

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #288 Open

MINUTES

June 20, 2023

The two hundred and eighty eighth meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Tuesday June 20, 2023 at the Northern Water Sports Centre, 206 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury and virtually via Zoom.

Present:	Settimo Vilardi	President
	Ted Wilson	Senior Vice President and Treasurer
	Susan Spiegel	Immediate Past President
	Christina Karney	Vice President
	Kristiana Schuhmann	Vice President
	Farida Abu-Bakare	Councillor (<i>virtual</i>)
	Loloa Alkasawat	Councillor
	Ida Badre	Councillor
	J. William Birdsell	Councillor
	Kimberly Fawcett-Smith	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee (<i>virtual</i>)
	Natasha Krickhan	Councillor
	Michelle Longlade	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee (<i>virtual</i>)
	Lara McKendrick	Councillor (<i>virtual</i>)
	Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Deo Paquette	Councillor
	Clayton Payer	Councillor
	Greg Redden	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: None

The President called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

The President noted a land acknowledgement video *My Toronto – Video Review!* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwNylquttMQ> would be shared with Council as an acknowledgement and recognition of the indigenous land and its people.

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer announced the \$10 billion settlement further to the Robinson-Huron Treaty in favour of the First Nations communities to be paid out by the federal and Ontario governments. This announcement is of particular significance given it is Indigenous People's Day

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

9596. The President reported that no new items would be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Karney and seconded by Mintz that the agenda for the June 20, 2023 open meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9597. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the April 27, 2023 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the April 27, 2023 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Redden that the minutes of the April 27, 2023 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9598. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

9599. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from the OAA Building Committee dated June 7, 2023 re. OAA Landscape Design Competition and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

Councillor McKendrick reported that the Committee had discussion the proposal further and had been prepared to make a motion to approve a one stage competition, however to defer the project until 2024-25.

It was suggested by a member of Council that they were in favour of the motion however suggested that it be amended to remove the limitation on moving ahead over the next two years.

A Council member suggested that the timing of the project should be pushed out and also the budget should be considered further. They further suggested that the OAA Headquarters is not used as frequently as a result of the hybrid work environment and therefore the proposed budget of \$2 million is over ambitious.

It was suggested by a member of Council that a clearer budget, more detailed spreadsheet and fiscal plan over the two period be provided before Council be asked to make a decision.

A Council member suggested that a strategy around the use of the building be developed that furthers the OAA's strategic goals of public awareness and promotion. The Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) could be tasked with developing that strategy.

It was noted by a member of Council that the budget was clear, however, some concern was expressed that the entire committee had not been able to participate in the onsite workshop. Part of the discussion on sustainability in the area should include the parents picking up students at the nearby school who allow their cars to idle in contravention to the City of Toronto bylaws.

A Council member noted that the drawings lacked legends making it somewhat difficult to read. The total budget actually calculates at \$2.9 million and not \$2 million as suggested in the cover memo. The Council member expressed some concern that the budget does not justify the suggested increase in public awareness.

Councillor McKendrick noted that the consultant Joe Lobko was an excellent resource and certainly provided a budget that reflects the higher end of the spectrum. Costs were maximized with high-end competition. There were some concerns with a large budget in that it would be likely that only larger firms would express interest and not the smaller and/or emerging practices.

It was noted by McKendrick that the Committee considered the middle ground by pulling areas that address sustainability. The largest cost is identified in paving and storm water management. It was further clarified that there was not a discrepancy in the cost, but rather the Committee has proposed a reduced summary budget for Council's consideration.

It was suggested by a member of Council that the competition goals around reconciliation should only be pursued with the consent and input of the First Nations people. It should be accepted in this light and as well as provide compensation for their time.

A Council member suggested that the school be approached to address the idling of the vehicles and share the OAA's position on the environmental impact and social change. There was further concern expressed that the City has not enforced this.

A Council member requested clarification on how the Headquarters building satisfies the public awareness component.

It was suggested that the stormwater retention not proceed as part of the project.

The Council member noted that an Indigenous artist was invited to speak to art at the OAA several years ago. It was suggested to take the Indigenous aspect out of the project and create it as a separate component with perhaps an indigenous art competition.

It was suggested by a member of Council that it is critical that the scope and the budget be set out up front with great clarity. It is important that the clients be present for any meetings. Consideration should be made for fundraising opportunities in the plan and vision.

A member of Council expressed support for the Indigenous engagement concept. The Council member suggested that the stormwater management would be an important aspect of the project and should be kept in the scope.

The Council member suggested that there was an opportunity to connect to larger themes and that opportunities be identified as well as timing.

A member of Council noted the City's Don River project adding that consideration be made to gain access to government funding as well as engagement of the schools.

Councillor McKendrick noted that when first approaching the OAA Headquarters, the landscape lacks landscape. The Committee will work to be more in sync with finance and audit costs. It was suggested that more time be given to review and consider the project. As a result the following motion that had been made, was withdrawn.

