

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #280 Open

MINUTES

March 3, 2022

The two hundred and eightieth meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Thursday March 3, 2022 via Zoom.

Present:	Susan Spiegel	President
	Settimo Vilardi	Senior Vice President and Treasurer (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Paul Hastings	Vice President Regulatory
	Christina Karney	Vice President Strategic
	Jennifer King	Vice President Communications
	Natasha Krickhan	Vice President Education
	Deo Paquette	Vice President Practice
	Farida Abu-Bakare	Councillor
	J. William Birdsell	Councillor
	Yan Ming (Pearl) Chan	Councillor
	Kimberly Fawcett-Smith	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Michelle Longlade	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Lara McKendrick	Councillor
	Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Clayton Payer	Councillor
	Greg Redden	Councillor
	Kristiana Schuhmann	Councillor
	Andrew Thomson	Councillor
	William (Ted) Wilson	Councillor
	Marek Zawadzki	Councillor
	Kristi Doyle	Executive Director
	Christie Mills	Registrar
	Tina Carfa	Executive Assistant, Executive Services (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Erik Missio	Manager, Communications
Regrets:	Gaganjot Singh	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Guests:	Mélisa Audet	Manager, Practice Advisory Services
	Kathy McLaughlin	Consultant, McLaughlin & Associates (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Lea Anne Sexton	Consultant, McLaughlin & Associates (<i>part attendance</i>)
	Melanie Walsh	Manager, Finance

The President noted that the OAA Strategic Planning Consultants, Kathy McLaughlin and Lea Anne Sexton will be joining Council at 2:30 p.m. to make a presentation on the five-year Strategic Plan.

The President noted a land acknowledgement video titled *Florent Vollant: I Dream in Innu* <https://www.nfb.ca/film/florent-vollant-i-dream-in-innu/> would be shared with Council as an acknowledgement and recognition of the indigenous land and its people.

DECLARATION RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The President called for declaration of any conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

AGENDA APPROVAL

9378. The President noted that the following item will be added to the agenda:

8.1 Support for Ukraine architects and planners open letter (*oral*)

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Mintz that the agenda for the March 3, 2022 open meeting be approved as amended.

-- CARRIED

The President noted that the report from the Audit Committee will be held at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9379. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the January 20, 2022 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the January 20, 2022 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was moved by Karney and seconded by Redden that the minutes of the January 20, 2022 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9380. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

9381. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 21, 2022 re. Council Appointment to Pro-Demnity Insurance Company (Pro-Demnity) Board of Directors and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

Doyle reported, as contained in the report, that there are two vacancies to be filled on the Pro-Demnity Insurance Company (Pro-Demnity) Board of Directors, to be ratified at the Pro-Demnity AGM on March 30.

It was moved by King and seconded by Longlade that that Council approve the appointment of Bill Birdsell and Lara McKendrick to serve on the Pro-Demnity Board of Directors for a two-year term effective immediately, with the intent that they would serve until the 2024 annual meeting of the Shareholder.

-- CARRIED

9382. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 18, 2022 re. Shift of Council Meeting Dates for Fall/Winter 2022. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

Doyle reported that currently there are three Council meetings between September and December which allows little time to share and rollout decisions from the prior meeting. It is recommended that the November and December meetings be amalgamated into a single meeting at the end of November. This also addresses items identified in the Operational Review to look for ways to improve use of resources and gain efficiencies.

It was moved by Schuhmann and seconded by Paquette that Council approve the elimination of the November 3, 2022 and December 9, 2022 Council meetings; and, that a meeting of Council be scheduled for November 24, 2022.

-- CARRIED (1 opposed)

9383. Appointments to Discipline Committee (*oral*)

The Vice President Regulatory reported.

It was moved by Hastings and seconded by Birdsell that the following members be appointed effectively immediately for a three-year term ending December 31, 2024:

Jim Anderson	Brad Green
Isabelle Kazanczuk	Laura Rachlin
Adam Thom	Peter Turner

-- CARRIED

9384. Nomination of Honorary Members (*oral*)

Doyle reported that two nominations had been received and that the full nomination packages had been considered earlier in the day in the context of the incamera council meeting.

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by McKendrick that Council approve the nomination of her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell for election to Honorary Membership within the OAA at the Annual General Meeting on May 12, 2022.

-- CARRIED

It was moved by Longlade and seconded by Paquette that Council that Council approve the nomination of Elsa Lam for election to Honorary Membership within the OAA at the Annual General Meeting on May 12, 2022.

