



Minutes

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD Landscape Architects Technical Committee Meeting

January 27, 2022
WebEx Teleconference

Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC/Committee) Members Present

Jon S. Wreschinsky, Chair
Andrew C. N. Bowden, Vice Chair
Pamela S. Brief

LATC Members Absent

Susan M. Landry
Patricia M. Trauth

California Architects Board (Board) Members Present

Ronald A. Jones, LATC Liaison

Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer
Trish Rodriguez, Program Manager
Blake Clark, Examination Analyst
Kourtney Nation, Special Projects Analyst
Stacy Townsend, Enforcement Analyst

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Staff Present

Robert Calvert, Ph.D., Research Data Specialist II, Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES)
Harmony DeFilippo, Budget Analyst, Fiscal Operations/Budget Office
Karen Halbo, Regulatory Counsel, Attorney III
Carrie Holmes, Deputy Director, Board and Bureau Relations
Michael Kanotz, LATC Counsel, Attorney III
Heidi Lincer, Ph.D., Chief, OPES

Guests Present

Tracy Morgan Hollingworth, California Council of American Society of Landscape Architects (CCASLA)

A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum

LATC Chair, Jon Wreschinsky called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and called roll. Three members of LATC were present, thus a quorum was established.

B. Chair’s Procedural Remarks and LATC Member Introductory Comments

Mr. Wreschinsky explained the meeting was held via webcast pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-1-22, dated January 5, 2022, and there was no physical meeting location.

Mr. Wreschinsky thanked the meeting participants for their attendance and welcomed Ronald A. Jones, LATC Liaison to the Board.

C. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Wreschinsky invited members of the public to address the LATC. There were no comments from the public.

D. Update on the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

Carrie Holmes reminded the Committee that California state workers are required to either show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested at least once a week. She shared that DCA and all its Boards and Bureaus continue to look to the future and use lessons learned to identify long-term efficiencies and policy changes and utilize telework where appropriate. Ms. Holmes reminded the Committee members of the 2022 required board member trainings and Form 700 deadline.

E. Review and Possible Action on August 4, 2021 LATC Meeting Minutes

- **Andrew C. N. Bowden moved to approve the August 4, 2021 LATC Meeting Minutes as presented.**

Pamela S. Brief seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Bowden, Brief, and Chair Wreschinsky voted in favor of the motion. Members Landry and Trauth were absent. The motion passed 3-0-2.

F. Program Manager’s Report

1. Update on LATC’s Administrative/Management, Examination, Licensing, and Enforcement Programs

Trish Rodriguez advised the Committee of the status of the Business Modernization Project and announced the next Board meeting would be held February 18, 2022. Ms. Rodriguez noted that staff continue to telework as their duties allow. She shared that the LATC Examination Coordinator provided an outreach presentation at UC Davis on November 9, 2021. Ms. Rodriguez continued that recruitment is

underway for the Licensing Coordinator position as well as the limited-term Associate Governmental Program Analyst position to assist during Business Modernization.

Ms. Rodriguez also highlighted LATC's recent social media and website activities. She concluded her presentation with an overview of LATC's current rulemaking and enforcement activity. Mr. Wreschinsky noted that candidates who repeat the California Supplemental Examination have a higher fail rate and LATC may want to discuss further with OPES.

G. Discuss and Possible Action on the Committee's Annual Budget – DCA, Budget Office

Harmony DeFillippo presented the Committee's projected revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. She advised that the DCA Budget Office will continue to monitor LATC's budget and provide monthly updates to LATC Program Manager Trish Rodriguez.

Mr. Wreschinsky inquired about the process to collect delinquent license fees. Ms. DeFillippo advised that a delinquent fee is assessed when a licensee has not paid their renewal fee. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that when a licensee pays their renewal fee 30 days after their license expiration date, they are assessed a delinquent fee equal to half the amount of the renewal fee.

Tracy Morgan Hollingworth asked what two positions were currently vacant. Ms. Rodriguez responded that recruitment is underway for the Licensing Coordinator Office Technician position and a limited-term Associate Governmental Program Analyst position which was recently approved to support upcoming business modernization efforts.

