Washington State Board of Licensure for Landscape Architects meeting transcript

November 6, 2025

Vice Chair Anderson (00:02):
Comment later in the meeting. To reduce background noise, please mute yourself when you are not speaking. Also, for board members to help us capture information correctly, please state your name when making comments. Thank you. Sydney, can you please call the roll?

Sydney Muhle (00:22):
Absolutely. We will start with you, Vice Chair Anderson.

Vice Chair Anderson (00:28):
Present.

Sydney Muhle (00:34):
Board member Krabel.

Darren Crabill (00:34):
Here.

Sydney Muhle (00:34):
Board member Robin [Zinlosey 00:00:36].

Sharon Robinson-Losey (00:35):
I'm here.

Sydney Muhle (00:37):
And Board Member [Solorio 00:00:39]?

Lindsey Solorio (00:39):
Here.

Sydney Muhle (00:40):
And Chair Lapierre has an excused absence today.

Vice Chair Anderson (00:46):

Okay. Next, we've got approval of the agenda, and I would need a motion for that.

Darren Crabill (00:56):
This is Board Member Krabel. I so move to approve the agenda as written.

Lindsey Solorio (01:03):
This is board member Solario. I second to approve the agenda as written.

Vice Chair Anderson (01:11):
Is there any discussion? Hearing none, we need to take a vote. All those in favor?

Lindsey Solorio (01:26):
Aye.

Sharon Robinson-Losey (01:26):
Aye.

Sydney Muhle (01:26):
Aye.

Vice Chair Anderson (01:28):
All those opposed? Seeing ... the motion passes. I would then need ... We've got approval of the minutes, and then I need a motion for that.

Sharon Robinson-Losey (01:47):
This is Sharon. I move that we approve the minutes.

Lindsey Solorio (01:53):
This is board member Solario. I second the motion.

Vice Chair Anderson (01:56):
All those in favor, please say aye.

Group (01:59):
Aye.

Vice Chair Anderson (02:01):
All those opposed? All right, motion passes. Old business outreach update, I'll go ahead and start. I actually did not end up going to Pullman. My wife won tickets to the Mariners American League Championship series, so I went to the baseball game instead. So, those were once-in-a-lifetime tickets, so we went ahead and moved my outreach to the spring.

Did anybody else have any outreach they'd like to share? All right, seeing none, next would be the CLARB annual meeting report. You'd like to share, Lindsay?

Lindsey Solorio (02:56):

Yeah, this is board member Solario. Board member La Pierre and I both attended the CLARB annual meeting, and it was a really beneficial time of hearing from other bodies about how they're handling some of the deregulation and licensing challenges, and also just hearing from other groups, both locally and internationally, about the field and some advancements. So, it was a good use of time.

Vice Chair Anderson (03:32):

Thank you. I'm just wondering, Board Member Anderson, was there a lot of states facing possible deregulation?

Lindsey Solorio (03:48):

Yes, there was, including the state of Florida, where ... I hope I quote this correctly, but there's proposed legislation to remove the licensure regulatory boards for all state licenses. And so there's discussion of state board structure and whether things like how we run in Washington, being self-sustaining with our member population, how that can work in our favor, should there be discussion of deregulation in Washington State too.

Vice Chair Anderson (04:28):

Board member Anderson again. So, I guess that means Florida is subsidized by the state, and they are not self-sufficient.

Lindsey Solorio (04:36):

Yeah, I don't know the answer to that question.

Vice Chair Anderson (04:40):

Okay. Anybody else have any questions? Seeing none, new business: our 2026 meeting schedule adoption. Sydney?

Sydney Muhle (04:58):

All right. Thank you very much. Well, as the board members will remember, at the last meeting of the calendar year, we set the meeting schedule for the following calendar year. So, we are not proposing any changes to the schedule or the cadence for this board, so the meeting dates for 2026 that we've proposed are February 5th, May 7th, August 13th, and November 12th. And so, with that, I'm happy to answer any questions. I just want to make sure that works for everybody.

Vice Chair Anderson (05:33):

Darren?

Darren Crabill (05:36):

Board member Krabel. Assuming we move forward with these dates or any dates, can I just ask that staff send out holds for the entire year? I think you'd normally do that, but it's helpful for me.

