

TEXAS BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting

January 21, 2015

The William P. Hobby, Jr. Building
333 Guadalupe Street, Tower II, Ste. 350L
Austin, TX 78701

1. Call to Order

Chairman Vidaurri called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and recognized Chairman Davis to conduct the meeting of the Legislative Committee.

2. Roll Call

Chairman Davis called the roll and declared a quorum of the Committee was present.

Present Board Members:

Chad Davis, Chair
Charles (Chuck) Anastos
Chase Bearden
Sonya Odell
Debra Dockery (alternate member)

Other Attendees

Alfred Vidaurri, TBAE
Davey Edwards, TBAE
Brent Luck, Texas Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Donna Vining, Texas Association for Interior Design
David Lancaster, Texas Society of Architects (TxA) arrived @ 9:13 a.m.

TBAE Staff Present

Glenn Garry, Interim Executive Director
Scott Gibson, General Counsel
Kenneth Liles, Finance Manager
Glenda Best, Director of Operations

3. Public Comment

None. Chairman Davis provided some introductory remarks regarding Board and Staff preparation to serve as resources, and to “speak from the same sheet of music.” The Chair stated his desire to be as objective as possible and encourage positive outcomes.

4. Restrictions on legislative activity by Board Members and staff

General Counsel Scott Gibson provided some general guidelines regarding Board and Staff legislative activities. The general rule to remember is that Staff are allowed to testify as resource witnesses, not as advocates. As for Board Members, it is important to clarify whether or not the Member is testifying as a matter of Board business.

5. Expectations and roles of Committee Members

The Chair spoke regarding the logistics and expectation of Committee Members, in the event that testimony is required on a certain bill. Travel, Staff assistance, and procedures were discussed briefly.

6. General legislative and procedure information

The Interim Executive Director provided attendees with a small notebook containing a glossary, bill passing statistics, and other procedural information of possible use to Members. Edits to the TBAE fact sheets were discussed and made.

7. Potential legislative issues and Board instructions to staff

- a. Prospective revisions to scope of practice. Stakeholders commented that they did not envision plans to seek changes of this kind. Donna Vining noted that she had heard a state representative may be interested in filing legislation to overturn the "test-passing requirement," and noted potential legal action on the same topic from a disgruntled RID. Ms. Vining noted, however, that TAID had no plans to seek legislation of any type.
- b. Repeal or transfer of regulatory jurisdiction. Stakeholders noted that deregulation of RIDs was a minor campaign topic, and that TAID had met with campaign staff to discuss.
- c. Abolish AREFAF surcharge/program. TxA noted that his group probably wouldn't oppose abolition of the program, but is not seeking such.
- d. Repeal SDSI or major provisions of it. Attendees discussed the likelihood of this happening, and it was deemed unlikely but always possible. It was also noted that the Legislature is currently scrutinizing SDSI overall, and legislation was expected.
- e. Recapture enforcement expenditures. This topic was discussed lightly, and TxA mentioned that absent recovery of enforcement expenditures, the quality of enforcement is likely to fall.
- f. Gain authority to immediately stop violators from practicing. On this item and on item g. below, Mr. Lancaster noted that these issues tie into TxA's wider concerns regarding "putting teeth into the law" generally on contacting.
- g. Gain authority to stop construction on a project. On this item and on f. above, Mr. Lancaster noted that these issues tie into TxA's wider concerns regarding "putting teeth into the law" generally on contacting.
- h. Change the amount of the agency's annual SDSI payment. This item was discussed generally among participants. TxA noted that they might formally bring up the issue.

8. Chair's closing remarks

Chairman Davis returned the meeting to Chairman Vidaurri, who noted that today's meeting was a good one. Mr. Vidaurri stated he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

9. Adjourn

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED (Anastos/Edwards) TO ADJOURN THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 12:01 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Approved by the Committee: ;



MICHAEL (CHAD) DAVIS
Chair of the Legislative Committee
Texas Board of Architectural Examiners