

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATION EXAMINERS AND APPEALS
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY**

November 14, 2018

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

Board Present

Scott Bohne
Jonathan Steele
Eric Cowling
Don McCann
Craig Fredeen
Keith Sobolesky
Troy Feller
Sterling Strait
Tyler Loken
Ray Hickel

Board Absent

Royal Fields

Staff Present

Ross Noffsinger
Victor Fosberg
Curt Burgoyne

Public Participation

Skye Brabson/ASD
Lois Brabson/ASD

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Steele motioned to approve. Mr. Fredeen second. Unanimously approved with changes.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Minutes of April 26, 2018. Mr. Fredeen moved to approve. Mr. Sobolesky second. Unanimously approved.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

c. Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts – Local Amendments

Staff commented there were no major changes to code and noted most changes were clarifications. The board asked questions regarding chairlifts, if there was a committee(s) and if there was any major issues. Staff stated there was a committee and several meetings discussing various concerns. It was noted about ninety percent (90%) are private residential chairlifts and a few in public spaces where we see about one every two years. It was asked if once the board approves these, will it be held back to wait on the other codes, then go to Legal and the Assembly. Staff reported we are so far ahead on these, we're sending them to legal and the assembly grouped together. Currently they are in legal. Staff stated Mr. Cowling, Mr. Bohne and respected industry members were on the committee. Mr. Cowling arrived at 5:41 p.m.

b. Elevator and Escalator, Local Amendments

Mr. Strait arrived at 5:43 p.m. The board asked if there was a different committee for the Elevator and Escalators. Staff stated it was the same committee and it was very thorough discussion and process. Was there was anything controversial that needed to be addressed by the board. It was noted the sump pump was an issue but it remains as is in current code. Staff explained the existing code and the committee tried to clean the language but was not able to get a consensus. There was further discussion for clarification. Mr. Fosberg arrived at 5:46 p.m. Mr. Bohne arrived at 5:50 p.m.

Questions were asked of gases and odors. Staff replied that code prohibits direct connection to any sewer or septic system, to prevent gases and vapors from entering the hoistway and elevator. All it's asking for is an air gap or break between that discharge and any sewer or septic system. Discussion continued for several minutes.

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Concerns about small platform lifts used in garages was discussed in the electrical committee. Staff stated we're talking about an elevation of ignition source issue where we require sparking-arcing potential devices be elevated 18-inches off the flooring a residential garage, minimum. Discussion continued for several minutes with staff clarifying the code and concern.

a. Electrical Code, Local Amendments

Staff noted the electrical code is off from the other code cycles and a different entity publishes it. The NFPA publishes it and not the ICC. We eased up on the Romex restriction, allowing it in all group R and I-1 occupancies as long as arc-fault protection is provided. This is a big change from what the city has done and the committee felt comfortable with this change.

There were questions regarding the hazardous classification of residential garages. Residential garages are not classified as a hazardous location; however elevation of ignition source still applies. A clarification note and was copied verbatim out of the mechanical code to clarify this point.

Chair Loken called for a motion.

Mr. Bohne motioned to accept Chapter 23.75 local amendments to the American Society of Mechanical Engineer (ASME) A17.1-2016/CSA B44-16 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators; and Chapter 23.76 local amendments to the American Society of Mechanical Engineer (ASME) A18.1-2017 Safety Standards for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts. Mr. Cowling second. Unanimously Approved.

Mr. Cowling motioned to accept the changes to Chapter 23.30 the 2017 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70). Mr. Steele seconded. Unanimously Approved.

The board asked for notification when the codes go before the Assembly. Staff replied the board will be notified and asked if the board members on the committee could attend to answer questions.

5. REPORTS

Staff noted things are slow. Under ninety percent (90%) from where we were last year at this time. We hope we've hit bottom and are on the upside. All the codes are up for review but we're doing things differently with the energy code. The IRC is tasked with reviewing the residential single family portion. The IBC – non-structural is tasked with reviewing the commercial envelope portion. Electrical code portion we'll have a sub-committee of electrical contractors and engineers look at the controls, lighting, and design. IMC committee will be tasked with the mechanical portion and it should take about four months to get through the codes.

State Fire Marshal's office has not discussed their code schedule for reviewing of the 2018 codes. Currently, AFHC is looking at the 2018 IRC and IECC. The State Department of Labor has adopted the 2017 NEC, they have adopted the updated elevator codes, and the 2018 UPC.

In the elevator section, we've seen about 30 new elevators this year. We have 1,402 conveyances in anchorage that we inspect every two years and escalators every year. All commercial conveyances are inspected.

Electrical has seen an up-take in inspections this year. We're keeping busy and we have one inspector looking to retire soon. We are looking at more and more solar products and we're working on a handout for the public. Has anyone heard about a discussion on ICC Solar International Provisions? Staff has not heard of it.

