

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #293 Open

MINUTES

May 21, 2024

The two hundred and ninety third meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Tuesday May 21, 2024 at the Marriott on the Falls Hotel, Salon A, Niagara Falls and virtually via Zoom.

Settimo Vilardi	President
Ted Wilson	Senior Vice President and Treasurer
Lara McKendrick	Vice President
Kristiana Schuhmann	Vice President
Susan Speigel	Vice President
Loloa Alkasawat	Councillor (<i>virtual</i>)
J. William Birdsell	Councillor
Jim Butticci	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Kimberly Fawcett-Smith	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Christina Karney	Councillor
Natasha Krickhan	Councillor
Jenny Lafance	Councillor
Michelle Longlade	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Greg Redden	Councillor
Anna Richter	Councillor
Ted Watson	Councillor
Thomas Yeung	Councillor
Marek Zawadzki	Councillor
Kristi Doyle	Executive Director
Christie Mills	Registrar
Tina Carfa	Executive Assistant, Executive Services
Erik Missio	Manager, Communications (<i>virtual</i>)

Regrets: None

Guests:

Andrew Davies	Representative for Imagining My Sustainable Community No.9 (<i>part attendance – virtual</i>)
Anna Eisner	Compliance Analyst, Office of the Fairness Commissioner (<i>virtual</i>)
Claire Hepburn	Deputy Registrar (<i>virtual</i>)
Sara Trotta	Manager, Policy and Government Relations (<i>virtual</i>)
Dakota Wares-Tai	Representative for Winterstations (<i>part attendance – virtual</i>)

The President called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

The President noted that a land acknowledgement titled *First Nations – Early Beginnings in Niagara*, from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum would be shared with Council as an acknowledgement and recognition of the Indigenous land and its people.

The President welcomed staff, members, and others in attendance at the meeting.

DECLARATION RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The President called for declaration of any conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

AGENDA APPROVAL

9738. The President reported that no new items would be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Longlade and seconded by Fawcett-Smith that the agenda for the May 21, 2024 open meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9739. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the March 7, 2024 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the March 7, 2024 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Fawcett-Smith that the minutes of the March 7, 2024 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9740. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The President reported that the Continuing Education Policy would be discussed next on the agenda followed by the Sponsorship Request to allow for the representatives of the projects to join the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

9741. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Deputy Registrar, Claire Hepburn dated May 9, 2024 re. Continuing Education Policy and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

A member of Council requested some clarification with respect to comparing the redlined policies to the final combined policy. It was suggested that the changes were unclear and recommended moving the discussion to the June meeting and that clarity be given as to what elements of the policy are new, or amended, or deleted.

Hepburn responded that there are eight separate policies that were consolidated, however the intent of the existing was not changed, unless explicitly set out in her cover memo. It was suggested that amalgamating into a single policy with all of the redlines might have been very difficult from the readers perspective. Hepburn offered a review all of the changes with Council.

The Council member suggested that for the purpose of full transparency a redlined copy of the individual policies would be useful so that an informed decision can be made. It is particularly important as the issue of administrative suspension is part of the policy and requires special attention.

A member of Council referenced that the learning hours requirements for Licence holders versus Limited Licence Holders appears different in that that Licensed Technologists have less learning hours required per cycle.

Doyle responded that it is consistent with past requirements for Continuing Education under the now paused OAA Technology Program.

Mills clarified that licence holders with terms, conditions and limitations, are distinct from individuals holding a limited licence.

It was moved by Speigel and seconded by Mintz that Council approve the attached Continuing Education Policy, dated May 21, 2024 and sunset the former associated policies
-- WITHDRAWN

Based on the above discussion, it was agreed that the motion that had been put on the table would be withdrawn.

It was agreed that the recommendation regarding the non-compliance fine would be voted on given that end of cycle is approaching.

It was moved by Butticci and seconded by McKendrick that Council approve the proposal to change the non-compliance fine to a consistent \$750, and sunset the tiered fee structure.
-- CARRIED

Action: Council directed staff to review the draft policy and report back at the June meeting with further details to clearly redline the changes for clarity into the final consolidated policy.

9742. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Deputy Registrar, Claire Hepburn dated May 7, 2024 re. Mandatory Learning Hours for 2024-2026 Reporting Cycle. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

It was suggested by a member of Council that they noted that there has been some animosity toward the mandatory requirement and being forced to take courses based on mandated themes.

A Council member suggested that there is importance in offering leadership in continued learning. It is part of the Strategic Plan and it behooves the OAA to offer leadership.

