ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

MINUTES
Board Special/Called Meeting
February 26, 2025

The Alabama Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects met on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery for a special/called meeting of the Board. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Chad Watkins (Board Chairman attending virtually). Ms. Julie Stephens (Board Vice Chair) and Ms. Lea Ann Macknally (member). Others in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Hunter Sims (Board Legal Counsel), Ms. Leah Cochrane (Licensing Specialist), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Mr. Watkins, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and, following Board member roll call by Mr. Warren, he reported that a quorum was present to conduct business.

Public notice of this special/called meeting was published on the Secretary of State's web site at www.sos.alabama.gov in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act and advertised on the Board's web site at www.abela.alabama.gov.

Mr. Warren explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve proposed legislation. He presented a copy of the proposed legislation previously approved by the Board and presented during the 2024 Legislative Session. He mentioned that a few comments were received; however, none were derogatory and there had been no recent inquiries concerning proposed legislation. Ms. Macknally reported on discussions with members of the ASLA about the Board's intent to submit proposed legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session. The Board agreed to notify the licensees of the Board's intent, with mention of the webinar that was held in November, and after the proposed 2025 legislation was assigned a bill number, the proposed bill would be placed on the Board's website and the progress tracked through the Legislature's website.

The Board discussed sponsorship of the 2025 proposed legislation and Mr. Warren indicated that he would contact legislators about sponsorship.

MOTION: Ms. Macknally made the motion to approve the proposed legislation as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephens and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported on the Sunset Committee adding congressional districts representation to the Boards' composition and this would be added when the Boards were presented for future Sunset audit review.

Mr. Warren also reported on SB193, sponsored by Senator Elloitt, which would create the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing and consolidate licensing 17 boards. The Board members expressed opposition to the Bill and discussed obstacles and disadvantages to licensees. Ms. Macknally commented on the support by other organizations that oppose the Bill. The Board unanimously agreed to contact Senator Elloitt regarding his comment during the Senate Committee meeting that a board that wished to withdraw from the list of proposed consolidated boards should contact him. Mr. Warren indicated that he would provide to Chairman Watkins more information about the Bill and talking points.

Ms. Macknally reported that she would provide Mr. Sims, in preparation for the March Board meeting, a draft of recommendations concerning the CE audit guidelines, which may include the review process for the CE Committee. The Board also discussed a deadline for audit compliance by the licensee and penalty for non-compliance, along with the established percentage of audits of licensees during the license renewal period and impact on the CE Committee members' schedule due to number of audited licensees. The Board discussed the renewal cycle occurring at the end of the calendar year and the late renewal period extending into the next year. Chairman Watkins deferred further discussions to the March meeting to allow the Executive Director and Legal Counsel to consider the licensing period. Mr. Warren asked the members to send him recommendations about the audit procedures. Mr. Warren indicated that he would contact CLARB to obtain information about activities in other States.

Mr. Sims reported that the Administrative Services Contract would expire in August and would be on the March meeting agenda for approval.

Adjournment

Ms. Stephens made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Macknally and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Watkins adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chad Watkins
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

rr RR Approved on March 18, 2025