

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #259 Open

MINUTES

March 7, 2019

The two hundred and fifty ninth meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Thursday March 7, 2019 at the OAA' s temporary Headquarters, 1 Duncan Mill Road, Toronto, Ontario.

Present:	Kathleen Kurtin	President
	Walter Derhak	Senior Vice President and Treasurer
	Mélisa Audet	Vice President Regulatory (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Amir Azadeh	Vice President Communications
	J. Gordon Erskine	Vice President Strategic
	David Sin	Vice President, Practice
	Mazen Alkhaddam	Councillor
	J. William Birdsell	Councillor
	Barry Cline	Councillor
	Jeremiah Gammond	Councillor
	Jeffrey Laberge	Councillor
	Agata Mancini	Councillor
	Wayne Medford	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Robert Sirman	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Susan Spiegel	Councillor
	John Stephenson	Immediate Past President
	Alberto Temprano	Councillor
	Magid Youssef	Councillor
	Nedra Brown	Registrar
	Kristi Doyle	Executive Director
	Tina Carfa	Executive Assistant, Executive Services
	Erik Missio	Communications Manager
Regrets:	Sarah Murray	Councillor
	David C. Rich	Councillor

The President called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer recited the following acknowledgement that the Council meeting was being held on indigenous land:

"I would like to begin this open meeting of the OAA Council by acknowledging that we are meeting on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning.

As descendants of settlers, we're grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land - for thousands of years.

In particular, we acknowledge that the land on which we are meeting is the traditional territory of the Iroquois/Haudenosaunee, the Métis, and the Huron-Wendy peoples and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions made by the Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, and our province and country as a whole.

This territory was the subject of the *Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant*, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It is also covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, which are agreements to share and care for the land and resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto (from the Haudenosaunee word Tkaronto) is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in this territory.

As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities

Of special interest to new councillors is that Moatfield is also the location of an ossuary or gravesite near today's Leslie Street and Highway 401 that was rediscovered in 1997 during the expansion of a soccer field. The bones of 90 people were found there and then relocated to a secret location in the general area of the original grave site."

DECLARATION RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The President called for declaration of any conflicts of interest.

They were no conflicts of interest declared.

AGENDA APPROVAL

8682. The President noted that there were no new items to add to the agenda.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Alhaddam that the agenda be approved as circulated.
-- CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8683. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the January 24, 2019 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the January 24, 2019 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was moved by Mintz and seconded by Gammond that the minutes of the January 24, 2019 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.
-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

8684. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

8685. Honorary Membership Nomination (*oral*)

Doyle reported on the nominations for Honorary Membership.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Erskine that Council approve the nomination of Lyette Fortin and David Pearson for election as Honorary members of the Ontario Association of Architects at the Annual General Meeting of Members, May 22, 2019 in Quebec City.
-- CARRIED

8686. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 22, 2019 re. Council Appointment to Pro-Demnity Insurance Company (ProDem) Board of Directors and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

Doyle reported.

Each of the four applicants (Birdsell, Cline, Sin, and Spiegel) made a brief address to Council.

Council voted by ballot on the appointment. None of the candidates received 51% of the vote. The highest number of votes went to Sin and Spiegel. A second vote was held between the two candidates.

It was announced that Spiegel received the majority of votes and therefore would be appointed to serve as interlocking director to the ProDem Board at the next annual meeting of the shareholder.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Erskine that Council approve the nomination of Susan Spiegel to the Pro-Demnity Insurance Company Board of Directors Nomination Committee for appointment to the Board of Directors as an OAA Council Interlocking Director for a two-year term effective the date of the 2019 Meeting of the Shareholder.

-- CARRIED

8687. Appointment to the Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (OAAAS) Board *(oral)*

Councillor Gammond reported.

It was moved by Stephenson and seconded by Azadeh that John Romanov and Nicola Russo be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Applied Architectural Sciences for a two-year term effective immediately until the 2021 Meeting of the Founder.

