

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATION EXAMINERS AND APPEALS**

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

January 19, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm. by Chair Sobolesky.

Board Present

Eric Cowling
Keith Sobolesky
Don McCann
Sterling Strait
Bryce Hamels
Dan Vannoy
Jason Arnold
Jason Dial
Dan Folmar

Board Absent

Craig Fredeen
Larry Kunder
Andre Spinelli

Staff Present

Ross Noffsinger
Scott Campbell
Victor Fosberg
Yars Dovba

Public Participation

Ben Dunham

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Dial moved to approve. Mr. Arnold second. Minor changes were made. The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

a. Minutes of November 2, 2022

Mr. Hamels moved to approve. Mr. Dial second. Unanimously approved.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Elections

Chair Sobolesky opened the floor to nominations for Chair and turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Vannoy. Mr. Strait nominated Mr. Vannoy. Mr. Cowling second the nomination. After a brief discussion, **the vote was called, and Mr. Vannoy was unanimously voted in as Chair.**

Chair Vannoy called for Vice Chair nominations. Mr. Strait nominated Mr. Dial. Mr. Sobolesky seconded. Mr. Sobolesky nominated Mr. Hamels. Mr. Arnold seconded. Chair Vannoy closed the nominations and called for the vote. **Mr. Hamels was voted in as Vice Chair.**

Chair Vannoy asked Vice Chair Hamels to run the agenda.

b. Three-Member Panel

Staff read through the three-member panel list and gave a brief description of the panel list for the new members of the board. After a short discussion, Mr. Sobolesky withdrew his name from the Electrical panel. Mr. Cowling added his name to the Mechanical/Plumbing panel. Mr. Spinelli and Mr. Folmar's names were added to the Civil/Structural panel. Mr. Arnold, Mr. Dial, Mr. Hamels, and Mr. Folmar added their names to the Architectural panel.

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATION EXAMINERS AND APPEALS**

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

c. 2020 (NEC) National Electrical Code

As the Chair of the Electrical Code committee, Mr. Cowling spoke on how they worked with the municipality and local professionals, electricians, and engineers for three to four months going through the original amendments from the previous code, reviewing them for deletion, modification. They reviewed the changes of the 2020 National Electrical Code and made a few amendments to some of them. Vice Chair Hamels asked for a motion.

Mr. Arnold moved to approve. Mr. Sobolesky second. Unanimously approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. AO 2021-88(S) – An Omnibus ordinance amending AMC Title 23 to provide clarity for implementation of code and related matters

Vice Chair Hamels opened the floor for discussion. The board asked staff if they are working on this with the Assembly.

Staff replied an ordinance was going to be done correcting the issue and we've been working with the Assembly attorney on the language, but he's been busy and has not gotten around to putting together an ordinance to fix the language so unfortunately there's nothing to discuss tonight. What is needed is the assembly to close the loop on writing the ordinance so there is language the board could then review.

The board asked Mr. Dunham from the Plumber's Training Hall to speak. Mr. Dunham spoke that as a licensed professional plumber he is against the ordinance noting there are big safety issues and all kinds of hazards if it was to go through.

The board agreed, noting the board and staff have been attempting to address it with staff doing a lot of the legwork. There is a local policy, Policy AG.58, in effect right now to address concerns.

b. AO 2022-100 Independent Plan Review

Vice Chair Hamels opened the discussion by asking Board Member Strait to update the board. Mr. Strait relayed the assembly moved the ordinance to later on the agenda. Once they got to it, two of the sponsors dropped their support immediately. The feeling was they were not going to vote on it that night. As it stands now, it's been delayed for action until the February 21 Assembly meeting.

Mr. Strait asked staff if we heard anything from the Assembly, from Assemblyman Cross or anybody else on this. Have they come to us for guidance or to discuss.

Staff replied no, we have not heard anything from Mr. Cross or the other sponsors of the ordinance. The Assembly rather than vote it down, remanded it back to the Building Board. There is no clear direction to the board so it's up to the authors of the ordinance to take this ordinance either to the Structural Engineers of Alaska, the building board, or both if they are so inclined to want to revise the language to obtain a document that the Assembly would approve.

Staff has not received any sort of notification or communication from the authors of the ordinance.

It was noted the Assembly has the board's letter and the Structural Engineer's Association of Alaska's submitted letter of non-support for the ordinance. Since there was no new information to discuss, it was agreed to defer further discussion.

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATION EXAMINERS AND APPEALS**

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

6. REPORTS

Staff stated it's January and things in Alaska are pretty slow. Permits are trickling in. Staffing levels in plan review are going down due to a resignation in December and a retirement coming in February. We will be refilling one position.

A big project on the horizon is the Block 41 development, which is the Fourth Avenue Development consisting of a parking structure the size of a city block. It will serve the KeyBank building that's being renovated. The parking structure is 4 stories and have about 450 spaces. There will be two towers on the top. One tower will be a hotel and the other tower will be condos. That will be a significant project in Anchorage.

One plumbing/mechanical inspector just retired, the position will be filled. There are still two permit technician positions and the on-site water and wastewater inspector position open.

Mr. Strait asked who the building official is. Mr. Noffsinger answered he was the acting building official. Mr. Strait thanked Mr. Noffsinger for doing a good job.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – NONE

8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. **Mr. Arnold moved. Mr. Sobolesky seconded. Approved.**

 2/24/23

Dan Vannoy, Chair Date
Board of Building Regulation Examiners and Appeals

 2-27-23

Ross Noffsinger Date
Acting Building Official