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Board of Registration of Registration of Architects
February 11, 2025, Public MEETING MINUTES

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects (the Board) was held remotely via video and telephone conferencing pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022, allowing remote participation by Board members and the public.

Attending Members: Aelan Tierney, Board Chair; Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Vice Chair; Kwesi Sam (joined at 9:39 am); and Tony Ransom

Members Absent: None

Staff: Lynn Read, Board Counsel; John Hill, Board Administrative Staff; and Marjorie Campbell, Executive Director

Meeting Called to Order

- Remote meeting procedures – Chair called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m., when Quorum was established.
- **Read and Approve Minutes:**

Minutes from the December 17, 2024 Public Board Meeting were reviewed and discussed. Board members voted to accept the December 17, 2024 minutes:

- Motion to approve the December 17, 2024 public meeting minutes made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice
- Motion seconded by Tony Ransom
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote
- Members in Favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, and Tony Ransom
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

Minutes from the August 20, 2024, Public Board Meeting were reviewed and discussed. Board members voted to accept the August 20, 2024 minutes:

- Motion to approve the August 20, 2024 public minutes made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice
- Motion seconded by Tony Ransom
- Board Chair called for a roll call vote



- Members in Favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, and Tony Ransom
- Opposed: None
- Motion passes

- **Executive Director Report**

- Voting for Board Member Officers:
 - Emily Grandstaff-Rice nominated Aelan Tierney for Board Chair; Emily Grandstaff-Rice nominated herself for Vice Chair; Emily Grandstaff-Rice nominated Tony Ransom for Secretary, but Tony Ransom declined.
 - Motion by Tony Ransom to approve Aelan Tierney as Board Chair and Emily Grandstaff-Rice as Vice Chair, and to table the nomination for Secretary.
 - Motion seconded by Emily Grandstaff-Rice
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in Favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, and Tony Ransom
 - Opposed: None
 - Motion passes
- Update on the backlog of newly licensed applicants and verification: Verbal report from the Executive Director (ED): we had an intern help with the verifications, and we have completed the backlog and are now up-to-date with license verifications. We still have a backlog of applications from 2024 that we are working on, and we have processed 38 applications so far in 2025. We have 25 applications that are pending background checks, and we have 5 reinstatement applications that are on today's agenda for review.
- NCARB 2025 Spring Meeting: Aelan Tierney and Tony Ransom said they are planning to attend. The ED updated the Board on the current Board member status. It was noted that Kwesi Sam's term expired January 31, 2025. Board Counsel stated that by statute, when a person's term expires, that person can continue to serve until a new person is appointed. Aelan Tierney had some questions on the report for NCARB for the upcoming meeting regarding any changes in the rules and regulations in Massachusetts. Board Counsel stated that we do not have any new regulations to report at this time, but we could add that Massachusetts is reviewing current regulations as they compare to the Model Review.
- No movement on appointment of a public member, although an email went out to all staff with the open public member position.

- **Board Counsel Report:** Board's Opportunity to comment on changes to Architectural Experience Program: Board Counsel highlighted the memo regarding the AXP Guidelines, regarding the Architectural Experience Program Model. Board Counsel noted that the comment period for state boards will close at the end of May, and emphasized that the Board members are the experts to comment. However, the Board members will require additional time to review this memo in more detail and provide comments. Aelan Tierney noted that currently, there are 96 different tasks that an Architect must accomplish before licensure, and what this model from NCARB proposes would be 16 core completion components instead. This is essentially a new way to view the experiences. We will put this on the April Board meeting agenda.