-- CARRIED

8688. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Council Planning Session February 8, 2019 – Session Outcomes. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

The President reminded that a number of key themes were identified by Council during the February Planning session.

The summary report that had been distributed was reviewed. Council was asked to identify the level of priority for each item with 1, 2 or 3 checkmarks. Once completed the document was collected from each Councillor to be tallied and the results to be reported back to Council.

8689. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Communications, Amir Azadeh dated February 21, 2019 re. Local Architectural Society Special Project Funding Request and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

The Vice President Communications reported that all of the proposals were prioritized regardless of which society they came from.

It was noted by the Vice President Communications that some societies submitted multiple requests, which would have consumed almost the complete amount of the budget. A portion of the funding was allotted based on the date of the event which was being sponsored.

A member of Council expressed some concern that the Niagara Society did not receive any funding. Additionally, funding for Toronto seemed more significant.

The Vice President Communications responded that the Committee considered the applications overall and which projects would best serve the mandate of raising public awareness. Additionally where deadline dates were past, funding was not considered.

It was noted by a member of Council that 35% of the funding is already pre-allocated by Council which creates further challenges in judging.

Doyle confirmed that approximately 1/3 of the funding is committed based on recommendations that came forward the previous year from the Communications Committee. The Toronto Society receives \$6,000 for its walking tours, Ottawa Region receives \$14,000 for Architecture Week and the Windsor Film Festival receives \$6,000.

It was suggested by a Council member that the deadline dates be shifted so as to accommodate for accommodate for spring events.

A Council member responded that it is difficult to balance since the budget is approved in November and would be wary to attribute funds so early for the next fiscal year.

It was suggested by a Council member that priorities by the Committee need to be carefully assessed, especially in the case where a society does not receive funding.

A member of Council noted that most important is to consider the quality of the submissions.

It was suggested by the Vice President Communications that examples of successful projects receiving special funds as well as guidelines should be posted on the Website to help guide societies.

A Council member suggested that pre-approved funding should be incorporated into the annual budget within the policy contingency.

It was noted by a Council member that it is a positive sign of a successful program since there are more applicants than funds available. It is up to the societies to put in its best efforts and have access to applications throughout the year.

A member of Council suggested that further consideration be delayed until May. There are options to use discretionary funds in the future. It is legitimate to ask questions but faith should be placed in the Committee's which has been asked to allocate this funding each year, and their recommendations.

It was suggested by a Council member that the public does not know what architects do and as such, the annual budget for society special projects funding should be increased.

A Council member suggested that the Committee should come back and ask Council if they feel any of the projects are exceptional.

It was moved by Stephenson and seconded by Erskine that \$45,980 be approved in accordance with the recommendations of the Communications Committee for the allocation of the 2019 society special project funding ; and that the Committee be asked to consider whether there is a need to supplement the society special project funding budget from the policy contingency in June when the second set of applications for special project funding is considered.

-- CARRIED (1 abstention)

8690. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Audit Committee dated February 21, 2019 re. Audited OAA Financial Statements and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported that the auditors have completed the OAA 2018 audit and reported that the OAA's financing are in order with no material issues identified. It was noted however that ProDem showed a loss of \$415,000 which does affect the OAA's overall member's equity.

It was noted by a member of Council that the Audit Committee is recommendng that that the excess capital of approximately \$200,000 be transferred into the major capital reserve.

It was moved by Stephenson and seconded by Erskine that Council approve the transfer of \$200,000 to the Major Capital Reserve effective November 30, 2018.

-- CARRIED (1 opposed (Birdsell))

It was moved by Youssef and seconded by Audet that Council receive and accept the 2018 Audited Financial Statements for the Ontario Association of Architects as circulated.

-- CARRIED

Council moved into in camera at 2:25 pm and returned to the open meeting at 2:35 pm.

