



MEETING MINUTES CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

September 13, 2024
San Francisco, CA

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

On September 13, 2024, Board President Sonny Ward called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Secretary Brett Gladstone called the roll.

Board Members Present

Charles "Sonny" Ward, President
Ron Jones, Vice President
Malcolm "Brett" Gladstone, Secretary
Tian Feng
Leonard Manoukian
Mitra Kanaani
Nilza Serrano
Robert Pearman
Fuad Sweiss
Victoria Brash

Six members of the Board present constitutes a quorum; a quorum was established.

Board Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer
Tim Rodda, Regulations Manager
Kourtney Fontes, Administrative Manager

DCA Staff Present

Alex Cristescu, DCA Webcaster
Shelly Ganaway, DCA Legal Affairs Attorney
Yvonne Dorantes, DCA Assistant Deputy Director, Board and Bureau Relations

Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Members Present

Jon Wreschinsky, LATC Committee Member

Guests Present

Julia Laue, Principal Architect & Bureau Manager, Bureau of Architecture, San Francisco Department of Public Works
Clinton Otwell, Management Assistant, Bureau of Architecture, San Francisco Department of Public Works

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

President Ward opened the meeting by welcoming the Board’s newest member, Victoria Brash. President Ward also thanked Jon Wreschinsky, LATC Member, for attending. President Ward stated that all motions and seconds will be repeated for the record and votes on motions will be taken by roll call.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

D. UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA) – YVONNE DORANTES, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BOARD AND BUREAU RELATIONS

- Welcomed new Board Member, Victoria Brash.
- DCA is working closely with its Boards and Bureaus to submit a Vacancy Reduction Plan and is awaiting budget approval.
- Budget Letter 24-24 was issued August 16, 2024. This letter outlines projected Governmental Efficiencies that could result in a budget reduction of 7.95% and 2.1 Billion.
- The last Board Member Orientation Training of the year will be held October 22, 2024.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

E. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS – JULIA LAUE, PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT AND BUREAU MANAGER, BUREAU OF ARCHITECTURE, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS

President Ward introduced Julia Laue.

Ms. Laue narrated a short film about the Architectural history of San Francisco. She spoke about how the Public Works department became the center of architecture in San Francisco. She also spoke about current challenges and her favorite projects.

- President Ward thanked Ms. Laue for the interesting and well-done presentation.
- Brett Gladstone commented that the Bureau of Architecture is not well known and needs more exposure. He concluded by thanking Ms. Laue for her presentation.
- Mitra Kanaani thanked Ms. Laue for the presentation. Ms. Kanaani asked about how the meeting venue survived the 1989 earthquake. The building did well and only a few modifications were made.
- Ron Jones thanked Ms. Laue for her good work.

- Fuad Sweiss thanked Ms. Laue for her great presentation. He mentioned his 10 years of service to the city and that he had fond memories there. He then suggested to the Board that the Board host an Annual Award for the best projects in the state.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

F. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON JUNE 6, 2024, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Fuad Sweiss moved to approve the June 6, 2024, minutes.

Mitra Kanaani seconded the motion.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Members Ward, Feng, Kanaani, Jones, Manoukian, Pearman, Gladstone, Serrano and Sweiss voted in favor of the motion. Member Brash voted Present. Motion passed 9-0-1.

G. UPDATE AND DISCUSS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS (NCARB) – LAURA ZUNIGA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. Update and Discuss Committee Meetings

Ms. Zuniga is on the Examinations Committee. She said her committee was working on the types of questions on the Examinations. This is a multi-year process and will have more information later. Ms. Zuniga asked who else on the Board was on a committee.

- Tian Feng is on the Regional Leadership Committee. He said the next Regional Summit will be in Philadelphia.
- Robert Pearman is on the Credentials Committee
- Nilza Serrano is on the Professional Practices Committee
- Mitra Kanaani is on the Continuing Education committee.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

H. LEGISLATION UPDATE – LAURA ZUNIGA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. SB 1452 (ASHBY) ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

This Bill contains the sunset extension for the programs. There are other minor changes. There has been discussion with committee staff and some of the additional changes the Board requested in its sunset review report might be implemented into SB 1452. When that is amended, it will be sent out to Board members. The Bill is currently on the Governor's desk.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

