

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**400 R STREET, SUITE 4000, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
TELEPHONE: (916) 445-4954 FAX (916) 324-2333**SUMMARY REPORT
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**August 11, 2000
San Diego, California**A. Call to Order - Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum**

Chair David Tatsumi called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and called the roll.

Committee Members Present

David Tatsumi, Chair
Sandra Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Linda Gates
Dennis Otsuji

Guests Present

Raymond Cheng, California Architects Board Member
Marc Sandstrom, California Architects Board President
Richard Zweifel, LATC Education Subcommittee Chair
Alexis Slafer, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Landscape Architecture
Extension Certificate Program

Staff Present

Stephen P. Sands, Executive Officer
Don Chang, Legal Counsel
Gretchen Kjose, Program Manager
Hilary Prentiss, Enforcement Coordinator

B. Chair's Remarks

David Tatsumi thanked the Committee for their vote of confidence in electing him as the new chair. He then gave a synopsis of the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA), Enforcement Workshop he attended on July 11, 2000. He summarized the topics addressed which included complaint investigation and the Attorney General's role in the disciplinary process and recommended that the Committee members attend the workshop if it is offered again.

C. Review of the May 19, 2000 Summary Report

- ◆ Linda Gates moved to approve the May 19, 2000 Landscape Architects Technical Committee Summary Report.
- ◆ Sandra Gonzalez seconded the motion.

◆ **The motion carried unanimously.**

D. Public Comment Session

There were no public comments.

E. Program Manager's Report

Gretchen Kjose gave an overview of program activities. She advised that the Landscape Architects Practice Act was updated and distributed to licensees on July 28, 2000 and that the Candidate Handbook has been revised as well. She indicated that the 2000 Strategic Plan was published and distributed to members of the California Architects Board (CAB) and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) member states.

She reported that the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) was administered on June 12, 13 and 14, 2000 to 114 candidates in Riverside and 97 candidates in Burlingame. Exam results will be issued to candidates by mid-September.

Ms. Kjose informed the LATC that the new California Supplemental Examination was sent to 27 licensure candidates in July. To date, nine individuals have passed and one failed. The Committee discussed whether individuals who fail the exam should be required to retake the entire exam or only the questions they missed. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the purpose of the exam is to educate candidates on laws unique to practice in California. Therefore, candidates should be required to re-take only the questions missed. Ms. Kjose also advised that candidates were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding the exam, and the feedback has been quite positive.

Ms. Kjose reported that the website was updated to include the Candidate Handbook, the recently published Practice Act, and the Strategic Plan. She also announced that LATC staff member, Gary Johnson, developed a licensee database which is now available on the web. Individuals can verify a landscape architect's license by license number, name or city.

Ms. Kjose indicated that proposed regulations to increase exam fees to cover actual costs charged by CLARB will be reviewed for approval by the CAB at its September meeting and should be in effect by January 2001. She advised that the citation regulations will take effect on August 14, 2000 and that the disciplinary guidelines regulatory change is still under review by the Department of Finance.

Ms. Kjose relayed that Senate Bill 1863 is scheduled for its third reading in the Assembly this month. If approved, it will be enrolled and forwarded to the Governor for signature.

F. Review and Preliminary Approval of Proposed Regulations to Adopt Title 16, Division 26, California Code of Regulations, Section 2616, Application for Licensure Following Examination and Section 2624, License Renewal Three Years After Expiration

Ms. Kjose reminded the Committee that the subject of re-licensing individuals who allowed their license to lapse has been a topic of discussion for the past year. At its meetings on March 27, 2000 and May 19, 2000, the LATC recommended several new policies regarding initial licensure and re-licensure requests. Ms. Kjose stated that as a result of these discussions, regulatory changes have been proposed to specify a five-year timeframe for applying for initial licensure after passing the examination and to clarify requirements for re-licensure after a license has been expired for more than three years. Legal Counsel, Don Chang, suggested modifications to the proposed regulatory language and read his proposed language into the record.

- ◆ **Linda Gates moved to preliminarily approve the proposed language as amended by Mr. Chang.**
- ◆ **Dennis Otsuji seconded the motion.**
- ◆ **The motion carried unanimously.**

G. Discussion of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' Annual Meeting

Ms. Kjose indicated that she, Mr. Tatsumi, and Ms. Gonzalez will be attending CLARB's annual meeting on September 21-24 in Richmond, Virginia. She advised that there are several issues the LATC needs to discuss prior to the meeting which include CLARB's budget, online test results, the LARE, and CLARB's role as a council of regulatory boards.

Ms. Kjose provided an overview of CLARB's proposed budget through 2003 and its options for raising revenue which include potential increases in examination fees and/or member board dues. After discussion, the Committee suggested that the detailed budget report CLARB sends several weeks prior to the annual meeting be distributed to Committee members immediately for their review and input. Steve Sands commented that it is important to ask CLARB to specify what is being done to reduce costs.