It was suggested by a member of Council that the mandatory hours be enhanced by offering a greater variety of options/resources to fulfil the requirement.

A Council member suggested that the mandatory portion is minimal with respect to the total ConEd hours. It should not be considered a burden but part of holding a licence and professional development.

A member of Council suggested that members be able to seek out their own education since each professional may have an area of focus and should also control their own professional development.

It was suggested by a Council member that a statement be crafted to suggest that sustainability is being considered less by clients due to costs. Free learning opportunities were offered for the previous cycle and should be considered going forward.

A member of Council suggested that when a client is working with an architect cost is a key factor as to whether sustainability aspect are removed from the design.

A Council member expressed support for one hour per year of a mandatory requirement for learning on Climate Action adding that it may educate the member further and allow them to be able to present sustainable options.

It was suggested by a member of Council that like accessibility laws put in place by the government, so should there be laws to protect our climate.

It was suggested by a member of Council that consideration may wish to be made as to whether the two hour requirement is sufficient.

A member of Council enquired as to whether there is an option to carryover mandatory hours into the next ConEd cycle.

Doyle noted that it is an option to carry forward and would be recorded on the transcript. There would be some revisions required to the transcript programming to allow the transcript to recognize carryover of mandatory hours.

A member of Council suggested that carry forward of climate action hours is not necessary as it is minimal, and each members should obtain new learning in this regard within the cycle timeframe.

It was moved by Speigel and seconded by Mintz that Council continue the mandatory content requirement for the 2024-2026 Continuing Education Cycle and that the required topic area continue to be Climate Action.

-- CARRIED (12 in favour, 4 opposed)

It was moved by Mintz and seconded by Karney that the mandatory Continuing Education required topic for cycle 2024-26 be administered in accordance with the current parameters such that members be required to gain 2 hours of structured learning and that the OAA continue to offer some learning options focussed on this topic area at no cost.

-- CARRIED

Council broke at 12 noon and resumed at 12:30 p.m.

Andrew Davies and Dakota Wares-Tai joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

9743. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications and Public Education Committee dated May 9, 2024 re. Recommendations for Public Awareness Funding and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

The President welcomed Davies and Wares-Tai to the meeting.

Vice President McKendrick reported that the Imagining My Sustainable Community was an excellent project that fits into the mandate and lens of the Strategic Plan.

Davies noted that there are plans to expand the program to train teachers and volunteer architects to develop and deliver the content, t adding that the program has received funding from another grant program as well.

A Council member expressed support for the program adding that it addresses the OAA's desire to reach school aged children, however is unable to provide on its own.

It was suggested by Davies that Council may wish to consider that the volunteer architects receive ConEd hours for their time as well as the Climate Action training which would go to the mandatory ConEd portion.

A member of Council suggested that the information be shared on the website to bring awareness of the program to the members.

It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Mintz that Council approve funding for Imagining my Sustainable Community in the amount of \$25,000, to be drawn from the 2024 policy contingency budget.

-- CARRIED

A member of Council expressed support for Winterstations which has been in place for over a decade by the Toronto waterfront.

It was suggested by a member of Council that the program aligns with OAA values and supports that it remains open and not only rely on corporate sponsorship.

Wares-Tai noted that the organizers are seeking to evolve the program and create an enhanced relationship with sponsors. Sponsorship is evolving from private sponsors to seeking support from community groups.

A member of Council noted that in some cases, accessibility had been an issue due to the location of some installations on the beach.

Wares-Tai responded that the issue is being addressed on an ongoing basis and the organizers are investigating the option of solid ground treatments and different locations along the beachfront.

It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Birdsell that Council approve funding for Winter Stations in the amount of \$25,000, to be drawn from the 2024 policy contingency budget.

-- CARRIED

The President thanked Davies and Wares-Tai for their attendance and insight.

9744. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Governance Committee dated May 8, 2024 re. Membership Demographic Survey – Summary Report 2024 for publication and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX ‘D’)**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported.

It was moved by Wilson and seconded by Longlade that the OAA 2024 Demographic Survey – Summary Report be published on the OAA website.

-- CARRIED

9745. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President and Chair of the Policy Advisory Coordination Team (PACT), Susan Spiegel dated May 13, 2024 re. Request for Council support to fund an update on the Site Plan Approval study conducted in 2018 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX ‘E’)**

Vice President Spiegel reported.

A member of Council enquired as to what the planned distribution and communication strategy is for the study.