-- CARRIED

Council broke for lunch at 12 noon and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

9385. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Practice, Deo Paquette dated March 1, 2022 re. Sub-committee on Building Codes and Regulations (SCOBAR) – Review of proposed building codes changes by MMAH and attached supporting documentation. (**APPENDIX ‘C’**)

The Vice President Practice reported that the government is in the process discussions and consultations regarding the harmonization of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) with the National Building Code (NBC). The OAA's Sub-Committee on Building Codes and Regulations (SCOBCAR) is recommending a two-tiered response given the amount of changes that are involved. The first submission would exclude changes related to energy which is being reviewed in further detail including participation by members of SBEC.

It was noted by the Vice President Practice that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has introduced a group G occupancy for farm structures and as result the OAA will be writing to express concerns, suggesting that it should remain in F occupancy to avoid confusion. Also being created is a new undefined building type for sheds.

A Council member noted that a review of the NBC in relation to harmonizations was originally delayed due to the pandemic. The introduction of some sections appears to over complicate the code. Removal of SB 10 and 12 with the replacement of tiered recommendations appears to actually lower the standard around energy requirements and is considered a step backwards.

Vilardi joined the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

A member of Council enquired as to whether there will be a coordinated response to the government with other stakeholders.

The Council member responded that the OAA as a regulator will be making a separate submission. The Council member noted a correction in the draft letter should read "the OAA suggests any of the following in order" i.e. to suggest that there is importance to the options suggested.

It was suggested by a Council member that the OAA may wish to submit a broad statement to government which indicates that the OAA does not agree with the recommendations around energy requirements and further request an extension to respond.

A Council member noted that a request for extension has recently been approved by government.

Doyle noted that it has been communicated to government that the number of consultations and content for review is excessive, adding that requests for extension have been repeatedly made. This is not uncommon in an election year, however added that she had never seen it to this extent which has created a considerable workload for staff and the committees involved.

Audet noted that there were a similar number of consultations in fall 2021. A further fall 2022 consultation is expected to take place to deal with administrative aspects of the harmonization.

It was moved by Paquette and seconded by McKendrick that Council approve the first part of a two tier submission to MMAH to address proposed code changes presented in the 2022 Winter Consultation and that staff be directed to finalize the submission and forward on to the Ministry in accordance with the agreed to timelines.

-- CARRIED

9386. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Audit Committee dated February 23, 2022 re. Audited OAA Financial Statements and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported. It noted that auditor Grant Thornton made a detailed presentation to the Audit Committee. There are no concerns with respect to the audit.

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Fawcett-Smith that Council receive and accept the 2021 audited financial statements for the Ontario Association of Architects as circulated.

-- CARRIED

9387. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report to Council from Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (OAAAS) Executive Director, Garry Neil dated March 3, 2022. **(APPENDIX 'E')**

The Vice President Communications spoke to the report from the Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (OAAAS) which included a number of resolutions for Council to consider.

Doyle reported to Council on the work that has been done to date regarding the integration process including the first meetings that occurred between herself and OAAAS Executive Director Garry Neil in December. She added that she also met with the OAAAS Board on February 3. It was noted that there appears to be some concern expressed by the Board in the report and requested some clarification as to what the issues are that are necessitating this concern. Doyle noted as well that she had indicated to the OAAAS Board that she is building the agenda in preparation for the first meeting of the Integration Committee. In addition, there have been ongoing operational meetings between herself, the Registrar and Executive Director and Associate Executive Director of the OAAAS. Doyle suggested that the Vice President Communications who also serves as a member of the OAAAS Board is welcome to attend. We are still on track as well to have the new Integration Committee established following the May meeting of Council.

A Council member requested some clarification with respect to the concerns and issues of the Board, again adding that it is not clear why the Board needs to take on the role of the Committee before it is established.

Mills requested some clarification as to whether the OAAAS Board intends to operate in parallel or will the Committee take over after May.

It was noted by the Vice President Communications that there is a need to confirm that no steps were missed in communication between the OAAAS and OAA during and after the OAA Technology Review Working Group was sunset.

Doyle noted that major policy issues are not being addressed at this point during the integration process, it is operational items.

The Vice President Communications identified the importance of transparency, adding that she would welcome an invite to attend the process meetings.