- **Discussion Items**

- Reciprocal Applicant Discussion: Currently, in order for a reciprocal license applicant to obtain a Massachusetts license, the NCARB file is required. This NCARB file already contains confirmation of the other state licenses that the applicant holds. However, Board staff has also been asking the applicants to provide screenshots of all the other state licenses that they hold. After discussion, the Board members determined that if a reciprocal applicant has their NCARB file, and NCARB has already verified the transcript and the other state licenses, then we can rely on the NCARB file and we do not have to ask the applicant to provide duplicative documentation.
- **CE Review: 2024-1379-REIN (Mr. Wang):** Mr. Wang is seeking to have his Massachusetts license reinstated and has submitted CE's that were completed in British Columbia. This matter was tabled from the last Board meeting in order for Board staff and the Board members to research how these CE's compare to our standards in Massachusetts. Emily Grandstaff-Rice did reach out to her counterparts in British Columbia (at the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada) and the Canadians do not have an MOU with the U.S. British Columbia's CE's are generally comparable to NCARB standards, but we cannot just assume that they will be. In this case, the applicant has submitted 62 units for CORE requirements, and the Board members have reviewed the submission. They do appear to be close to our HSW standards, and the Board members discussed that they would be comfortable accepting these CE's. The Board members did state that going forward, Board staff does not have to keep bringing these foreign-obtained CE questions before this Board. NCARB is the best source for evaluating the foreign-obtained CE's for education verification, and it would be up to the applicant to get approval from NCARB for the CE's, and then submit that documentation to the Board.
 - Motion made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice, to approve the CE's from Mr. Wang and to approve this reinstatement.
 - Motion seconded by Kwesi Sam
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in Favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members Opposed: None
 - Motion passes
- **Reinstatement Reviews**
 - **2024-1536-REIN:** This matter was tabled from last month, to give the applicant a chance to submit her project plans. The Board reviewed and determined this applicant could be reinstated.
 - Motion made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice to approve this reinstatement request
 - Motion seconded by Tony Ransom
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members opposed: None
 - Motion passes
 - **2025-0071-REIN:** Board staff reviewed documents and the applicant was also present virtually to respond to questions. His Massachusetts license has been expired since 1990. Board members reviewed and decided to approve his reinstatement request.

- Motion made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice to approve this reinstatement request.
 - Motion seconded by Tony Ransom
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members opposed: None
 - Motion passes
- **2025-0050-REIN:** Reinstatement request. Board members stated that the application is incomplete as there is no project information.
 - Motion made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice to table this matter as the applicant will need to submit project information and references.
 - Motion seconded by Kwesi Sam
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members opposed: None
 - Motion passes
- **2025-0039-REIN:** This applicant is moving back to Massachusetts from China and is seeking reinstatement.
 - Motion made by Emily Grandstaff-Rice to approve this reinstatement request
 - Motion seconded by Kwesi Sam
 - Board Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members opposed: None
 - Motion passes

There were no unanticipated matters and no public comment.

Moving into closed session at 10:20 am

- **MOTION to exit open meeting and move into Closed Investigative Conference per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C** by Emily Grandstaff-Rice.
 - Motion seconded by Kwesi Sam
 - Chair called for a roll call vote
 - Members in favor: Aelan Tierney, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Tony Ransom, and Kwesi Sam
 - Members opposed: None
 - Motion Passes

There were no items for reserved Executive Session or Quasi-Judicial Sessions

CLOSED SESSION

I. Investigative Conference (Closed per M.G.L. c. 112, § 65C):

The following actions were taken during the Investigative Conference:

Settlements:

- No Items

Cases:

- 2024-000815-IT-ENF: Dismissed complaint against original Respondent. The potential to open related complaints was discussed.
- 2024-000846-IT-ENF: Tony Ransom was recused and left the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Dismissed.

Adjournment: The Board Meeting was Adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maloney
Colleen Maloney
Acting Executive Director

Documents Used During the Open Meeting:

- Agenda for the February 11, 2025, Open Meeting
- Minutes from the Open Architect Board Meeting held on August 20, 2024, and December 17, 2024
- Report for the upcoming NCARB Meeting
- AXP Guidelines Updates
- Documents to support the CE request regarding 2024-1379-REIN
- Documents supporting the reinstatement request for 2024-1536-REIN
- Documents supporting the reinstatement request for 2025-0071-REIN
- Documents supporting the reinstatement request for 2025-0050-REIN
- Documents supporting the reinstatement request for 2025-0039-REIN