Ms. Kjose reported that CLARB will provide online test results in late August for the June LARE. According to CLARB, candidates will receive feedback regarding failed sections of the examination along with reference materials that address their particular area of weakness. Each state must inform CLARB whether or not they want their candidates to be able to view their results online. After discussion, the Committee agreed that California candidates should have the opportunity to view their test scores online.

Ms. Kjose reported that there have been several quality control issues with the last two administrations of the LARE. Specifically, in December 1999, one of the vignettes contained a calculation error, rendering the solution unsolvable, and in June 2000, 14 pages were missing in some of the test booklets. Additionally, the instructions for a portion of the June 2000 exam incorrectly referenced the number of vignettes in a certain section. Mr. Sands reported that CLARB will be providing a written explanation as to what occurred in the last exam and what is being done to avoid these types of problems in the future.

Ms. Kjose presented a memo from CLARB president, Lu Gay Lanier, introducing CLARB's proposal to develop an online career management community for landscape architects as well as

other design professions. The Committee discussed CLARB's role as a council of regulatory boards and asked whether this was an appropriate endeavor. Richard Zweifel commented that CLARB is seeking ways to generate revenue in an effort to keep exam costs down. Marc Sandstrom suggested that the LATC ask CLARB how this project will be self-supporting. Mr. Otsuji expressed concern that CLARB may be duplicating efforts of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Mr. Zweifel added that it is important to ask CLARB how the success of this service will be measured. The Committee members agreed that the integrity of exam development and administration must be preserved regardless of other revenue generating services that are undertaken, and that this issue should be raised at the annual meeting.

- ◆ **Dennis Otsuji moved to allow California candidates the opportunity to review their results online.**
- ◆ **Sandra Gonzalez seconded the motion.**
- ◆ **The motion carried unanimously.**

H. Discussion of Approved Extension Certificate Programs

Mr. Zweifel briefed the Committee on his recommendations for proceeding with the extension certificate program evaluations. He suggested that Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Kjose assist him in evaluating the Self Evaluation Report (SER), the site visit criteria, and whether or not the Landscape Architects Practice Act requirements are consistent with the extension certificate program evaluation process. He recommended that the task force meet in October to discuss any needed changes to the regulations and the SER and to identify a timeline for completion of the project consistent with the Strategic Plan objectives.

Mr. Zweifel proposed that a draft of the task force recommendations be sent to the Committee prior to the November meeting so that it can be discussed at the meeting. He also suggested that, in the future, a subcommittee be established to conduct site visits of the existing extension certificate programs and for the purpose of evaluating each program.

I. Discussion of the Landscape Architects Scope of Practice

Mr. Tatsumi indicated that he has received inquiries about the scope of practice for landscape architects. Mr. Sands said that the process of defining the scope of practice has two parts - defining what a landscape architect does and defining what practices are exempt from regulation. He recommended that the LATC address this issue like a mini strategic plan in terms of defining what the LATC wants to attain and what steps are needed to develop a more specific definition of the landscape architects scope of practice.

Ms. Gonzalez said that in 1994 or 1995, discussions about scope of practice issues resulted in changes to the exemption provisions in law. Mr. Chang suggested that future scope of practice discussions focus on what landscape architects are authorized to do and what activities require a license. Mr. Otsuji suggested that the LATC investigate how ASLA and CLARB define the scope of practice for landscape architects. Mr. Sands suggested that the LATC develop a list of perceived ambiguities in the Landscape Architects Practice Act. Mr. Tatsumi directed staff to research what specifically occurred when the former Board of Landscape Architects dealt with

this issue and how other states define the scope of practice. He asked staff to provide this data to the LATC prior to the November meeting and that this topic be on the agenda for that meeting.

J. Review of the Action Plan and the Communications Plan

Ms. Kjose provided an overview of the action plan. The Committee suggested that the action plan include a summary sheet indicating when an objective is completed.

Mr. Otsuji mentioned that he has been participating in the monthly telephone conference calls with the California Council of ASLA (CCASLA) but asked that the LATC appoint an alternate in the event he is unavailable on a particular day. Mr. Tatsumi volunteered to be his alternate. Mr. Sands suggested that, consistent with the LATC outreach goals and objectives, CCASLA members should receive personal invitations to attend LATC meetings.

Ms. Kjose provided an overview of the communications plan. Mr. Zweifel asked about the status of the LATC poster that had been discussed during the strategic planning session. Ms. Kjose indicated that staff is just beginning this project. Mr. Sands suggested that strategies for all of the components of the communications plan be discussed at the next LATC meeting.

K. Announcement of Future Meetings

The Committee set their next meeting for November 16, 2000 in San Luis Obispo, California. The following meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 2 and 3, 2001 in Berkeley. This meeting will be combined with a strategic planning session.

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.