Sydney Muhle (05:54):

Yes, we do send them out for the entire year. Those will be going out in December.

Darren Crabill (05:59):

Great. Thank you so much.

Sydney Muhle (06:00):

No problem.

Vice Chair Anderson (06:03):

So, we need to vote on this, so that would require a motion.

Darren Crabill (06:10):

This is Board Member Krabel. I move to adopt the meeting schedule as shown.

Lindsey Solorio (06:18):

This is board member Solario. I second the motion.

Vice Chair Anderson (06:22):

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, go ahead and ... All those in favor say aye.

Group (06:36):

Aye.

Vice Chair Anderson (06:38):

All those opposed? Okay. Seeing none, the meeting schedule is adopted. Onto number seven, staff reports, complaint status report.

Sydney Muhle (06:53):

All right, so our complaint status report for this quarter, I don't think it's changed a lot from the last one. So, we have one complaint that is in a legal review status, eight that have been closed, for a grand total of nine. Eight of those have been received this calendar year. Are there any questions? All right. Then the licensee count report was provided in the packet. And as a reminder, all of these data reports are going to be moving to an annual basis, and then we'll be sharing the complaint status report out on a quarterly basis, just as a reminder of what's hanging out there. But just that annual look at the data shows a much

better overall picture versus the quarter-to-quarter that doesn't change a whole lot. So, were there any questions on the licensee account report?

Vice Chair Anderson (07:56):

I would just like to say thank you for that information because ... This is board member Anderson. When I share that with the students, when I'm discussing it, it's really eye-opening for them. And I think it really gives them a path forward that's hopeful, that, "Hey, I can do this, and I can be one of the few people that are licensed. And there's space for me at the table."

Sydney Muhle (08:28):

Awesome.

Lindsey Solorio (08:31):

This is board member Solario. I would second that, actually. When I was at University of Washington earlier this year, it was a really helpful talking point, talking about how the profession is changing, and there's a whole group of people that will be exiting fairly soon, and how there's room for a lot more people at the table.

Sydney Muhle (08:52):

That's excellent. All right. Well, then, I'll move on to our legislative update. Primarily, this is going to be regarding the bill that we've already made the board aware of, the proposal for the regulation of interior designers. Again, while not directly impacting this board or this profession, there is always just that potential out there for ripple effects, and so we just wanted to keep it on the board's radar. So, that proposal is moving forward. It is planned for introduction to the legislature in 2026. It will be for the regulation of commercial interior designers, so they are not looking to license residential interior designers at this time, commercial only. And much of that structure will be set up very similar to how the landscape architect profession is, how the architect profession is. They kept the internal structure for their licensure very similar to what the other design professions already have. They'll be required to pass their national exams, all of the things.

(10:03):

So, I'm happy to share that draft language with anybody who's just curious, but for the purposes of the board, one of the things I wanted to highlight is we can now confirm that they are requesting to add two additional seats onto the architect board so that the architect board would move from seven members to nine members. It would keep the current structure by adding two positions for interior designers. And so, just again, because of that combined board, there's always the potential, again, for the ripple effects as legislative staff are doing research and analysis that they could pull inspiration and try looking at a broader scope of the design profession. We have no indication of that. The interior design group is not seeking that, but you just never know what can happen during

legislative session, so wanted to have it on the board's radar. It's certainly something that we are watching for.

(11:09):

The only other piece that would, again, ripple effects impact this board is there is a proposal from the American Institute for Architecture, AIA, the Washington Council, to look at changing the definition for the practice of architecture. Again, not anything that we anticipate would impact this board, but we are happy to share that language with board just for your awareness and the awareness of the profession. So, with that, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Vice Chair Anderson (11:46):

Board member Anderson. I heard you say that they're not having residential interior designers get licensed.

Sydney Muhle (11:57):

Correct, at this time.

Vice Chair Anderson (12:01):

So, it made me think about our previous meeting where we were looking at ... and if this is out of turn, please shut me down. But is there an opportunity for us, because I know Curtis board members, La Pierre, was bringing up the cost associated with licensure? Would it be worth looking at breaking down the landscape architecture license into a different category so a residential landscape architect wouldn't be required to pay as much as a commercial landscape architect?