8691. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Vice President Communications, Amir Azadeh dated February 20, 2019 re. No. 9 – "Imagining My Sustainable City" and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The Vice President Communications reported that this project has been funded at a similar amount for the past four years.

A member of Council enquired as to the reason funding is always derived from the discretionary budget and not simply budgeted for each year.

Doyle responded that sponsorship is not necessarily guaranteed each year of the project, adding that some year's council may not wish to sponsor a program due to specific circumstances.

It was suggested by a member of Council that a business plan be submitted for the project.

A Council member noted that s/he had experienced the program in the past and found it to be beneficial and highly engaging for students and given them exposure to architecture. It has been specific to the school and past recommendations by the students have been implemented.

It was suggested by a Council that it is somewhat difficult to see the benefit for the cost.

Doyle noted that she had attended two past events. Setting aside recognition for the OAA, it is a program that creates a high level of enthusiasm for students and education for school-aged children.

A Council member noted that the program organizers had been encouraged to broaden their reach which they have, adding that future prospects appear positive. It draws cultural awareness of architecture for the younger generation.

It was suggested by a member of Council that the program partners with the school boards to help make it continuous, however in some instances the Board may not be able or willing to entertain the program locally.

A member of Council suggested that measuring the level of success against the impact of the program is difficult to measure.

It was suggested by a member of Council that program organizer be invited to make a presentation to to Council.

A Council member indicated that it is a qualitative program which would be difficult to measure through financials. There is also no benefit that the financials would have to the OAA. A presentation would be appropriate.

Medford left the meeting at 3:05 pm.

It was moved by Stephenson and seconded by Sirman that Council approve funding of the No. 9 – Imagining My Sustainable City Project for 2019 in the amount of \$25,000 to be drawn from the policy contingency budget; that No. 9 be further encouraged to broaden the program; and, that No. 9 be invited to make a presentation to Council at the June meeting.

-- CARRIED (2 opposed (Alkhaddam, Sin))

8692. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Vice President Communications, Amir Azadeh dated February 20, 2019 re. The 2020 OAA Annual Conference Theme. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

The Vice President Communications reported on the proposed 2020 title and theme for the OAA Conference in Toronto.

It was moved by Mancini and seconded by Audet that the 2020 Conference title “Shifting Paradigms” and theme be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

8693. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 25, 2019 re. Toronto 2030 District Sponsorship Request and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

Doyle reported that the original request came through a recommendation of the Sustainable Built Environments Committee (SBEC) at the January meeting of Council. At that time, Council made a request for further information on the program including a business plan and list of sponsors.

It was noted by Doyle that she spoke with the Executive Director for the Toronto 2030 District who provided a copy of the organization's Business Plan which also includes the possibility of a membership-based structure in the future.

A member of Council noted that the program is important and demonstrates the OAA's commitment to sustainability.

It was noted by a Council member that the RWDI COMPASS tool is being offered through the 2030 District and the OAA's continuing support of it and the 2030 Challenge is important, adding that Sustainable Buildings Canada has now taken ownership of it.

A Council member noted that the decision to fund the program or not sends a message to the public with respect to sustainability and the 2030 Challenge.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Alkhaddam that Council approve sponsorship of the Toronto 2030 District in the amount of \$25,000 to be drawn from the policy contingency budget.

-- CARRIED (5 opposed (Mintz))

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

8694. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Activities for the Months of January-March. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

The report was noted for information.

8695. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 26, 2019 re. Update on Activities of the Executive Director. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

8696. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the OAA Building Committee dated February 24, 2019 re. Update from the OAA Building Committee. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The report was noted for information.

8697. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Regulatory, Mélisa Audet dated February 27, 2019 re. Update. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The Vice President Regulatory reported a correction in the memo that she was unable to attend the expert witness training.

It was noted by the Vice President Regulatory that she recently spoke with University of Toronto Council representative, Megan Torza regarding future reporting to Council on the school's activities.

The Vice President Regulatory noted that the Interns Committee met last week where there was some discussion with respect to rebranding the Committee with a more universal theme.

