President
Nilza Serrano, Secretary
Malcolm "Brett" Gladstone (joined late)
Pasqual Gutierrez (joined late)
Ronald A. Jones
Sylvia Kwan
Ebony Lewis
Robert C. Pearman, Jr.
Charles "Sonny" Ward, III (joined late)

Six members of the Board present constitute a quorum. There being six members present at the time of roll, a quorum was established.

Guests Present

Frank Bostrom, American Institute of Architects (AIA) California
Mark Christian, Director of Government Relations, AIA California
Debra Gerod, President, AIA California
Carrie Holmes, Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations, DCA
William (Bill) Leddy, Chair for the Committee on the Environment and
Vice-President for Climate Action, AIA California
Kat Marian
Ryan Perez
Rona Rothenberg
Jon Wreschinsky, Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Member

Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, EO

Vickie Mayer, Assistant Executive Officer

Jane Kreidler, Program Manager Administration Unit

Trish Rodriquez, LATC Program Manager

Marcus Reinhardt, Program Manager Examination/Licensing

Kim McDaniel, Administration Analyst

Blake Clark, Examination Coordinator

Gabrial Nessar, Administration Analyst

Michael Sganga, Enforcement Analyst

Karen Halbo, Regulatory Council, Attorney III, DCA

Cesar Victoria, Television Specialist, DCA

Tara Welch, Board Council, Attorney III, DCA

B. PRESIDENT'S PROCEDURAL REMARKS AND BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Mr. Feng introduced new Board member Ronald A. Jones and announced the meeting is being webcast pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020. Mr. Feng also announced that member Denise Campos' term ended on June 30 and thanked her for her contributions to the Board; and recognized LATC member Jon Wreschinsky for his attendance.

C. UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA)

Carrie Holmes introduced herself as DCA's new Deputy Director for Board and Bureau Relations, shared her professional background, and announced other appointees of DCA's new leadership team. She welcomed new Board member Mr. Jones and provided the following update:

- In July, the Budget Office and the Office of Information Services launched four new budget expenditure and revenue reports and are working on three additional reports.
- To improve timelines and transparency for regulations, the Office of Legal Affairs developed a Regulations Unit that will assist boards/bureaus with regulation packages.
- A new online system to manage and track regulations was implemented and DCA will continue with a phased implementation.

- In March, all DCA offices closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reopened on June 15, 2020. Ms. Holmes expressed gratitude to the Board and staff for their flexibility during these transitions and noted that DCA has implemented telework plans, physical distancing, and other preventive measures.
- Board members were encouraged to attend DCA's Board Member Orientation on October 21st and 28th by registering on the DCA board member webpage.

Mr. Feng opened the meeting to questions and comments.

Mr. Jones provided a statement thanking Governor Gavin Newsom for recently appointing him to the Board, thanked staff for providing guidance through the administrative process, and President Feng and Board members for their outreach.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Campos, Board member since 2014, thanked former Senator Darrell Steinberg and Speaker of the California State Assembly Anthony Rendon for the appointment and re-appointment to the Board. She also thanked Board members and staff. Ms. Campos reflected on her time while serving on the Board and shared that she plans to continue her engagement on national architectural issues with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

Mr. Feng acknowledged that Ms. Campos' term on the Board expired, recognized her contributions, and thanked her for serving. Many other members expressed their gratitude for Ms. Campos' service to the Board.

E. PRESENTATION BY AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CALIFORNIA ON A PROPOSED CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT ON CLIMATE ACTION/DECARBONIZATION – BILL LEDDY, FAIA

Bill Leddy, Chair for the Committee on the Environment and Vice President for Climate Action, AIA California, gave a presentation on AIA's proposal for continuing education (CE) in Zero Net Energy Design.

He advised that AIA California is pursuing legislation in 2021 to require architects to obtain five hours of CE in zero net energy design every two years as a condition of license renewal, beginning with the 2023 renewal cycle.

The presentation provided background information on the topic and highlighted current efforts to decrease carbon dioxide emissions statewide including California code and grassroot efforts such as Building Electrification Action Plans and Architecture 2030's Zero Code for California.

Mr. Feng requested Board staff to conduct a meeting of the Professional Qualifications Committee (PQC) with AIA's CE proposal on the agenda and then report to the full Board.