H. Review and Discuss 2021 Legislation

1. Assembly Bill (AB) 1010 (Berman) DCA: Architects: Continuing Education

Ms. Zuniga explained that the Governor signed AB 1010 last fall, which requires architects to complete an additional five hours of continuing education in zero net carbon design starting January 1, 2023 and the Board will need to adopt regulations by July 2024. Mr. Wreschinsky asked if the Board had received any inquiries from people who would like to establish a qualifying continuing education course. Ms. Zuniga responded that the American Institute of Architects California sponsored the bill and indicated they would offer continuing education classes.

Ms. Morgan Hollingworth commented that the American Society of Landscape Architects is pursuing a bill to implement carbon neutral requirements within building codes pertaining to landscape architecture.

I. Presentation by DCA Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) on Examination Performance Statistics for Sections 1 and 2 of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination

Ms. Rodriguez reminded the Committee that the goal of performing an examination performance analysis was to evaluate success rates of candidates who utilized the LATC pathway to sit for sections 1 and 2 of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) after graduation from a qualifying educational program. She announced that OPES Research Data Specialist Robert Calvert, Ph.D., would present the findings. Dr. Calvert announced that LATC recently asked OPES to perform an analysis of LARE pass rates before and after a 2012 policy change. He expanded that the 2012 policy change allowed candidates to take the first two LARE sections immediately after obtaining an approved degree, without having to wait to finish training experience requirements. Dr. Calvert explained that OPES analyzed the impact the 2012 policy change had on pass rates by reviewing data from 2010 through 2014. He clarified that OPES analyzed the difference in pass rates between candidates who took the LARE prior to the policy change and those who took the LARE after. Dr. Calvert reported that there is no statistically significant difference between pass rates of candidates who took LARE sections 1 and 2 (titled A and B prior to 2012). He noted that differences in LARE pass rates before and after the 2012 policy change could be attributed to other factors such as small variations in difficulty, changes in test population, and the testing environment. Dr. Calvert clarified that because the observed difference in pass rates is small, it is unlikely that any one factor, in this case the 2012 policy change, was the sole cause of the change in pass rates.

Mr. Wreschinsky noted that the presented August LARE pass rates seem worse than other times in the year when the LARE was administered and asked if an analysis could be done to determine any pass rate trends among LARE administrations. Dr. Calvert advised that since the data is over ten years old it is likely current pass rates could be affected by other factors. He confirmed that other DCA programs have experienced similar seasonal effects on examination pass rates based on test populations. Mr. Bowden shared that the material covered in LARE section 1 is relevant to training experience which could impact pass rates of candidates who sit for the LARE prior to obtaining training experience. Ms. Brief asked if data has been evaluated for LATC candidates who hold a degree from a California educational program. Ms. Rodriguez explained that LATC does track the educational experience of each candidate, however, staff do not currently have the ability to extract such data without manually reviewing candidate files. She added that current business modernization efforts will result in a platform that will allow staff to conduct such studies more easily. Mr. Wreschinsky asked if LATC collects sufficient data to compare pass rates with a candidate's educational experience and graduation date to determine any correlation. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that the specified data is collected for each candidate. Mr. Wreschinsky added that further consideration and data analysis could be done at some point in the future when data is more easily available. Ms. Brief agreed and noted that the data would be easier to extract after the system has been updated.

J. Discuss and Possible Action on Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' Uniform Standards, and Pre-Approval Process

Ms. Rodriguez reminded the Committee that CLARB is pursuing uniform standards for landscape architect licensure across member boards. She shared that LATC Chair Jon S. Wreschinsky recently wrote to CLARB on behalf of LATC to outline discrepancies between their proposed Uniform Standard and California's current statutes and regulations. She advised that CLARB will hold a membership vote on the proposed Uniform Standard during their meeting on April 20, 2022.

