

Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Landscape Architecture
1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Stacy Paetzel, Chair
Adrianne Weremchuk, Vice Chair
Valerie Aymer (10:41 arrival)
Daniel Biggs
Nate Harris (12:19 departure)
Andrew Lavallee
Kimberly Lorenz
Christopher Nolan

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in Profession Education

August 14, 2024

OPEN SESSION

1. **Motion:** Weremchuk/Lavallee: That the Board enter Executive Session. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
2. **Introductions, Welcome new Staff:** The Executive Secretary introduced a new staff member, Gina Sacco, to the Board members. Members of the Board introduced themselves to Ms. Sacco.
3. **Motion:** Biggs/Weremchuk: That the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting of the State Board for Landscape Architecture be approved as written. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
4. **Board Chair Report:** No report.
5. **Board Office Report:** The Executive Secretary provided updated statistics that showed steady growth in the number of landscape architects licensed in New York. Thania Fernandez is OP's new Executive Coordinator for Professional Practice. The Board discussed A10543/S9849 and maintained its recommendation that design build can occur safely provided conditions in its white paper are maintained. Discussion surrounded the importance of including language in an RFP that supports the important role of a landscape architect on a design-build project. Additionally, the Board discussed A10016/S8850 and understands that this legislation, if passed, may result in an unlevel competition between for-profit companies and not-for-profits and, may impact landscape architects and those they protect in the future.
6. **Old Business:**
Continuing Education (CE) Update: NYSCLA is still seeking a bill sponsor for proposed updates to modernize the CE requirements for landscape architects. If the proposed language is introduced, passes and becomes law, a regulatory drafting period will commence, with OP leadership, legal, Board member, and public comments occurring at various points along that timeframe. Ultimately, the Board of Regents will have to discuss and approve any regulatory amendments.

Board Member Search: The Board is still in need of a Public Member and the Executive Secretary welcomes any suggestions from current Board members.

2024 CLARB Annual Meeting: Member Biggs and the Executive Secretary have been approved to attend. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed by the Executive Secretary.

Motion: Nolan/Weremchuk: Member Biggs to be New York's voting delegate. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

As a former member of CLARB's Leadership Advisory Council, Member Biggs discussed the process by which nominations are received and candidates vetted. The Board reviewed the video made by CLARB to become familiar with those candidates for the Board of Directors and Leadership Advisory Council. A question was raised regarding potential conflicts of interest. If there is a conflict, Chair Paetzel will submit the vote.

7. New Business:

ASLA Annual Conference CE Review: The Executive Secretary thanked Vice Chair Weremchuk, Member Lorenz and Member Harris for their hard work in reviewing the continuing education to be offered at this year's ASLA Conference. After discussion of the courses in question that were brought before the State Board, the following recommendations were made:

- SUN-B07 – OK, HSW
- SUN-D10 – OK, HSW
- MON- B02 - OK, HSW
- MON- B05 – OK, no HSW
- MON- B10 – OK, no HSW
- TUE-B06 – OK, no HSW
- TUE- C09 – OK, HSW

The Board also discussed questions related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its role in the future of landscape architecture. Chair Paetzel thanked members for their participation in this review.

LARE Update: The Executive Secretary provided CLARB's responses to question related to the LARE that were brought forward by Member Weremchuk. Pass rates on the LARE were also reviewed, comparing the results from the current version of the LARE to the prior version, and were found to be comparable.

Beginning this month, CLARB will allow an ESL accommodation for the LARE where candidates can bring a word-for-word translation dictionary into the testing center. The Executive Secretary said that this practice is currently not permitted in New York in nearly all of the professions except for architecture, where the regulations do permit the accommodations. If a candidate takes the LARE with CLARB's ESL accommodation, New York will not accept their LARE scores or recognize candidates coming in for a second or higher license. Board Members were asked about whether this accommodation should be permitted in the future. Members agreed unanimously that they support a regulatory amendment to occur in the future to permit the ESL accommodation to allow the word-for-word dictionary. Presently, the Executive Secretary stated that he was unsure of a schedule to recommend this regulatory change to Department leadership and suggested it may make sense to pursue the amendment as part of the CE regulatory amendments.

ICOR Update: ICOR Members continue to work towards a practice overlap guidance document that will be voted upon in 2025 by the design Boards involved with ICOR (architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture and land surveying). The Executive Secretary will provide updates as they are made available.

2025 Meeting Dates: Dates for 2025 Board meetings were agreed to as follows: April 23, August 14, and December 3.

8. **Motion:** Lorenz /Nolan moved to adjourn. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 4, 2024; in NYC

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The Executive Secretary discussed restoration cases for landscape architects who have surrendered their license or have had it revoked by the Board of Regents due to misconduct. He provided important context for members when they participate in a Peer Committee meeting. Restoration candidates must show compelling evidence that the misconduct will not recur and that the root causes of the misconduct have been addressed and satisfactorily dealt with. The Peer Committee must assess the applicant's fitness to practice, using criteria such as the applicant's demonstration of sufficient rehabilitation, re-education and remorse, in light of the gravity of the original misconduct.
2. Motion: Lavallee/Harris: That the Board resume the Open Session. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary