

**Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2020
Baton Rouge, LA**

Present: Allen J. Bacque – Secretary (Acting Chair), Ronald B. Blicht, J. David Brinson, John Cardone, Richard J. LeBlanc, Kevin Singh

Staff: Katherine E. Hillegas, Executive Director; Tyson J. Ducote, Deputy Director

Guests: Paul Spaht, Attorney; Lisa Nice.

Bacque welcomed everyone to the meeting, reviewed the agenda. Public comment time was recognized by Bacque. There were none.

Legal Counsel Report

LAPELS – Defining Incidental Practice

Spaht provided an update on the Notice of Intent proposing amendments to LAC 46:LXI.105 related to defining the incidental practice of engineering by architects published in the October issue of the *Louisiana Register*. He reported that the Board had received a response from LAPELS on February 8 2020, which disputed our position as set forth in the comments submitted to the NOI in November 2019. A draft rebuttal to the LAPELS response was prepared for Board consideration. Following discussion, it was agreed to submit the letter to LAPELS rebutting its response and asking, once again, for it to pause rulemaking so the Task Force could complete the work that it was established to do.

Spaht reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Commission would be reviewing the LAPELS NOI at its meeting scheduled for February 28. Blicht, Hillegas and he will attend that meeting and are working on comments to share with the Commission.

Ms. Nice exited the meeting.

Annual Rules Report

Spaht shared a copy of the Annual Rules Report which the Board is statutorily required to submit to our legislative oversight committees.

Minutes – December 13, 2019

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 13, 2019 meeting. LeBlanc asked for an update to reflect that Motion #4 had been made by Brinson, not himself.

Motion #1: LeBlanc/Brinson: To approve the minutes of December 13, 2019, as amended. Passed 6-0.

Licenses Issued for Ratification

Hillegas reported that 14 initial and 32 reciprocal licenses for individuals and 14 Architectural Firm and 2 Professional Architectural Corporation certificates of authority had been issued between November 16, 2019 and February 7, 2020.

Motion #2: Blicht/Singh: To approve the list of licenses and certificates of authority issued for the period November 16, 2019 through February 7, 2020, as submitted. Passed 6-0.

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CRC Report

Case #2019-8 - C. M. Oliver Architects & #2019-9 - Charles M. Oliver

Ducote reported that payment of fines and costs for these cases had not been received in accordance with the extension the Board agreed to in December 2019 and that the licenses had accordingly been suspended.

Case 2017-08 – Aaron Robinson dba Re:design Architectural Studios

Ducote reported that no further response had been received from the Respondent and that similar cases have been opened in other states where the Respondent was offering to practice architecture without a license.

NCARB

2020 Regional Summit: Draft Resolutions

The Board reviewed three draft resolutions which had been distributed by NCARB for member board consideration and vote at the Annual Business Meeting scheduled for June. The resolutions addressed proposed changes to the Certification Guidelines, repeal of a Resolution for 2000 dealing with Interior Design, and updated versions of the *Model Law/Model Regulations*.

There were no significant concerns or issues identified with any of the resolutions. Hillegas noted that it would be beneficial to prepare a plan for updating the Statutes and Rules to incorporate some of the refreshed language.

NCARB FY21 Officer Candidates (contested)

The Board reviewed the list of candidates running for NCARB office noting that there were two positions which had contested elections, Secretary and Public Director. Hillegas expressed that she would be running to serve a final term as the MBE Director.

SCNCARB Officer Candidates

The Board reviewed the list of candidates running for SCNCARB office which includes a contested election for Secretary.

Draft NCARB Education Standard

The Board reviewed proposed updates to the NCARB Education Standard which have been applied in order to maintain alignment with recent changes to the NAAB Conditions and Procedures. As a member of the NCARB Education Committee, Singh provided a brief overview of the changes. No comments or concerns were raised.

Executive Directors Report

AERF Grant Update

Hillegas reported that she and Brinson attended the final Roundtable following the program at LSU earlier in the year. They commented that the program was successful in linking education to implementation of different modalities of design thru digital fabrication and appeared to be a successful inaugural program for the AERF.

December 2019 Financial Statement

Hillegas reviewed the December 2019 Financial Statement noting that 3,255 licenses were renewed during the November/December renewal cycle and there were currently 239 delinquent licenses which would expire on March 31. At the half-way point of the year, the bottom Line reflected a surplus of \$213,555.

Firm Waiver Request – Spirit Architects

Hillegas presented a request from a firm to utilize the word “Architect” in its title. The business indicated that it provides spiritual support and guidance to Christians who want to develop their full selves with creative questions and spiritual memes.

Motion #3: Blitch/Cardone: To deny the request based on a note that the name implies the practice of architecture. Passed 6-0.

Stamping Drawings & Specifications

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding whether an architect should stamp documents that were previously issued for design that the CLIENT will use to go out and receive bids for contract on their own. It was noted that our law requires that completed documents be sealed and further that we can only interpret when a seal is required and are unable to address contractual issues between an architect and a client.

Other Business

Spaht & Hillegas provided an update on a meeting of other licensing boards/commissions that was hosted by the LA Real Estate Commission which they attended. The meeting was to discuss potential ways to more clearly define “active state supervision” as it relates to Boards and Commissions. It was reported during the meeting that potential antitrust actions against boards and their members are considered “torts” and should be defended by the Office of Risk Management or the Attorney General’s office.

There being no further business,

Motion #4: Brinson/Singh: To adjourn. Passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Knox Tumlin, Chair



Allen Bacque, Secretary