Sydney Muhle (12:46):

I'm not certain. The cost for the licensure is entirely dependent on ... okay, let me back up and rephrase this a little better. Sorry. We're required by state law for each of our programs to be self-funded, and so that is the driving force behind the cost for the license. It is the cost to have the program and sustain it with all of the moving pieces and parts that go into that. Because this is such a small licensee base and we have less than 1,000 licensees, that cost has to be borne by that smaller group, which increases the cost for everybody. We'd have to do some research and some digging, and would certainly need some input from the industry on if you guys believe that would increase the number of licensees. And if so, that could potentially change those calculations, but I don't have any statistics on what that would look like. We'd definitely have to do some research.

Vice Chair Anderson (14:08):

Thank you.

Sydney Muhle (14:09):

No problem. Were there any other questions on the legislative update before I move on? And again, I'm happy to email those bills out to all of you just so you have awareness of what's included in them currently. All right, then, I will move on to our master action analyst. I apologize. I did not get that included in our presentations. Let me pull it over. So, the WAC update is still rolling forward. We'll be moving forward with that CR102. We've already discussed outreach. Recruitment is still an ongoing priority for us. Thankfully, this board has remained full for a full year, so that's been a huge relief on staff. But as our public member was so kind to point out, her term is going to be expiring here shortly, so we will have some recruitment next year, so we'll be starting to look at that. Now that we're ending the calendar year, we'll be starting to look at getting that on the governor's office radar so that we can get those appointments rolling as quickly as possible.

(15:26):

We already reviewed the interior design regulation bill. We're working on getting the outreach resources from CLARB, particularly for students. We completed the travel for the CLARB annual meeting, and unfortunately, we're not able to complete it for board member Anderson to attend the ASLA summit in Louisiana due to the ongoing travel freeze at the state. That one was not funded by an outside entity and was not approved through the state. We are still working on updating the renewal form regarding our legacy practitioners. Unfortunately, there are a lot of forms being updated currently, so it is in the queue, and we'll let you guys know once that's been completed. And then Curtis is currently working on the WASLA newsletter article. He actually sent that to me last week to proof, so I imagine we'll be seeing that come out in that newsletter shortly. And I'm happy to answer any questions. All right. [inaudible 00:16:43]

Vice Chair Anderson (16:43):

Moving on to number eight, public comments. We are now entering our public comment period. The public may address the board on matters within the board's jurisdiction either verbally during the meeting or by submitting written comments in advance. Verbal comments are limited to one three-minute comment. Written comments are limited to 500 words and must have been emailed to the board staff no less than two business days prior to this meeting. In response to public comments, the board is limited to either requesting the matter be added to a future agenda for discussion or referring it to staff. Inflammatory comments or language will not be allowed. Board staff, do we have any written public comments to be read by staff?

Sydney Muhle (17:30):

No, sir.

Vice Chair Anderson (17:33):

If you'd like to make a comment, please unmute your line, state your name, share your comments with the board. As a reminder, please mute your line once you have finished. Do we have anyone wanting to make a comment? Seeing none, I will go ahead and close that

out and move to conclusion. Are there any announcements from the board or staff members that they would like to share?

Sydney Muhle (18:12):

I can announce Alyssa will be back with us on Monday next week, and so you guys will start seeing emails and calendar invites coming from her.

Vice Chair Anderson (18:23):

Very good. Then next, we've got requests for future agenda items. Would any board members like to request any agenda items added for the future? Okay. Next would be review of action items and items for the next meeting. Sydney?

Sydney Muhle (18:51):

I did not capture any items for the next meeting.

Vice Chair Anderson (18:57):

All right. Well, that would pretty much wrap things up, so adjournment. It is now 10:20 AM on February ... Oh, not ... It would be November 6th, 2026. This meeting is adjourned. Our next board meeting will be February 5th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Thank you all.

Sydney Muhle (19:27):

Thanks, everyone. Have a great holiday season.

Lindsey Solorio (19:30):

You too.

Darren Crabill (19:32):

You too.

Vice Chair Anderson (19:33):

Yeah, happy holidays. Merry Christmas.

Darren Crabill (19:35):

Thanks for your help.

Vice Chair Anderson (19:35):

Thanks, Sydney.