
Maryland Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects
Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 12, 2024

TIME: 01:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Schein, *Chair*
Grace Fielder, *Secretary*
Heather English, *Landscape Architect*
Cameron C. Duncan, *Consumer Member*
David Thaler, *Consumer Member*

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*
Matthew Venuti, *Board Counsel*

Meeting Called to Order

Chris Schein, Chair, called the Board for Examiners of Landscape Architects meeting to order, at 1:31 p.m.

Approval of October 16, 2023 and November 13, 2023 Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes of the business meeting held on October 16, 2023 and November 13, 2023. Motion (I) was made by Ms. Fielder, seconded by Mr. Thaler, and carried unanimously carried by the board to approve the minutes without corrections.

Correspondence

None

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas reminded Board members of the annual financial disclosure deadline is April 30, 2024. He continued to report that Raquel Meyers, former Assistant Executive Director of the Design Boards, has official accepted the position with the Maryland Real Estate Commissions and is now that unit's Executive Director. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing will now initiate the process of seeking a new Assistant Executive Director for the Design Boards.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Venuti reported that the comment period has ended for the proposed regulation on fee increases; the Board will have the opportunity to amend or adopt the new regulation at the next board meeting.

New Business

CLARB Record

Ms. English commented that the record from the Council of Landscape Architects Registration Boards (CLARB) does not provide the same level of detail in the report of professional experience or evidence of endorsement as the state board application form. Ms. Fielder responded that CLARB requires, in addition to reporting the work experience, endorsers must indicate if the applicant's work was satisfactory or not.

Mr. Schein stated that CLARB records have sped up the review process for the board as well as the application for more experienced landscape architects.

Old Business

Ad-hoc Committee

Ms. Fielder reported the following findings of the Exploratory Committee:

- Emeritus Retirement Status – Currently, the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects is the only Design Board in Maryland without retired status. Architect may use 'Architect Emeritus' per State regulations while Professional engineers may use 'Professional Engineer, Retired' per statute. A fee is attached to these license designations.
 - Ms. Fielder inquired to Mr. Venuti if the board would be able to propose this status through regulations in lieu of statutory change. Mr. Venuti responded that he would research the topic.
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) – The majority of design professionals that participated in the survey were in favor decreasing the number of CEUs to 16-18 per 2-year renewal cycle. Some respondents believed this could encourage the pursuit of licensure in the state. One respondent interviewed suggested the number of required units decreased over years of active licensure. The board currently requires the same number of units as other Design Boards in Maryland, aside from the Board for Professional Engineers who require 16 units per 2-year renewal cycle.
 - Mr. Thomas commented that the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) has proposed to its member boards (professional engineers) to adopt model law requiring Board 30 CEUs per 2-year renewal cycle. In addition, the Board should consider that they have recently changed regulations to increase and broaden opportunities for obtaining CEUs.
- Decoupling L.A.R.E. – According to Ms. Fielder, North Carolina is currently the only state that has decoupled sections of the national exam. However, North Carolina still requires 4,000 hours prior to obtaining a license. Landscape architects interviewed responded that they have a preference for taking certain portions of the exam directly after graduating from their university, and other portions taken after gaining professional experience.

Complaint Committee Report

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Thaler, seconded by Mr. Schein, and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. **This session was permitted to be closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305(b) (7).** Upon completion of the session, the Board reconvened its public meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Ms. English reported the following:

- 01-LA-24: Committee requested further information from complainant.

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Duncan, seconded by Ms. Fielder, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Complaint Committee Report.

Review Applications

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Thaler, seconded by Mr. Duncan, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve seven (7) L.A.R.E. applications and eight (8) reciprocity applications and 1 (one) reciprocity application denied.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion (V) was made by Ms. Fielder, seconded by Mr. Thaler, and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Chair's Signature: Signature on File

Date: 04/29/2024