It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Yeung that Council reconfirm the following goals for the revitalization of the OAA Headquarters landscape and site: repair; sustainability; equity, diversity and inclusion; and indigenous reconciliation while maintaining accessibility; and, that in order to achieve these goals, Council approve the recommendation of the Building Committee to proceed with the following:

- a) **A one-stage design competition for the repair and revitalization of the OAA Headquarters landscape and site that will help build community, as well as raise public and industry awareness;**
- b) **That a total budget of \$2 mil be established for this project which includes a construction budget of approximately \$1.5 mil and a budget of \$400,000 to conduct the competition;**
- c) **That the competition be held in the fall of 2024, and construction be commenced in the spring of 2025; and,**
- d) **That the Finance and Audit Committee, in consultation with senior management be asked to provide a recommendation as to how best to budget for this project over the next two years.**

-- MOTION WITHDRAWN

9600. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated May 30, 2023 re. Amendments to OAA Bylaws, Revised 2022 and Schedule A and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

The President reported that amendments to the Bylaws are required so as to be in compliance with the Court Order. Upon the passing of legislation to include limited licence, additional amendments will be made to the Bylaws.

It was moved by Paquette and seconded by Birdsell that Council approve the amended OAA Bylaws, Revised 2022 and Schedule A as presented to Council, June 20, 2023.

-- CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9601. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills dated June 6, 2023 re. *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act (FARPACT)* and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

Mills reported.

A member of Council requested clarification as to the OAA's next steps now that the Commissioner has denied the request for exemption from the prohibition.

Mills responded that the focus going forward will be the OAA's exemption request to Council process as an alternative to the CER requirement. The Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) and Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Trade and Skills Development (MLITSD) will be releasing their criteria for alternatives in the Fall. These criteria may require that the OAA undertake some operational or policy changes to the exemption process in order to be compliant with FARPACTA. This strategy is based on building upon the OAA's current infrastructure and expertise.

A member of Council enquired as to how this would have an effect on reciprocity and licensure between provinces.

Mills responded that it is presumed by government that, based on reciprocity, if an applicant is qualified for licensure in one province that the applicant would be qualified in other Canadian jurisdictions barring any specific provincial restrictions.

The report was noted for information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

9602. *Reference Material Reviewed:* President's Activities for the months of April-June. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

The report was noted for information.

9603. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated June 20, 2023 re. Executive Director Report to Council. **(APPENDIX 'E')**

Doyle noted that included in the Council package for the first time are the semi-annual service area updates. This is consistent with best practices identified as part of the governance review in 2022. A special thank you was offered to the Team Leads for their excellent work in preparing the reports.

Doyle welcomed newly hired Policy Analyst, Elizabeth Walsh to the Council meeting.

The report was noted for information.

9604. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills dated June 2023 re. Office of the Registrar Statistical Report to Council and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The report was noted for information.

9605. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Senior Vice President & Treasurer, Ted Wilson dated June 20, 2023 re. Unaudited Financial Statements for the Six Months Ended May 31, 2023 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

The report was noted for information.

9606. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated June 20, 2023 re. CPEC Update to Council and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

The Chair of the Committee noted that she and the Committee are working in consultation with staff in preparing the audit of the OAA's existing public awareness initiatives. She added that there may be pieces of the Conference plenary that will extend to a public awareness strategy. This may also tie in nicely to next year's conference theme related to Housing.

The report was noted for information.

9607. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Governance Committee dated June 20, 2023 re. Update from OAA Governance Committee and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

The report was noted for information.

9608. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President, Kristiana Schuhmann dated June 12, 2023 re. Practice Resource Committee (PRC) – Update. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

9609. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Immediate Past President, Susan Spiegel dated June 12, 2023 re. Update on the Policy Advisory Coordination Team's (PACT) work. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The Immediate Past President noted that the Queen's Park Picks as part of World Architecture Day jurying is underway in advance of the October 2 event.

The report was noted for information.

9610. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Interns Committee Chair, Farida Abu-Bakare dated June 12, 2023 re. Interns Committee Update. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9611. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Communications Manager, Erik Missio dated June 2, 2023 re. Mid-Year Operational Plan Update: Communications. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The report was noted for information.

9612. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum dated May 15, 2023 re. Semi-annual Update – Continuing Education Service Area. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The report was noted for information.

9613. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager Finance, Nancy Muir dated June 6, 2023 re. Mid-Year Operational Plan Update. **(APPENDIX 'O')**

The report was noted for information.

9614. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Human Resources, Kathy Armbrust dated June 20, 2023 re. Mid-Year Operational Plan Update. **(APPENDIX 'P')**

The report was noted for information.

9615. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Information Technology Manager, Abhishek Chaudhary dated May 31, 2023 re. Information Technology Service Area – Semi-annual Update. **(APPENDIX 'Q')**

The report was noted for information.

9616. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Sara Trotta dated June 12, 2023 re. Mid-Year Operational Plan Update: Policy and Government Relations and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'R')**

The report was noted for information.

9617. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Practice Advisory Services (PAS), Mélisa Audet dated June 13, 2023 re. OAA Service Area Semi-Annual Update – Practice Advisory Services (PAS). **(APPENDIX 'S')**

The report was noted for information.

9618. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Correspondence from the Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC) to the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources dated May 9, 2023. **(APPENDIX 'T')**

The report was noted for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

9619. There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9620. The next regular meeting of Council is Thursday September 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto.

ADJOURNMENT

9621. **It was moved by Mintz and seconded by Karney that the meeting be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**
-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date