An inquiry was made requesting information about California's current CE requirements. Ms. Zuniga clarified that there is currently a specific CE requirement and that new requirements can be viewed as a burden on licensure and require justification.

Ms. Kwan shared her support and expressed urgency in terms of timelines and requested that staff report on the PQC meeting at the next meeting of the Board.

In response to a question about AIA's proposal that AIA make courses available for free, it was clarified that the proposal applies to all California architects and not just members of AIA.

Debra Gerod, President AIA California, expressed support for Mr. Leddy's presentation and shared that AIA's goals are to help architects in anticipation for when California codes change and to help people with licensure. Ms. Gerod shared that they have found that new licensees are interested in climate action and learning about it; AIA thinks adding the proposed CE is making licensure relevant and not a burden.

Pasqual Gutierrez provided a recap on efforts regarding CE and explained that early attempts were not driven by knowledge to serve the consumer and did not warrant providing any CE. Eventually the current CE on accessibility was established. Recently, the PQC has revisited CE requirements. A Board Occupational Analysis due in December 2020 and NCARB's Analysis of Practice due in Spring 2020 may not provide defensible information to modify the CE requirement, although AIA's proposal could be offered as an education tool and not as a mandate. Mr. Gutierrez will forward questions to AIA in preparation for the PQC meeting.

F. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON JUNE 5, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Sylvia Kwan moved to approve the June 5, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. Nilza Serrano seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Gladstone, Gutierrez, Jones, Kwan, Lewis, Pearman, Serrano, Ward and President Feng voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

G. UPDATE ON JULY 29, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Feng and Ms. Zuniga shared that NCARB's President, Chief Executive Officer, First Vice President, and lead staff on issues of diversity, participated in the Board's July Executive Committee meeting. During the meeting NCARB acknowledged the need for structural changes and expressed they would like to see progress through NCARB's membership and the new Diversity Committee. It was shared that NCARB is open to changes in its regional and board structure and acknowledged it takes a long time to advance to leadership positions through the existing structure, which can discourage people. Ms. Kwan shared that NCARB has discussed numerous ideas including expanding its board, eliminating the second vice president position, and combining the secretary and treasurer positions.

An inquiry was made about filling the Board's vice president and Executive Committee positions vacated by Ms. Campos. The officer position will remain vacant for now and during the December Board meeting members will vote on new officers for 2021.

Sonny Ward inquired about the economics of NCARB and what NCARB is doing to serve California's diverse constituency in a fair and equitable way. It was shared that California pays NCARB annual dues (\$6,500) and that each jurisdiction pays the same amount. Mr. Ward shared his experience with an NCARB committee where the threshold for involvement was more than 40 volunteer hours; consequently, he declined the committee appointment.

The Board requested that staff compile the regional demographic data for NCARB's presidents for the last 15 years as well as their board member stipend amounts. A suggestion was made to invite NCARB to make a presentation to the full Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Gutierrez reminded the Board that NCARB votes on issues arising from committees; therefore, not participating on committees makes it difficult to get California's voice heard to shape the content of initiatives that will eventually be voted on.

There were no comments from the public.

H. UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON LEGISLATION REGARDING:

1. Assembly Bill 2028 (Aguiar-Curry) State Agencies: Meetings

Ms. Zuniga advised that the Legislature has adjourned for the year and Assembly Bill 2028, which imposed additional requirements on the Open Meeting Act, is not moving forward this year.

2. Senate Bill 1474 (Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee) Business and Professions

Ms. Zuniga presented Senate Bill 1474, which clarifies procedures for holders of a retired license to reinstate to active status and would have allowed LATC to implement the new fingerprint requirement along with the Board on January 1, 2021. The fingerprint requirement for LATC is delayed for one year until January 2022.

There were no comments from the public.

I. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS (NCARB) COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board members shared information about the NCARB committees on which they participate.

Ms. Zuniga serves on the Member Board Executive Committee which is currently working on quality assurance of NCARB's audit of license records. She is also working with the Professional Conduct Committee on discipline. Jurisdictions define discipline differently and are encouraged to provide data for the NCARB Disciplinary Database. California does not report very much because actions are not considered disciplinary, but rather, administrative actions.

