



MEETING MINUTES CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

February 22, 2024
Los Angeles, CA

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

On February 22, 2024, Board President Sonny Ward called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and Secretary Brett Gladstone called the roll.

Board Members Present

Charles "Sonny" Ward, President
Malcolm "Brett" Gladstone, Secretary
Tian Feng
Sylvia Kwan
Leonard Manoukian
Nilza Serrano
Robert Pearman
Fuad Sweiss

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

Board Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer
Tim Rodda, Regulations Manager

DCA Staff Present

Alex Cristescu, DCA Webcaster
Helen Geoffroy, DCA Legal Affairs Attorney III

Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Members Present

Pamela Brief, LATC Committee Chair

Guests Present

Roze Wiebe, California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC, Inc.)
George Brazel, CCIDC, Inc
Katheryn Hampton, CCIDC, Inc.
Janine Centuori, Woodbury University
Kate Roman, Woodbury University
Sara Bronin, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Scott Terrell, American Institute of Architects (AIA) California

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

President Ward opened the meeting by thanking the City of Los Angeles for the use of the beautiful and architecturally significant Los Angeles City Hall. President Ward continued by thanking the CAB Board, staff and in particular the excellent work Executive Officer Laura Zuniga has been doing. President Ward then said a special thanks to Vaheed Corsen and Natalie Valenzuela from the Los Angeles Board of Public Works for allowing the CAB to use this facility; and to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and her Assistant Adam Ma for their support of the Board and the use of the facility. The President continued by recognizing the Native Americans who originally inhabited the land where this meeting was being held. President Ward then recognized Black History Month and celebrated Black Architects who have shaped the innovation of brilliance of the art. President Ward then thanked LATC Chair Pamela Brief and Counsel Helen Geoffroy 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 COMMENT: There were no public comments.

C. WOODBURY UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION – Janine Centuori, Director of the Agency for Civic Engagement at Woodbury University

President Ward introduced Janine Centuori from Woodbury University and acknowledged how Ms. Centuori influenced his path and growth.

Ms. Centuori explained that Woodbury’s Agency for Civic Engagement program is somewhat unique in that it’s about building and working in the Community. Ms. Centuori shared an overview of the program that covered the following topics:

- Woodbury’s vision is about connecting architecture with people and places.
- 50% of the architecture students are first generation college students.
- The program embraces building fast at low cost.
- Woodbury promoted a community program working with disadvantaged girls in an after-school environment.

Ms. Centuori then took questions from the Board. Most questions focused on specific projects that were presented in the slide show.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no Public Comments

E. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DECEMBER 1, 2023, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Nilza Serrano moved to approve the December 1, 2023, minutes.

Sylvia Kwan seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

Members Gladstone, Manoukian, Serrano, Pearman, Sweiss, Feng, Kwan and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Pearman and Sweiss Abstained and Jones and Kanaani were absent. Motion passed 8-0-2.

F. Presentation from Sara Bronin, Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the Role of Architects in Sustainable Housing Policies

Ms. Bronin gave a brief background of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) including the following:

- The ACHP is an Independent Federal Agency with 24 members
- The ACHP was formed in 1966
- The main issue of late has been the Federal Historic Preservation Standards
- Preservation plays a role in Climate Mitigation and is a focus of the Council
- ACHP focuses on the issues of flexibility and clarity in the treatment of Historic properties

President Ward asked the Board for comments. Member Kwan asked about the Council's hierarchy in the Federal government, asking if it was advisory or if it sets standards. Ms. Bronin replied that the ACHP is an independent Federal Agency that is advisory.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

G. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE STATUTORY FEE CAPS – Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer

Ms. Zuniga stated that the Board fees are capped at the current amounts and it is a good time to consider any statutory changes because the Board is going through the Sunset Review process. She explained that the DCA Budget Office's Fee Study indicates that the Board's fund is strong but will notice some weakness in years 2028/2029. One area Ms. Zuniga wanted to highlight was the issue of renewal fees. She noted that there is a decline in renewals. This was an unanticipated side effect of instituting the \$40.00 Retired License option. Far more architects chose to retire their license rather than to fully renew, leading to ongoing reduced revenue. Ms. Zuniga summarized various aspects of the Fee Study report and explained that staff propose to increase the statutory fee caps for initial license and renewal fees to \$600.00. She clarified that at this point we are only asking the Board for the ability to seek the statutory increase so that in the future the Board could raise the fees if necessary.

After a brief conversation between Board Members about alternative funding sources a motion was made by Board Member Serrano.

Nilza Serrano moved to approve Staff's recommendation for the possible increase in the license fee in the future.

Brett Gladstone seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

Members Gladstone, Manoukian, Serrano, Pearman, Sweiss Feng, Kwan and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Jones and Kanaani were absent. Motion passed 8-0-2.

H. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS – Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer

No Information to discuss.

I. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer

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

- The LATC is meeting in March.
- The Board's fund condition was discussed at the last Board and LATC meetings. CAB increased its initial license and renewal fees in July 2023 from \$300 to \$400. LATC's initial and renewal fees increased from \$400 to \$700 in January 2024.
- The Business Modernization Cohort 2 Project's second release is scheduled for spring 2024.
- The Licensing Unit hosted a webinar on November 28 regarding implementation of the NCARB ARE Score Validity Policy and another webinar on January 18 regarding Continuing Education (CE) requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

J. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED REGULATORY TEXT AMENDMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR), TITLE 16, DIVISION 2, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 109 (FILING OF APPLICATIONS) – Tim Rodda, Regulations Manager

Mr. Rodda stated no action was need on this item. On December 21, 2023, Agency approved the initial rulemaking file for submittal to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). During Agency review, non-substantive changes were made to the language. These changes included restructuring portions of the military application expedition, language clarification, and clarification related to the fingerprinting requirement for licensure. The changes to the language are attached, with highlights. LAD submitted the documents to OAL on behalf of the Board and the 45-day comment period began on January 5, 2024 and ended on February 21, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

K. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED REGULATORY TEXT AMENDMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR), TITLE 16, DIVISION 2, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 154 (DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS) – Tim Rodda, Regulations Manager

On November 14, 2023, Agency approved the initial rulemaking file for submittal to OAL. LAD submitted the documents to OAL on behalf of the Board and the 45-day comment period began on November 24, 2023. The 45-day public comment period closed on January 9, 2024, and the Board received one comment, from Carole Bookless. The comment was asking for clarification regarding the tolling provision, which was answered; however, it was discovered that the Board inadvertently had a reference to “landscape architecture” rather than “architecture.” Due to this typo, the Board revised the Disciplinary Guidelines document to remove the word “landscape” in its tolling provision under Section VI, Conditions of Probation, Subsection A, Standard Conditions, Standard Condition 7 (Tolling for Out-of-State Practice, Residence or In-State Non-Practice).

The Modified Text was sent out for public comment from January 10, 2024 to January 25, 2024. During this comment period, the Board received one substantive comment requesting removal of ambiguity related to mitigating circumstances, and instead to list all mitigating circumstances.

Tian Feng moved to approve the modified regulatory text and proposed responses for 16 CCR section 154, direct staff to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking process, delegate to the Executive Officer the authority to make any technical or non-substantive changes to the modified regulations that may be required to complete the rulemaking file and adopt the proposed regulatory changes as noticed.

Nilza Serrano seconded the motion.

Members Gladstone, Manoukian, Serrano, Pearman, Sweiss Feng, Kwan and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Jones and Kanaani were absent. Motion passed 8-0-2.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

L. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED COMMERCIAL INTERIOR DESIGN DESIGNATION – Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer

Ms. Zuniga explained there is an effort by a trade association to create a license for Commercial Interior Design and they have given the language to the Board that would create an advisory committee much like the LATC, under the auspices of the CAB. This will be dealt with in the Legislature in the context of the Sunset Review. President Ward then asked if any of the Board Members would like to comment. No Member commented. President Ward opened this item up to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Roze Wiebe, Director of the California Council for Interior Design Certification spoke first. CCIDC, Inc. represents both residential and commercial designers. She stated that the organization that has proposed this change does not have a large membership and does not reflect the needs of most interior designers. She stated that this whole proposal caught her organization off guard. She said that most interior designers do not want to be under the umbrella of the Architects Board. Ms. Wiebe said she would like to sit down and talk to the Board about how this proposal destroys small businesses, slights the competence of the California Building Department and it ignores our organization that represents all interior designers.

George Brazel Chairman of CCIDC, Inc. spoke second. Mr. Brazel commented that the Organization that proposed this wants to duplicate many of the items already handled by the CCIDC. What they are asking we are already doing. We don't even know why this proposal was made.

Scott Terrell from the American Institute of Architects of California spoke third. He stated that AIA has been looking at this issue for a while and would like to be part of this discussion as they value all fields of design. This is a very complex conversation, and the AIA wants to make sure all areas of interior design are included. We hope this process does not move forward too fast as it has far reaching implications for many people.

Sara Hampton from the CCIDC, Inc. spoke to the lack of need for another governing body for Interior Designers. The whole concept of separating interior from commercial is non sensical. She feels the proposal is divisive and damaging to the profession.

President Ward asked EO Zuniga the specifics of who brought this proposal. Ms. Zuniga replied she believes it is the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). The IIDA was advised not to ask for standalone legislation but to rather work through the Board's Sunset Review process.

M. REVIEW OF FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

June 2024 - Board Meeting Northern California

The rest of the 2024 meeting schedule has yet to be determined.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

N. CLOSED SESSION: No Closed Session

O. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.