Spiegel responded that PACT is updating the existing report and following with a new study at a date to be determined. Work is underway to solidify the numbers and share with the MPPs to accelerate action.

A Council member enquired as to what the tactical move was for the study, and will it filter down to the municipalities or the group calling the issues.

Trotta responded that the impetus for this work is based on past government bills. The view would be from a provincial level to implement province-wide changes.

Spiegel noted that there are meetings that the President and Executive Director hold with the Chief Building Officials and suggested an invite for a Q&A session with that group.

It was suggested by a member of Council that the push to build and have affordable housing is sacrificing quality. Reducing red tape is a good move to push the site plan along. The report should consider the negative impacts in its work.

It was moved by Speigel and seconded by McKendrick that Council approve the proposal from Altus Group to conduct a study that quantifies the impact of province-wide site plan delays and that analyzes the economic impact of the architecture industry in Ontario; and, that the upset cost of \$36,000 be funded from the 2024 Council policy contingency.

-- CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9746. There were no items for discussion.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

9747. *Reference Material Reviewed:* President's Activities for the months of March-May (**APPENDIX 'F'**)

The report was noted for information.

9748. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated May 12, 2024 re. Executive Director Report to Council. (**APPENDIX 'G'**)
A member of Council noted interest in the report on Procurement Day and the R vs Sudbury court case. It was suggested that the case be shared with the members.

Doyle responded that there has been some communication going out and the case will be posted on the CDAO website and will be shared with Council. The largest impact in the case was on the owner's position that the contractors were responsible for the site.

The Council member enquired as to whether past information on the relationship with ARIDO in 2017 would be shared with members.

Doyle responded that the information is on the website, adding that once discussions recommence, the history will be shared with Council.

The report was noted for information.

9749. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills re. Office of the Registrar Statistical Report to Council for the period February 22 to May 6, 2024. (**APPENDIX 'H'**)

The report was noted for information.

9750. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Ted Wilson dated May 10, 2024 re. Unaudited Financial Statements for the Three Months Ending February 29, 2024 and attached supporting documentation. (**APPENDIX 'I'**)

The President reported that updated financial statements for the first Quarter were redistributed.

Doyle noted that within the Balance Sheet some calculations were incorrect resulting in a doubling of the totals which has now been corrected.

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer noted that funds for the Presidents' Wall have been drawn down from policy contingency. Preliminary Conference numbers were also reported, however a full Conference debrief from a financial perspective will be provided at a later date.

Doyle indicated that there is a need to look ahead at what Conference will look like in future and if programming changes might be required to reduce costs.

The report was noted for information.

9751. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Governance Committee dated May 8, 2024 re. Update from OAA Governance Committee. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

9752. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President, Susan Speigel dated May 13, 2024 re. Update on the Policy Advisory Coordination Team's (PACT) work. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The report was noted for information.

9753. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated May 6, 2024 re. Committee Updates. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The report was noted for information.

9754. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from OAA Building Committee dated May 9, 2024 re. Update from Building Committee. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

Vice President McKendrick reported that 19 complete submissions for the OAA Landscape Design Competition were received. Those who submitted will remain anonymous until after the jury deliberates on June 6. All submissions have been confirmed as meeting the budget requirements.

The report was noted for information.

9755. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Practice Resource Committee (PRC) dated May 9, 2024 re. Committee Updates. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The report was noted for information.

9756. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Interns Committee dated May 13, 2024 re. Committee Updates. **(APPENDIX 'O')**

The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9757. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Regulatory Organizations of Architecture Canada (ROAC) Semi-annual Board of Directors Agenda – May 2-3, 2024. **(APPENDIX 'P')**

A Council member requested an update on the status of the National Architecture Policy.

The President responded that ROAC will be undertaking a Strategic Planning exercise, adding that the Policy will form part of the discussion during that exercise.

The report was noted for information.

9758. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC) Annual Update 2023. **(APPENDIX 'Q')**

The report was noted for information.

9759. *Reference Material Reviewed:* SSHRC Quality in Canada's Built Environment – Agenda for Convention, May 1-3, 2024. **(APPENDIX 'R')**

It was reported by Vice President Speigel noted that there has been some discussion as to if the SSHRC study will be rolled into the ROAC umbrella. A more detailed report on the Convention will be shared with Council at its June meeting.

The agenda was noted for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

9760. There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9761. The next regular meeting of Council is Thursday June 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the OAA Headquarters, Toronto, Ontario.

ADJOURNMENT

9762. **It was moved by Mintz and seconded by Longlade that the meeting be adjourned at 1:33 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date