Mr. Wreschinsky shared that he has tracked CLARB's activity on this initiative and made an effort to attend every meeting that CLARB has held on the subject and carefully consider LATC responses to CLARB on the matter. He expressed that it would be extremely difficult for LATC to agree with the three resolutions CLARB has proposed. Mr. Wreschinsky added that further discussion and information from CLARB could help clarify some of the items before the CLARB membership vote on April 20, 2022 and suggested that LATC hold off on voting to allow more time and further review. Ms. Brief added that CLARB continues to discuss provisions for increased equity and yet the proposed Uniform Standard requires additional years of experience to obtain licensure. She added that it does not seem that CLARB has proven their case for providing increased equity in access to licensure. Mr. Bowden agreed and added that California pathways to licensure were intentionally expanded after the creation of the LATC to decrease barriers to licensure and that removing any pathways could raise concern among legislators. He added that LATC must do what is best for the population of California and CLARB has not taken LATC's considerations into account. Mr. Wreschinsky expanded that further discussion and review is necessary to clarify what is being asked of LATC if the CLARB membership votes to approve the Uniform Standard. Ms. Brief noted that CLARB has also stated that the proposed Uniform Standard would increase defensibility of landscape architecture licensure requirements, however, that is not the case for the state of California. Mr. Wreschinsky added that the Uniform Standard is more restrictive than California's current pathways to licensure and it seems to penalize alternative pathways by requiring additional years of experience, in comparison to California's current requirements. Mr. Wreschinsky suggested forming a subcommittee of at least two LATC members to work over the next month to put together a recommendation to the LATC on how to vote on the CLARB resolutions. Ms. Brief suggested that the subcommittee reach out to ASLA to understand the broader consensus on the defensibility of landscape architecture licensure requirements.

- **Pamela S. Brief moved to form a subcommittee consisting of LATC Chair Jon S. Wreschinsky and LATC member Pamela S. Brief with the intention of preparing a recommendation on the CLARB Uniform Standard resolutions to present at the April LATC meeting.**

Andrew C.N. Bowden seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Bowden, Brief, and Chair Wreschinsky voted in favor of the

motion. Members Landry and Trauth were absent. The motion passed 3-0-2.

K. Review and Discuss 2019-2021 Strategic Plan Objectives

Ms. Rodriguez shared that all the strategic plan objectives had been addressed or completed and explained that some objectives include ongoing workloads. She highlighted achievements in each goal area and reminded the Committee that, in response to LATC inquiries regarding the feasibility of a structured internship program, CLARB indicated that such a program may increase barriers to licensure. Ms. Rodriguez announced that CLARB recently invited a member of the LATC to participate in an upcoming work group to evaluate the outcomes of CLARB's current Job Task Analysis.

Mr. Bowden asked when staff will start work on the next Sunset Report. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed that staff will begin the process this year. Ms. Zuniga added that staff can start drafting the report using last year's template. Ms. Brief asked if LATC has discussed establishing accounts on other social media platforms, such as LinkedIn and Instagram. Ms. Rodriguez advised that the Committee could establish an objective to consider additional social media platforms during the next strategic planning session. Mr. Wreschinsky asked the Committee members to notify Ms. Rodriguez of any issues to consider in advance of the next strategic planning session.

L. Election of 2022 Committee Officers

Mr. Wreschinsky informed the members that he would like to self-nominate for another year as Chair and continue his role in ongoing discussions with CLARB. Ms. Brief announced that she would like to self-nominate for Vice Chair.

- **Andrew C.N. Bowden moved to elect Jon S. Wreschinsky as 2022 LATC Chair and Pamela S. Brief as 2022 LATC Vice Chair.**

Pamela S. Brief seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Bowden, Brief, and Chair Wreschinsky voted in favor of the motion. Members Landry and Trauth were absent. The motion passed 3-0-2.

M. Review of Future Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Rodriguez announced upcoming meeting dates for both the Board and LATC. Mr. Bowden asked if the next LATC meeting would be held over two days and include strategic planning. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed it would be possible to coordinate a two-day, in-person meeting. The LATC members discussed their availability to attend the upcoming Board meetings.

Ms. Morgan Hollingworth shared that CCASLA revenues have decreased and the ability to attend LATC meetings virtually has helped reduce costs.

N. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.