

**Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners
Complaint Review Committee
June 16, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Knox Tumlin, Chair
J. David Brinson
Richard J. LeBlanc
Joe Holt, Investigator
Paul H. Spaht, Board Attorney
Katherine E. Hillegas, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order by Holt who reviewed the agenda.

Motion: Tumlin/LeBlanc: To hold the meeting in executive session since it involved investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct and/or the character and professional competence of persons. Passed: 3-0 (Brinson, LeBlanc, and Tumlin voting in favor).

Selection of Chair

Holt reported that staff was recommending that the Committee select someone to serve as Chairman who could facilitate the meetings.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To select Knox Tumlin to serve as Chair of the committee through December 31, 2017. **Passed 3-0.**

Minutes

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To approve the minutes of the March 3, 2017 meeting. **Passed. 3-0.**

Enforcement

2016-06 Professional Design Group

Holt provided an update on the investigation into Professional Design Group's improper advertising of architectural services on their website.

Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. **Passed 3-0.**

2016-07 Elbert & Brazelton

Holt updated the Committee on the investigation as it related to unlicensed practice by Elbert & Brazelton.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. **Passed. 3-0.**

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2016-08 ML Designs NOLA, LLC

Holt presented a response submitted to the complainant addressing his concerns surrounding the investigative process into his complaint.

Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. Passed. 3-0.

2016-09 Charles Oliver

Holt updated the Committee that no response had been received from correspondence sent to complainant regarding the Board's inability to pursue an investigation when a case was pending in civil court.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. Passed. 3-0.

2017-02 Bavido Architecture, LLC

Holt presented a complaint received against Bavido Architecture, LLC in which the complainant indicated dissatisfaction with the firm's services related to construction documents not being able to be constructed within the stated budget, along with the respondent's lengthy response. The Committee discussed the complaint at length and found no violation of the Architect's Licensing Law.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. Passed. 3-0.

2017-03 EDG

Holt presented a complaint received against EDG in which the complainant expressed concern regarding the use of the term "architect" on the firm's website and the potential of the firm holding itself out as practicing architecture. He indicated that, following communications with EDG, the website was cleaned up in order to maintain compliance with the Architect's Licensing Law.

Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. Passed. 3-0.

2017-04 Guillory/Alexander

Holt presented a complaint received expressing concern related to services provided by an architect who had been paid a fee to review plans for code compliance. The

Committee discussed the complaint at length and found no violation of the Architects Licensing Law.

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Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To recommend that the Board close the investigation and this case. **Passed. 3-0.**

2017-05 Billes/Souders

Holt presented a sworn affidavit which alleged questionable and unethical conduct by the respondent. Upon discussion, it was agreed that this issue required further investigation in order to understand if there were any violations of the Architects Licensing Law or Board rules. Holt asked to be recused from the investigation because he was familiar with the respondent.

Conditional Renewals

Hillegas presented several applications for renewals of firm licenses in which the applicants had indicated disciplinary or investigatory action brought against the applicant firms by another board. Upon review and discussion

Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To recommend that the Board approve the license renewal applications for the following firms: Architectural Group International, P.S.C.; Planworx Architecture, P.A.; Tricarico Architecture and Design, P.C., and McClaren, Wilson & Lawrie. **Passed 3-0.**

The committee also reviewed the applications of Interplan, LLC and Barker Nestor, LLC and requested that Hillegas contact each firm and request relevant documentation for the disciplinary actions taken against each of them by other jurisdictions.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To recommend that the Board grant Hillegas the authority to issue a Certificate of Authority to Interplan, LLC and Barker Nestor, LLC once supporting documentation was received and she confirmed that it matched up with information on the application. **Passed. 3-0.**

Conditional Firm License – Delinquent Renewal

The Committee reviewed an application from James R. Aultman, An Architectural Corporation, which indicated that it had practiced or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana without a firm license. The committee requested that Hillegas contact the firm and ask for an explanation before it made its final determination.

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The Committee agreed that the remaining items on the agenda would be addressed at a special Board meeting to take place on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, MA.

Motion: Brinson/LeBlanc: To end the executive session. Passed: 3-0.

Motion: LeBlanc/Brinson: To adjourn. Passed: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Knox Tumlin, Chair
Complaint Review Committee