

Minutes of the Joint Chairs Meeting

Date: July 19, 2018

Place: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
500 North Calvert Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Present: John V. Mettee III, Chairman, Board for Professional Land Surveyors
Steven A. Arndt, Chairman, Board for Professional Engineers
Paul D. Edmeades, Chairman, Board of Architects
Christopher Schein, Chairman, Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects
Robyn Ilyse Dubick, Chairman, Board of Certified Interior Designers

Others Present: Steve Long, Executive Director, Design Boards
Milena Trust, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

John Mettee called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. and the minutes were recorded. A quorum of Chairmen was present and the meeting; having been duly convened; was ready to proceed with business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Mettee presented the minutes of the May 11, 2017 Joint Chairs Meeting for approval, whereupon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the minutes were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Long reported that at the end of May 2018, the balance of the Special Fund was \$171,191.18. The numbers for June will be provided in August. Milena Trust reported that effective July 1, 2018, the budget for Special Fund expenditures will decrease because the number of Board Commissions has increased to seven, that Special Fund fees will not change and that \$100,000 has to go back into surplus.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Milena Trust reported on the Maryland Open Meetings Act and reported that Montgomery County's issue with Digital Signature Regulations has been resolved.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A full-time investigator has been hired exclusively for the Design Boards and is scheduled to report on July 25, 2018. The investigator will be responsible for five Boards and will sit in on the Complaint Committee. A replacement has been hired for the Design Board's assistant executive director's position and will start on August 15, 2018.

MEETING DISCUSSIONS

1. Subsurface Utility Engineering: Concerns were raised as to whether Subsurface Utility Engineering is a "surveying or engineering" issue. John Palatiello will be invited to the next Joint Chairs Meeting to address this issue.
2. Budget and Allocations: Concerns were expressed regarding the travel budget; specifically oversight of budgetary issues, reduced allocations and the limitations placed by spending authority. The concerns were: (1) that some oversight of budgetary issues are restricting the Board's ability for statutory functions; (2) how funds are discharged with respect to travel; (3) decreased budget allocations; and (4) the exclusion of Chairman from the decision-making process on budget allocation issues. It was suggested that budget reports should be made available to the Chairman. The Deputy Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, will be invited to attend the next Joint Chairs Meeting to address the concerns.

BOARD REPORTS

Maryland Board of Architects - The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) met on July 18, 2018 to discuss how NCARB relates to Maryland law and government regulations. NCARB has taken a year to address this issue. The upgrade for ARE 4.0 to 5.0 has been good. NCARB is in the process of creating a new exam that will be kept in the vault in the event the exam is compromised. The Architects Board continues to experience challenges with exam applicants that do not possess a degree or have a foreign degree.

Maryland Board of Professional Engineers – Maryland is on the leading edge regarding digital signature regulations. The Maryland Board of Professional Engineers (PE) has implemented new Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) requirements and has received positive feedback. The PE Board has been struggling with non-traditional pathways to licensure and has plans to update this. The local Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is putting in legislation for reciprocity between states for CPC requirements. The PE Board has been facing a lot of challenges with the travel budget process.

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Maryland Board of Certified Interior Designers – The Certified Interior Designers Board (CID) plans to launch a portion of its electronic exam in the Fall. Morgan State University is in the process of implementing an interior design program into their curriculum. The CID Board has a new board member.

Maryland Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects – CPC regulations for the Landscape Architects Board have been passed. The Landscape Architects Board has implemented qualifications for sliding experience and has been looking for alternative paths to licensing (education, experience and the exam) to streamline the path to licensure. The Landscape Architects Board has been losing board members by attrition and retirement.

Maryland Board of Professional Land Surveyors – The Land Surveyors Board has adopted changes to its CPC requirements. The Land Surveyors Board will be voting on Digital Signatures Regulations in August. Public member terms have expired and vacancies still exist on the Board. The Land Surveyors Board continues to experience issues with Request for Proposal Drone Services; including services for surveying. The Land Surveyors Board has been discussing the potential of legislative matters; but has elected not to move forward with anything. The Mapping Committee met regarding mapping and surveying. The Land Surveyors Board feels that scope of practice laws need to be changed. Jim Purcell, President Elect of the National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying, has created a task force to study state-specific exams.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business was discussed during this meeting.

The next Joint Chairs Meeting will be held on Friday, October 26th at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this meeting; it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Approved: With Corrections

Without Corrections

SIGNATURE ON FILE


John V. Mettee III, Chairman

Date: 10/26/2018