Ms. Kwan is a member of several NCARB groups:

- Regional Leadership Committee – comprising of chairs from NCARB regions;
- Region 6 Board, Chair - meets once per year in-person and once per year via teleconference;
- Licensing Advisors Committee - helps with different aspects of licensing for people who have questions in California;
- Diversity Collaborative Taskforce - working toward becoming a committee; and,
- Policy Advisory Committee - reviews NCARB resolutions and removes ones that are no longer relevant.

Mr. Feng is a member of two NCARB groups:

- Certification Alternative Review Team; and,
- Education Committee.

Mr. Gutierrez is a member of two NCARB groups:

- Certification Alternative Review Team – reviews credential portfolios compared to NCARB educational standards for individuals who are seeking NCARB certificates but have taken alternative pathways to licensure; training has been completed for this team and they will soon receive portfolios for review; and,
- Responsible Charge Taskforce – researches how to further define the concept of responsible charge as it relates to practicing architects.

Ms. Serrano is a member of one NCARB group:

- Diversity Collaborative Taskforce

There were no comments from the public.

J. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – UPDATE ON BOARD'S ADMINISTRATION / MANAGEMENT, EXAMINATION, LICENSING, AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

Ms. Zuniga summarized the Executive Officer's Report and shared highlights including:

- Next Board meeting will be held on December 11, 2020 and the election of officers will be on the agenda
- PQC's next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2020
- Regulatory and Enforcement Committee's next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020
- 30% of licensees are renewing online by credit card
- Coleen Galvan, Communications Analyst, is on loan for contact tracing

A member inquired about NCARB's new option for remote proctoring of the examination and Ms. Zuniga shared that by the December Board meeting it will have been implemented. Updates will be provided to the Board at the next Board meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

K. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (LATC) REPORT

1. Update on September 4, 2020 LATC Meeting

Ms. Rodriguez announced that LATC held its meeting September 4, 2020 and presented highlights. She informed the members that LATC Chair

Marq Truscott's term ended, and the Governor's appointed position is currently vacant.

Ms. Rodriguez provided details on LATC's regulations packages. She mentioned that the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) presented an overview of proposed changes to uniform standards including education and experience requirements, a standardized application, and initiation of the licensure process for CLARB versus member board jurisdictions. She explained that LATC is following the proposed changes. Also, CLARB will be conducting its 2021 Job Task Analysis and LATC is currently undergoing a similar Occupational Analysis. DCA's Office of Professional Examination Services will conduct a Linkage Study between the Occupational Analysis and CLARB's Job Task Analysis in early 2021.

She also advised a presentation was given by Brandon Roosenboom from the State Water Resources Control Board on Qualified Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Developer certification requirements and training.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on LATC's Proposed Changes to the 2019 California Architects Board *Building Official Information Guide*

Ms. Rodriguez shared that one of LATC's Strategic Plan objectives is to educate jurisdictional agencies about landscape architectural licensure and its regulatory scope of practice. At times, landscape architects have issues with acceptance of their stamp by some local jurisdictions. The solution was to revise the Landscape Architects section of the Board's *Building Official Information Guide (Guide)*. Ms. Rodriguez requested Board approval for the revisions to the *Guide*.

Sylvia Kwan moved to approve the revisions to the *Building Official Information Guide*.

Nilza Serrano seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Gladstone, Gutierrez, Jones, Kwan, Lewis, Pearman, Serrano, Ward, and President Feng voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

L. REVIEW OF FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

The meeting recessed and went into Closed Session. Meeting adjournment (Agenda Item O) immediately followed Closed Session, and there were no other items of business discussed.

There were no comments from the public.

The Open Session recessed at 12:34 p.m.

M. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 11126(c)(3) AND (f)(4) AND 11126.1, THE BOARD WILL MEET IN CLOSED SESSION TO:

- 1. Review and Take Action on June 5, 2020 Closed Session Minutes**
- 2. Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters**
- 3. Adjourn Closed Session**

N. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:55 p.m. with the following members present:

Tian Feng, President
Nilza Serrano, Secretary
Malcolm "Brett" Gladstone
Pasqual Gutierrez
Ronald A. Jones
Ebony Lewis
Robert C. Pearman, Jr
Charles "Sonny" Ward, III

O. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.