

Maryland Board of Architects Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 24, 2024, Wednesday

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 1100 North Eutaw Street
5th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201

Video conferencing via: meet.google.com/byw-mkbj-vad

By Phone: (US) +1 234-719-3728 PIN: 756 731 100#

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Shonaiya, Chair
Paul Edmeades, Architect
Kevin Sneed, Architect
Douglas Polt, Architect
Mark Flemming, Architect

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Hopkins, Consumer Member
Casey Dawkins, Consumer Member

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, Executive Director
Matthew Venuti, Board Counsel
Noraida Lozano, Board Administrator

Call to Order

Cynthia Shonaiya, Chair, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland Board of Architects to order at 11:04 a.m., virtually via meet.google.com/byw-mkbj-vad, (US) +1 234-719-3728 PIN: 756 731 100#.

Approval of Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on March 20, 2024. Motion (I) was made by Mr. Edmeades, seconded by Mr. Sneed, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes without corrections.

Complaint Committee Report

Mr. Flemming presented the following report on behalf of the Complaint Committee:

03-AR-23 - A consent order is being prepared.

04-AR-23 - To be discussed in the closed session

05-AR-23 - No change

02-AR-24 - No change

04-AR-24 - Response under review

05-AR-24 - Referred for investigation

06-AR-24 - No change

07-AR-24 - New complaint, under review.

Motion (II) was made by Mr. Polt, seconded by Mr. Edmeades, and carried by the Board to accept the Complaint Committee Report.

Review of Applications

Applications for Architectural Registration Exam (A. R. E.)

There were **twelve (12)** A.R.E. applications administratively approved and reported:

BURNS, Charnice

CZEKNER, Robert Matthew

DEFNGIN, Marcelino

DEISLER III, Lewis

DiBELLA, Nicholas S

KIM, Dimitri

KIM, Ju

MILLER, Jennifer Drumm

MOORE, Jamar

SELSOR, Mary

ORGE, Caroline

WADE, Rori

Motion (III) was made by Mr. Sneed, seconded by Mr. Edmeades, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve **twelve (12)** A.R.E. applications with no reciprocity application.

Old Business

2024 NCARB Draft Resolutions

The Board agreed that **Resolutions 2024-A, B, and C** were straightforward.

On **Resolution 2024-D and Resolution 2024-E**, the Board agreed to table discussion until the Annual Board Meeting. Mr. Flemming confirmed that Resolution 2024-E was not on hold.

On **Resolution 2024-F**, Mr. Edmeades emphasized that NCARB's new policy is to allow ARE candidates to begin the examination as soon as practical, including upon completing high school.

Chair Ms. Shonaiya agreed and explained that the ARE candidates may finish their education while taking the exams but would need to complete the 3 components of licensure, the exams, experience, and education.

The Board agreed with the same decision at the last meeting, to vote in favor of **Resolution 2024-G** and to oppose **Resolution 2024-H**.

Mr. Thomas agreed to circulate the NCARB information for the Q&A webinar with NCARB candidates scheduled for May 2, 2024 (Thursday) at noon. Chair Ms. Shonaiya suggested tabling the Board's comments until after the May 2 session.

Committee Reports

Diversity Forum

Mr. Sneed reported that the presentation at Morgan State SA+P held last April 18, 2024, was a success and had positive feedback. He also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Corkill in the DEI presentation as AIA Maryland representative. Mr. Sneed announced that the next presentation at the University of Maryland is scheduled in the fall.

Code Officials

Mr. Polt reported the Code Officials handbook is still being reviewed for the next meeting. Mr. Edmeades stated the handbook would be posted on the Architects Board's website, and then a copy would be furnished to all Maryland code officials.

Board Responsibilities to MD

Chair Shonaiya agreed to review the handbook along with Mr. Flemming. The committee will then share it with all Board members for edits and comments during the next meeting. Mr. Edmeades and Mr. Flemming concurred that this handbook would be helpful to the legislators during the Sunset review. Mr. Venuti agreed to help get the information on how to disseminate the information.

New Business

Mr. Edmeades informed the Board that during past Regional Summits, there was an issue with funding Region II delegates, including the MD Board. The Board agreed with Chair Shonaiya's position that the MD Board is actively engaged and well-represented at the regional and annual meetings compared to other jurisdictions.

Ms. Shonaiya confirmed that Mr. Sneed and she are funded by the State. She also confirmed that NCARB funds would cover Mr. Flemming. Mr. Polt and Mr. Venuti will confirm if they are able to attend the Annual Business Meeting.

Correspondence - NONE

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas shared with the Board a recent meeting he had with Casandra Walker, Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations, regarding updates to the NCARB user interface for board administrators to streamline verification and transmittals of the ARE candidates.

He also announced that the AIA Conference in DC is scheduled on June 6 and 7, 2024. He said that Board members interested in attending may contact him for more information. He mentioned that Ms. Lozano will be one of the Maryland Board representatives at the NCARB booth.

He also shared with the Board the recent Key Bridge incident has directly impacted the Architects Board since the Pilots Board is also under his management alongside the Design Board staff and legal team. He also mentioned that the Agency has been called to support the Unemployment Department during this crisis.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Venuti reported the following:

- The legislative session ended on April 8, 2024.
- Professional Land Surveyors Sunset extension has been approved.
- The Professional Engineers requested qualification for 5 years of work experience to become a Board Member, however, this was amended to 10 years.
- The Licensing for Military Training and Military Spouses and the licensing criminal history disclosure did not pass.
- August 1, 2024, is the deadline to submit the Board's proposed changes in legislation to the Secretary's Office.

The Board agreed with Chair Ms. Shonaiya to recommend the creation of a Legislative Task Force and to review the experience qualifications for Board members, possibly reducing the number of years of experience or designating a recently licensed seat on the Board. She mentioned including these topics on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion (IV) was made by Mr. Flemming, seconded by Mr. Edmeades, and unanimously carried by the Board to enter the Executive Session at 12:08 p.m., virtually via <https://meet.google.com/byw-mkbj-vad> or by Phone (US) +1 234-719-3728 PIN: 756 731 100#. This session was permitted to be closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305(b)(7) to discuss Complaint 04-AR-23.

Motion (V) was made by Mr. Edmeades seconded by Mr. Sneed and unanimously carried by the Board to reconvene its public meeting and leave the Executive Session at 12:33 p.m. virtually, via <https://meet.google.com/byw-mkbj-vad> or by Phone (US) +1 234-719-3728 PIN: 756 731 100#.

