
Joint Chairs of Designs Boards
Business Meeting
Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 27, 2023

TIME: 01:00 PM

LOCATION: 1100 N. Eutaw St.
5th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(Teleconference via Google Meet)

MEMBERS PRESENT: John V. Mettee III, *Chair, Professional Land Surveyors*
Paul D. Edmeades, *Chair, Architects*
Sallye E. Perrin, *Chair, Professional Engineers*
Christopher Schein, *Chair, Landscape Architects*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robyn Dubick, *Chair, Certified Interior Designers*

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*
Danielle Anderson, *Web Coordinator of O&P*
Matthew Venuti, *Board Counsel*

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Mettee called the business meeting of the Design Board Joint Chairs to order at 1:06 p.m.

Approval of May 24, 2023 Minutes

Motion (I) was made by Mr. Edmeades, seconded by Mr. Schein, and carried unanimously by the Board to approve the May 24, 2023 meeting minutes without corrections.

Legislative Report

Amendments

Mr. Venuti reported that the Design Boards have two amendments in the pipeline. The first amendment is from the Board for Professional Engineers to decrease the number of required years from twelve to five for eligibility to serve on the PE Board. The second amendment is from the Board for Professional Land Surveyors pertaining to exam applicants' work experience

CPC Regulations

Mr. Venuti reported that the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects passed their CPC regulations which went into effect August 7, 2023.

Executive Director's Report

Order from Federal Government

Mr. Thomas informed the Board of the federal directive from the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division notifying State Licensing Authorities of a new provision in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) about the portability of professional licenses for servicemembers and their spouses. This potentially affects the Board Statutes with regard to reciprocity applications.

2022-2023 Data

Mr. Thomas presented data displaying the overall upward trajectory of the Design Boards in terms of numbers of licensed firms and individuals.

Ms. Perrin informed the Board that the Board for Professional Engineers will wish to implement a fee for firm permits. She also inquired if any Design Board has a fee for inactive status. Mr. Edmeades responds that the Board of Architects has an emeritus status where the individual pays a one-time fee. Mr. Thomas further explained that it is the same as the current retired status for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

Mr. Schein inquired if the reason for an emeritus status is to keep the title, although the individual will not be able to sign and/or seal working drawings. Mr. Mettee answered that for Professional Land Surveyors, it is a matter of keeping their license number. The rationale is also to be able to call yourself a professional without the need to fulfill any CPC/PDH requirements.

Board Reports

Board for Professional Land Surveyors

Mr. Mettee informed the Joint Chairs of the Professional Land Surveyors attempt to introduce a motion during the NCEES annual meeting that could introduce new modules to the PLS exams. As a result, a new NCEES task force was created to look into the proposed exam modules. The Maryland Board hopes that this change will allow the Maryland Board to stop administering the State-Specific Exams.

Mr. Mettee continued to report that the Board for Professional Land Surveyors is currently working on regulations concerning title block certifications. It was the Board's belief that it was similar to the Board for Professional Engineers, however upon further review, it was not. An ad-hoc committee comprised of members from the Board for Professional Land Surveyors as well as members from the Maryland Society of Surveyors to review these items.

Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects

Mr. Schein reported that the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects passed their revisions to the CPC regulations. The Board has added two new members. Mr. Schein stated that they are looking into emeritus designation as they are the only Design Board to not offer this status. In addition, CLARB has de-coupled certain sections in some states so individuals can take advantage of knowledge shortly after graduation which has proved to have a positive effect on passing rates. The Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects has created a list of CPC providers that will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Board for Professional Engineers

Ms. Perrin reported that the handbook to Code Officials is on the docket for the next Board for Professional Engineers meeting. The Board has two new members: a consumer and a civil engineer. She continued to report that the Complaint Committee is busy with audits. Ms. Perrin provided Mr. Thomas with an example found in Louisiana where if a licensee fails an audit, there is a fee to extend the audit process. She added that recent e-blasts are an excellent method of communication with licensees for important information. In addition, the Board is considering if it is administratively viable to audit CPC Providers.

Board of Architects

Mr. Edmeades reported that the Board of Architects is taking up diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiative. He reminded the Joint Chairs that he shared a draft handbook intended for code officials with the idea that the Joint Chairs would provide comments or suggestions. Ms. Perrin responded that it will be reviewed at the next meeting for Professional Engineers, and she will provide recommendations. Mr. Mettee and Mr. Schein both responded that it will be on the next meeting's agenda, and they will provide feedback.

Mr. Edmeades continued to report that he has been working with the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) as a part of an NCARB team charged with looking into matters of overlapping practice amongst the design professions. In addition, the Board of Architects has a new consumer board member.

Board of Certified Interior Designers

Mr. Thomas reported, in Ms. Dubick's absence, that the Board of Certified Interior Designers gained two new members. In addition, members of the CID Board will attend the annual meeting of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) this November in Louisville, KY. The CID Board also has a new professional member.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Next Meeting

Mr. Mettee stated that the next meeting will take place on December 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Edmeades, seconded by Mr. Schein, and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Chair's Signature: 

Date: 12/6/2023