The report was noted for information.

8698. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Regulatory, Mélisa Audet dated February 19, 2019 re. Activities Under the Registrar – January 1, 2019 through February 19, 2019. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The Vice President Regulatory reported that there is work ongoing to modify the graphics to present the data from an annual perspective.

The report was noted for information.

8699. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Strategic Gordon Erskine, dated February 27, 2019 re. Update on activities under the Vice President Strategic Portfolio and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The Vice President Strategic reported that the Executive Director for the Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) recently met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) regarding the government's plan to harmonize the National Building Code (NBC) with the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

It was noted by the Vice President Strategic that he attended the expert witness training, adding that he felt that it was an excellent training session.

Audet left the meeting at 3:30 pm.

The report was noted for information.

8700. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Strategic Gordon Erskine, dated February 27, 2019 re. Windsor Mega Hospital and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'O')**

The Vice President Practice reported that the OAA submitted an application to speak at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) Case Management session on March 20. . The purpose is to represent the OAA's original submission regarding the placement of the Windsor Mega hospital. It was noted by a member of Council that there was news that the LPAT process is on hold due to a legal challenge regarding who is permitted to present what at hearings.

Doyle noted that Council may wish to determine the level of commitment before a decision is made whether to proceed any further than the case management hearing.

8701. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Communications, Amir Azadeh dated February 22, 2019 re. Communications Committee Update and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'P')**

The Vice President Communications reported that on April 4 the web consultants will present the final web design concepts. Council is invited to attend in person or via skype.

It was noted by the Vice President Communications 2019 SHIFT jury day was held where seven submissions were selected and four given honorable mentions out of 41 submissions received.

The Vice President Communications indicated that the logo redesign guidelines for use has been finalized. The final report from the Housing Affordability Task Group has been shared through a bIOAAg series where through the month, projects reported a case study examples were shared.

A member of Council enquired as to whether the logo will be launched at the Conference in May.

Doyle responded that discussion is ongoing with Communications and how it will be launched

The report was noted for information.

8702. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Strategic, Gordon Erskine dated February 13, 2019 re. Sustainable Built Environments Committee (SBEC) Update. **(APPENDIX 'Q')**

The report was noted for information.

8703. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Practice, David Sin dated February 25, 2019 re. Practice Resource Committee (PRC) and Practice Advisory Services (PAS) Update and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'R')**

The Vice President Practice expressed his thanks to PAS for their work with respect to the Document 600 Roundtable. There was some discussion around the topic of RFP alerts at the Roundtable.

It was noted by a member of Council that a comprehensive Information Bulletin will be issued in the near future which will help members assess contract language and RFP documents.

It was noted by the Vice President Practice that there have been significant changes proposed to CCDC2. Concerns have been noted and will be addressed at the next meeting with the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA).

A Council member expressed some concern with some municipalities in Ontario who do not permit submission of complete documentation.

The Vice President Practice noted that concern had also been noted with respect to the quality of the documents.

A member of Council suggested that further discussion on the issue with PAS may be warranted.

The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8704. There were no items for discussion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8705. *Reference Material Reviewed: 2018 Society Visits Summary* (**APPENDIX 'S'**)

Doyle noted that the 2018 Society Visits were held and summarized for Council's reference.

It was suggested by Doyle that the Council Society Liaisons reach out to their respective societies and spread news of the 'Starting an Architectural Practice' program, specifically the upcoming session in Kitchener.

It was suggested by a Council member that a descriptive paragraph be drafted that may be circulated to the societies and its members.

OTHER BUSINESS

8706. Doyle announced to Council that registration for the Conference will be available to Council on Monday March 11 in advance of registration going live to the membership on March 19. Program details will be available on the Website tomorrow.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8707. The next regular meeting of Council is Wednesday May 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Petit Frontenac Room, Québec City, Québec.

ADJOURNMENT

8708. **It was moved by Erskine and seconded by Derhak that the meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date