

**Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Landscape Architecture**

1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Adrienne Weremchuk, Chair
Valerie Aymer, Vice Chair
Daniel Biggs
Rita Kwong
Gentry Lock
Christopher Nolan
Stacy Paetzel

Guests: Vella Chan, Extended Member (10:08)
Maryann Fairman, Education Program
Assistant 2
Melissa Heinrichs, Education Credentials
Specialist 1

Absent: Kimberly Lorenz

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

August 12, 2026

OPEN SESSION

1. Introductions:

All present introduced themselves for the benefit of the virtual attendees.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Nolan/Biggs:* That the minutes of the April 29, 2026 State Board meeting be approved as written.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Board Chair Report:

Chair Weremchuk shared that her first term as Chair ends after this meeting. She discussed the typical election process and has reached out to others to gauge interest in the Chair and Vice Chair positions. She also shared that she will be attending the CLARB Annual Meeting with the Executive Secretary.

4. Motion: *Aymer/Biggs:* To move the practice question up on the agenda.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board discussed a recent practice question involving stormwater management and compared it to the definition of the scope of practice for landscape architects that is outlined in Education Law. The Board also reviewed the scope of practice for engineering and for architecture in New York and noted that each describes a professional engineer's and architect's involvement with design and construction, while the scope of practice for a landscape architect does not describe such services. Board members felt that there were inconsistencies and gaps and that additional clarity and consistency in the landscape architect's scope definition may be needed to address questions such as stormwater management.

The Executive Secretary suggested that members review the ICOR *Practice Overlap Guidance* document as a starting point to determine where there may be gaps in a landscape architect's scope of

practice. Additionally, he will gather adjacent and similarly sized jurisdictions' laws and scope definitions to compare with those of New York. Member Paetzel suggested that the Board come up with a list of questions to ask during its review.

The Executive Secretary noted that any recommended changes in the scope of practice in landscape architecture would require statutory change and extensive collaboration and discussion with Department leadership and the other design professions, including the State Boards and associations for each design profession.

5. Board Office Report:

The Executive Secretary provided the Board office report and included updated statistics for the total number of landscape architects as of July 6, 2026, and the number of candidates licensed in New York in 2026 through July 27th.

OP/Staff Activities: The Executive Secretary noted the recent Regents' appointment of Owen Donovan to Deputy Commissioner for OP and Aaron Baldwin to be Assistant Commissioner, Professional Licensing and Practice. He and Chair Weremchuk hosted a virtual meeting with NYSCLA to discuss the pending regulatory amendments recommended by the State Board. He noted the CLARB Mid-Year update he attended in April and the CLARB/ASLA Licensure Summit held in November and will provide more details on these meetings under new business.

Legislative/Regulatory Activity: Vice Chair Aymer raised a question on S4577/A5520; the QBS bill. The Executive Secretary will include this bill language in the next Board package. Member Paetzel raised a question on A5678; increasing the construction threshold to \$50,000. Member Paetzel noted that landscape architects are not included in the bill language. The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the Education Law for landscape architecture does not contain a similar "Exempt persons" provision similar to architecture and engineering.

6. Old Business:

Education and Experience Review:

The education and experience policy changes to give additional flexibility that were recommended at the last Board meeting have been updated on the OP website are now being applied to licensure applications. The impact of this change in Board policy has been positive for candidates.

2026 CLARB Annual Meeting:

Chair Weremchuk and the Executive Secretary will attend this meeting. The Executive Secretary went over the agenda and highlighted key topics and sessions with the Board. He noted one session where the speakers will review actual case studies on practice overlap and highlight Boards that have begun using the ICOR document.

All elections were uncontested, and Chair Weremchuk submitted New York's election ballot.

Continuing Education (CE) Modernization Update:

The Executive Secretary discussed the proposed regulatory amendments to New York's CE requirements that have been sent to Department leadership. The proposed amendments are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board of Regents in December for discussion, followed by a 60-day public comment period.

Regulatory Amendments Recommended by Board:

The Executive Secretary discussed the additional regulatory amendments recommended by the State Board that have been sent to Department leadership. Currently, these proposed amendments are also tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board of Regents in December for discussion, followed by a 60-day public comment period.

Public Member Search:

The Executive Secretary discussed the search for a Public Member. He noted that Board members should contact him if they know anyone that may be a good fit for a Public Member.

7. **New Business:**

Elections – Chair and Vice Chair:

Motion: *Paetzel/Aymer:* That Chair Weremchuk be reappointed as Chair for a second term.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion: *Weremchuk/Paetzel:* That Vice Chair Aymer be reappointed as Vice Chair for a second term.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2027 Meeting Dates:

Dates for 2027 Board meetings were agreed to as follows: April 21 (Member Aymer may attend from Ithaca), August 11, and December 1.

ASLA Conference CE Review:

The Executive Secretary thanked Chair Weremchuk, Member Lorenz and Member Lock for reviewing this year's ASLA Conference CE offerings. The Board agreed with the initial consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee's findings. After review, the Board recommended the following action to be taken for the courses where there was no consensus of the Committee:

- THUR B06 – OK, no HSW
- FRI-A03 – OK, no HSW
- FRI D10 – OK, HSW

The Executive Secretary will send these findings to the ASLA.

ICOR Practice Overlap Guidance:

The Executive Secretary highlighted sections in the document and reviewed them with the Board, since some sections overlap with the earlier agenda item involving practice and stormwater management. Topics 26 (Design), 29 (Engineering Design), 31 (Grading, Drainage, and Stormwater Management), 32 (Landscape Elements), and 37 (Site Design) describe a landscape architect's overlapping scope of practice in the areas of hardscape, stormwater management, the design of site-specific systems including pavement systems, and drainage. He suggested that the Board review and provide comments to ICOR on the document. Member Paetzel suggested that the Board prepare a comparison document to show where the scope of practice in New York differs from the ICOR document.

Practice Question

The Board agreed to move this agenda item up on the agenda.

CLARB / ASLA Licensure Summit Summary:

The Executive Secretary shared specific legislative updates in other jurisdictions and noted that Hawaii adopted the CLARB Uniform Standard. CLARB is taking a look at teaming up with NCARB to support implementation of the Uniform Standard. The ICOR Practice Overlap Guidance was discussed.

CLARB April Mid-Year Update:

The Executive Secretary noted that CLARB is now offering increased continuing education to its certificate holders and is examining licensure equivalency in the US and Canada with the Philippines.

8. **Motion:** *Biggs/Nolan*: Moved to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be December 2, 2026, in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

DRAFT