A member of Council suggested that the Board felt a sense of isolation in not knowing what was decided and there was some concern with a perceived lack of communication. The Board wants to ensure that there are no gaps left open and loss of its valuable functions.

Mills responded that the Integration Committee and its terms of reference were established to ensure that gaps were not missed in the process.

A Council member suggested that there appears to be that there were no gaps identified, adding that the process should continue to move forward without added bureaucracy.

Doyle noted that as the Vice President Communications as eventual Chair of the Integration Committee is welcome to attend all operational meetings.

A Council member noted that a concern of the Board expressed were what appeared to be with respect to staff functions how it fits into the budget.

Doyle responded that there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow which will include discussion with respect to administration and the future. The Vice President Communications will be able to report back to the Board.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by King that, in order to ensure the objectives for the integration process are achieved, OAAAS recommends that OAA Council continue the term of this Board of Directors, and authorize it to temporarily carry out the functions of the Integration Committee, until there is agreement on all major issues concerning integration. It further recommends that one of its members be invited to attend each meeting of the informal staff integration committee that is making decisions on some issues.

-- WITHDRAWN

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by that OAAAS urges OAA Council to ensure that OAAAS is adequately staffed until the integration process is complete and, following integration, that technologists have a designated staff contact at OAA. OAAAS highlights this is not a budgetary issue, as total fees received from technology members and other sources remain sufficient to cover all costs of the program, even if a designated staff position is created. The Board notes that a designated staff person is essential to ensure:

- a) The unique needs of technologist members continue to be met, including through the qualification process, assessment of eligibility, special session at the Admission Course, Advanced Standing Program, examination, continuing education, etc.**

b) The OAA Technology Program can continue to grow and develop through robust recruiting; vibrant marketing and promotion; work with colleges, including on the certification of college programs; liaison with external entities; and other relevant initiatives.

-- WITHDRAWN

After the discussion the Mover of the above motions indicated his desire to withdraw the motions as he felt that the concerns of the Board were being adequately addressed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – this item was dealt with at 2:30 p.m.

9388. Draft Five Year Strategic Plan for OAA (*oral*)

Consultants Kathy McLaughlin and Lea Anne Sexton joined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

The President welcomed McLaughlin and Sexton to the meeting

McLaughlin presented the five-year strategic plan to Council.

A Council member noted that it appeared that the guiding theme of climate action was not prevalent throughout in the goals and strategic priorities.

McLaughlin responded that climate action may be viewed as not what is done but how it is done and will be interwoven throughout the OAA's goal and priorities.

It was suggested by the Council member that climate action be further highlighted for emphasis.

McLaughlin noted that request will be brought forward to the planning committee for consideration.

Doyle noted that the guiding themes will be woven throughout and brought into the OAA values which in turn govern all that the OAA does.

A Council member suggested that under public education, consideration should be made to include the allied arts aspect of architecture.

It was noted by a member of Council that the OAA is a regulator and it is primarily tasked with protection of the public.

It was suggested by a Council member that under member competency the incorporation of post-secondary may be considered.

McLaughlin responded that it is already captured in the tactical documentation.

A member of Council noted that culture and the elevation of human spirit is expressed in the Vision Mission and Mandate, so that notion of the arts side of architecture is captured here.

An OAA Member-at-large who was in attendance requested some clarification with respect to the guiding themes and whether there is similar weighting with respect to public education on topics such as climate and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Member also asked if public education included clients group discussions and procurement.

A Council member noted that the committee is committed to working on a climate tool for clients and members and will be reflected in the tactical documents.

Doyle noted under public education and strategic priorities there is a significant amount of work to undertake here. There is a need to define a full public education strategy for the next five years and implement, noting that there can be modifications along the way. She added that education of client groups around specific aspects of procurement as it relates to regulatory matters will be included.

Doyle indicated that in the presentation, there is currently no Council meeting scheduled for April though a call for Council to meet briefly during that time may be arranged in order to approve the final plan, vision and values statements which will then be shared with the membership at the AGM in May.

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Mintz that Council approve five-year strategic plan as presented on March 3, 2022; and, direct the Planning Committee to complete the plan for publication, including the Vision Values and Guiding Themes for the AGM on May 12, 2022.

-- CARRIED

McLaughlin noted that there would be a separate incamera discussion with Council on the plan.

All staff and members left the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

McLaughlin and Sexton left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Doyle returned to the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

9389. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Activities for the months of January-March. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The report was noted for information.

9390. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 25, 2022 re. Update on Activities of the Executive Director. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

Doyle noted that her report includes the revised return to office procedures. Staff will be sharing this information with the Committees in the coming week.

The report was noted for information.

9391. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Senior Vice President and Treasurer and Interlocking Director, Pro-Demnity Insurance Company, Settimo Vilardi dated February 22, 2022 re. Pro-Demnity Insurance Company - Annual Appointment of Auditor and Actuary and supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported.

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Paquette that Council direct OAA President, Susan Speigel to vote in the affirmative regarding the recommendation to appoint BDO Canada as the Auditor, and J.S. Cheng as the Actuary for Pro-Demnity Insurance Company at the March 30, 2022 Annual Meeting of the Shareholder.

-- CARRIED

9392. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Vice President Strategic, Christina Karney dated February 22, 2022 re. Update on the activities under the Vice President Strategic portfolio and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

The Vice President Strategic reported.

The report was noted for information.

9393. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Adam Tracey dated February 23, 2022 re. Update on Appeal of Harmonizeed Zoning By-law and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

9394. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications Committee dated February 23, 2022 re. Communications Committee Update and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The Vice President Communications reported.

A member of Council enquired with respect to the process for a society to make a funding application.

Missio responded that the next deadline for submission is July 25. Architectural Graduate, Lindsay Wu is regularly in touch with the Society Chairs to keep them apprised of issues such as funding requests. If there is an enquiry they may contact Wu or himself.

The report was noted for information.

9395. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Regulatory, Paul Hastings and Registrar, Christie Mills dated February 23, 2022 re. Activities under the Registrar – Jan 1 to Feb 14, 2022 and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The Vice President Regulatory reported.

The report was noted for information.

9396. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Practice, Deo Paquette dated February 23, 2022 re. Report from Vice President Practice. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The Vice President Practice reported that the Practice Resource Committee is working on other initiatives including the public consultation on mass timber tall buildings.

It was noted by the Vice President Practice that the orientation for this year's committee was just completed.

The report was noted for information.

9397. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Vice President Education, Natasha Krickhan dated February 23, 2022 re. Report from Vice President Education. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The Vice President Education reported.

A Council member suggested that the completion to date for mandatory Continuing Education appeared to be somewhat low.

The Vice President Education responded that she was advised that the rate is typical adding that options for completion will be offered to those who have not fulfilled the EDI requirement at the deadline.

The report was noted for information.

9398. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Vice President Education, Natasha Krickhan dated February 17, 2022 re. OAA Submission to CACB National Conference 2022 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'O')**

The Vice President Education reported that the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) administers the student performance criteria for schools of architecture in Canada, which includes specific curriculum regarding the profession of architecture. Comments received in a survey indicated that students and interns felt that they did not receive sufficient exposure to the practice of architecture despite the SPC's. The intent of the OAA issues paper is to bring this forward for consideration at the national validation conference in the fall. The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9399. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President Communications, Jennifer King dated February 22, 2022 re. OAA Local Society Annual Reports for 2021 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'P')**

The report was noted for information.

9400. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills dated February 23, 2022 re. Revisions to the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARFACTA) and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'Q')**

The report was noted for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

9401. Support for Ukraine architects and planners open letter (*oral*)

A member of Council reported that 6500 Russian architects and planners have signed an open letter declaring no war. The destruction caused by the war not only has destroyed lives but architecture and historical significant structures.

The Council member noted the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) supports the letter adding that the OAA may wish to support the open letter.

There was a suggestion that as a regulator this form of support may be better suited to the RAIC to convey the position.

Hepburn noted that the law society has a chat site where they share international violations against lawyers, adding that she would share the information with Council.

A Council member suggested that the OAA may be able to make a statement of support for architects around the world as it is relevant.

Council broke at 2:25 p.m. and resumed at 2:30 p.m. to welcome the consultants to the presentation of the five year strategic plan. The presentation is minuted under number 9388 in the minutes. After some discussion it was agreed that the OAA would await the statement made by the RAIC on this matter and then support that statement in order to allow the RAIC to be the national advocacy voice of architecture where a statement such as this is likely better suited.

Staff will respond accordingly and confer with the President on supporting and re-posting the RAIC statement.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9402. The next regular meeting of Council is Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at Hotel X, Toronto, Ontario.

ADJOURNMENT

9403. **It was moved by Schuhmann and seconded by McKendrick that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date