

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

DATE: September 18, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: 500 N. Calvert Street
Room 308
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

PRESENT: Christopher Schein, Chairman
Suzanne Grefsheim
David Locke
Gareth Diedrick

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Long, Executive Director
James Baseman, Assistant Executive Director
Leigh Hoyt, Board Administrator
Shontae Moore, Administrative Specialist
Ryan McAlister

ABSENT: Milena Trust, Assistant Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Schein, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion (I) was made by Suzanne Grefsheim, seconded by Gareth Diedrick, and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2017 meeting as submitted.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Complaint Committee did not meet, as there were no complaints to discuss.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Steve Long asked the Board to vote to accept the proposed Continuing Professional Competency Requirements. Motion (II) was made by Suzanne Grefsheim, seconded by Gareth Diedrick and unanimously carried to approve the regulations as written. Mr. Long stated that these regulations should be finalized

by the end of the year. Milena Trust will submit the draft to the AELR Committee for review this week.

The Board is not scheduled to convene again before 2018, however it was agreed that the Board would meet via conference call, which Mr. Schein coming into the office, to cast the final action vote, once the posting in Maryland Register and the public comment period has past.

BOARD COUNSEL'S REPORT

There was no Board Counsel report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the CPC regulations in the Executive Director's report. There was no other old business to discuss.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed an email from the visitor to the Board, Ryan McAlister, regarding digital signatures and seals. Milena Trust had responded to Mr. McAlister's email, stating that it has been a long standing position of the Design Boards that digital seals are permissible, but not required. Ms. Trust's email confirmed that there is an absence of specific regulations addressing the issue of digital signatures in the Landscape Architect regulations, and invited Mr. McAlister to the Board meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Long reported that the other Boards (Architects, Surveyors and Engineers) have finalized regulations which allow licensees to use digital signatures on documents. There was a brief discussion of the difference between electronic and digital signatures. It was noted that some counties are beginning to require digital signatures on plans and drawings. The Board questioned if Mr. McAlister was having difficulties submitting documents to any county offices and he denied that this was currently an issue. Mr. McAlister passed out the minutes from the Prince George's Development Process Subcommittee, where this matter was discussed, for the Board's review. The Board maintained that because this issue is not addressed in the regulations, it is up to each individual's licensing needs to decide on the use of digital signatures or seals. David Locke stated that he believes that the Board should give guidance on the size of the seal and a statement that the document is a digital copy. Mr. Schein acknowledged that this may need to be addressed in the Joint Chairs Committee. Due to Milena Trust's absence, it was agreed that the Board will revisit this issue.

The Board received an email from Evelyn Bergaila regarding the emeritus status for landscape architects. The Board acknowledged that this subject is not addressed in the regulations, and that it does not seem feasible to change the regulations to include this. The Board decided that Milena Trust should respond to this email.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECIPROCITY

The following applications for reciprocity were approved: Aura Grego, Joseph Gurney and Todd Meyer.

APPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION

The following applications for examination were approved: Elizabeth Fischette, Abby Herman, Beth L'Estrange, Bin Liu, Benjamin Mayer, John McCarthy, Steven Preston, David Rondina and Heidi Thomas.

APPLICATIONS DENIALS

One reciprocal application was denied. Motion (III) was made by Suzanne Grefsheim, seconded by Gareth Diedrick, and unanimously carried to accept the applications as approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board agreed to reschedule the next Board for 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board unanimously carried a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

_____ With Corrections

_____ Without Corrections

Christopher Schein, Chairman

Date: _____