I. UPDATE ON COMMITTEES – LAURA ZUNIGA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Ms. Zuniga stated that the LATC financial situation is improving.
- She mentioned that both the CAB and the LATC had Strategic Planning Sessions coming up.
- Tian Feng suggested that the Board help LATC members who wish to get a leadership position in CLARB. Feng then asked if there were any Californian CLARB Leaders. Jon Wreschinsky LATC member said no. Ms. Zuniga said that there were more At Large positions instead of Regional positions.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

J. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT – LAURA ZUNIGA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ms. Zuniga provided the quarterly Executive Officer’s Report and highlighted the following:

- Strategic Planning Sessions for LATC will be in November and the CAB Strategic Planning Session will be in December.
- Budget update will be presented at the next Board Meeting.
- Business Modernization will be completing the current phase in November.
- Kourtney Fontes has been promoted to Administrative Manager. Ms. Zuniga also welcomed new employees Bethany Butori and Nico Frank.
- We did some online outreach with AIA and NCARB that seemed successful.
- We are going into a renewal year so we should see an uptick in renewals.
- CSE first time pass rates were 76%, overall pass rates were 73%.

Tian Feng questioned the pass rates and felt that the numbers indicate the test is too easy. Nilza Serrano mentioned that it may not be the test itself, maybe it is the schools and internships that contribute to the pass rate.

Vice President Jones asked about the Complaint Table. He inquired about why it is taking longer to close cases than before. Ms. Zuniga replied that staffing challenges have affected this number. Ms. Zuniga expects the rates to return to normal soon.

President Ward inquired about who is audited on CE for renewals. Ms. Zuniga responded that 3% are randomly selected to be audited.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

K. Regulations Update

1. Discuss and Possible Action on Proposed Regulatory Text Amendments for California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, division 2, article 3, section 116 (Eligibility for Examination)

Tim Rodda explained that Staff has drafted proposed regulatory language to modify 16 CCR 116 (Eligibility for Examination) to affect this change.

The proposed change will remove the five (5) year experience requirement to take the ARE, and remove the eight (8) year, Architectural Experience Program completion, and ARE completion requirement before candidates can take the CSE. Candidates who submit a complete application to the Board will be made eligible for testing upon approval of the application(s). Completing this regulatory package will allow candidates to test when they feel they are ready, align with candidates who can already test while enrolled in a specific degree program (IPAL), and reduce potential delays in licensure.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Vice President Jones moved:

Approve the proposed regulatory text for Section 116 direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review and if no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested.

If the Board does not receive any comments providing objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the Board in proposing or adopting the action, during the 45-day comment period, and no hearing is requested then the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any technical or non-substantive changes to the package, and adopt the proposed regulations at Section 116 as noticed.

Mitra Kanaani Seconded the Motion

Members Ward, Feng, Kanaani, Jones, Manoukian, Pearman, Serrano, Gladstone, Brash and Sweiss voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 10-0-0.

2. Discuss and Possible Action on Proposed Repeal of CCR, title 16, division 2, article 3, section 120 (Re-Examination)

Mr. Rodda explained that Board regulations in 16 CCR 120 (Re-Examination) specify how candidates retake divisions of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) and when passed examinations expire. The current provisions set forth in 16 CCR 120 conflict with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) ARE Guidelines and current policy. The Board no longer independently controls candidate scheduling, release of results, nor examination validity. Rather, this is facilitated by NCARB through a candidate's NCARB Record, and changes to ARE retest policy and examination validity are voted on by member Boards. Since NCARB is the organization that develops, schedules, and administers the ARE in accordance with agreed upon national standard, this section is obsolete, and staff recommends repeal.

Mitra Kanaani moved to Approve the proposed regulatory text to repeal Section 120 direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review and if no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested.

If the Board does not receive any comments providing objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the Board in proposing or adopting the action, during the 45-day comment period, and no hearing is requested then the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any technical or non-substantive changes to the package, and adopt the proposed regulations at Section 120 as noticed.

Tian Feng seconded the motion.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Members Ward, Feng, Kanaani, Gladstone, Brash, Jones, Manoukian, Pearman, Serrano, and Sweiss voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 10-0-0.

L. REVIEW OF FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

November 7-8, 2024 – LATC Meeting - Sacramento
December 5-6, 2024 – CAB Meeting – Sacramento

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

M. CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(c)(3), the Board will meet in Closed Session to:

1. Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters

N. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at the end of the closed session.