

## Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #298 Open

### MINUTES

March 6, 2025

The two hundred and ninety eighth meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Thursday March 6, 2025 at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, Ontario and virtually via Zoom.

<b>Present:</b>	Ted Wilson	President
	Lara McKendrick	Senior Vice President and Treasurer
	Settimo Vilardi	Immediate Past President
	Susan Spiegel	Vice President
	Thomas Yeung	Vice President
	Loloa Alkasawat	Councillor
	Donald Ardiel	Councillor
	J. William Birdsell	Councillor
	Jim Buttici	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee ( <i>virtual</i> )
	Natasha Krickhan	Councillor
	Jenny Lafrance	Councillor ( <i>virtual – part attendance</i> )
	Michelle Longlade	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee ( <i>virtual</i> )
	Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee ( <i>virtual</i> )
	Deo Paquette	Councillor
	Anna Richter	Councillor ( <i>virtual</i> )
	Kristiana Schuhmann	Councillor
	Marek Zawadzki	Councillor
	Kristi Doyle	Executive Director
	Christie Mills	Registrar
	Tina Carfa	Executive Assistant, Executive Services
<b>Regrets:</b>	Kimberly Fawcett-Smith	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Ted Watson	Councillor
<b>Guests:</b>	Kathy Armbrust	COO
	Mélisa Audet	Manager, Practice Advisory Services
	Erik Missio	Manager, Communications
	Melanie Walsh	Manager, Finance ( <i>part attendance</i> )

The President called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

The President noted that a land acknowledgement which is a video of the documentation of his students' work in creating and constructing a [bench for the Teaching Lodge](#) at the Laurentian University main campus 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

9884. The President reported that there were no new items to be added to the agenda.

**It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Speigel that the agenda for the March 6, 2025 open meeting be approved as circulated.**

-- CARRIED

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

9885. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the January 23, 2025 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the January 23, 2025 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

**It was moved by Ardiel and seconded by Zawadzki that the minutes of the January 23, 2025 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.**

-- CARRIED

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

9886. There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

9887. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Finance and Audit Committee dated February 25, 2025 re. Audited Financial Statements as at November 30, 2024 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer presented the 2024 audited financial statements to the Council and reported that the Committee was very satisfied with the services provided by the new auditor, BDO Canada during the audit process. There may be an opportunity in the future to coordinate an RFP with Pro-Demnity for future auditing services, noting that BDO is serving as the group auditor.

**It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Butticci that Council approve the 2024 OAA audited financial statements as presented to Council on March 6, 2025.**

-- CARRIED

**It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Richter that Council approve the reappointment of BDO for a two-year term as presented to Council on March 6, 2025, subject to approval by the membership at the appropriate AGM.**

-- CARRIED

9888. Honorary Membership Nomination (*oral*)

The President reported that Council had considered a nomination for an Honorary Member in the in camera meeting.

**It was moved by Krickhan and seconded by Birdsell that Council approve the nomination of Ted Kesik for election to Honorary Membership within the OAA at the Annual General Meeting on April 8, 2025.**

-- CARRIED

9889. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 18, 2025 re. Council appointment to Pro-Demnity Insurance Company (Pro-Demnity) Board of Directors and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

Doyle reported.

**It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Alkasawat that Council approve the appointment of Anna Richter for a two-year term and Susan Speigel for a one-year term to serve as inter-locking Directors on the Pro-Demnity Insurance Company Board of Directors effective March 27, 2025.**

-- CARRIED

9890. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated February 20, 2025 re. Updated Mutual Recognition Agreement – Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada and National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

Doyle reported.

A member of Council enquired as to whether any individual licensed in the U.S. can be licensed in Canada, or whether they need to be from a participating state.

Doyle confirmed that under the updated MRA any individual who holds a NCARB certificate and is licensed in a participant state is eligible. Under the current MRA architects in signatory states are also required to be practicing in a signatory state to avail themselves of the MRA. This change recognizes the competency of an architect, not where they happen to be practicing.

A member of Council requested some clarification on page three of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), point 1 which includes all states or participatory states.

Doyle responded that this section pertains to Canadians going to the U.S. and emphasized that the updated MRA is focused on competency regardless of which state within which the individual is practicing.

**It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Paquette that the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects approve the Mutual Recognition Agreement between the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada version 25 02 11 V.7, subject to minor adjustments as necessary through the approval process and that by doing so the Ontario Association of Architects agrees to be a Canadian Participant of the MRA.**

-- CARRIED

**It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Ardiel that the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects approve the Interorganizational Acknowledgement document under the Mutual Recognition Agreement between the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada version 25 02 11 V.7, subject to minor adjustments as necessary through the approval process.**

-- CARRIED

9891. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Senior Vice President and Treasurer and Interlocking Director, Pro-Demnity Insurance Company, Lara McKendrick dated February 22, 2025 re. Pro-Demnity Insurance Company – Annual Appointment of Auditor and Actuary and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported.

**It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Birdsell that Council direct the OAA President 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 27, 2025 Annual Meeting of the Shareholder.**

-- CARRIED

9892. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President and CPEC Chair, Susan Spiegel dated February 24, 2025 re. Conference Theme: 2026. **(APPENDIX 'E')**

Vice President Spiegel reported.

A member of Council requested further clarification on the meaning of the theme *Collaboration Powering Innovation* for the 2026 Conference.

Spiegel responded that collaboration is important in so many areas of practice. The theme is intended to reflect those many facets of practice. It is meant to be a broad statement. Innovation is important since the location is in the Grand Valley area known for its technology and development firms. This was noted by the Grand Valley Society of Architects as important as well.

A Council member suggested that some members decide on attending Conference based on the theme. The Councillor appreciated the broadness of the 2026 theme.

**It was moved by Spiegel and seconded by Mintz that Council approve the Communication and Public Education Committee's recommendation that Collaboration Powering Innovation be the 2026 OAA Conference theme.**

-- CARRIED

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

9893. There were no items for discussion.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

9894. *Reference Material Reviewed:* President's Activities for the months of January to March. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The report was noted for information.

9895. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated March 6, 2025 re. Executive Director Report to Council. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

Doyle announced and welcomed the return of Cynthia Mykytyshyn, Communications Specialist from parental leave and new staff Thi Belizario who has joined the Continuing Education team in the role of Administrative Assistant, Continuing Education.

Doyle reported that there have been provincial and federal discussions with respect to inter-provincial trade barriers. Nova Scotia has tabled Bill 36 which seeks to eliminate trade barriers for professionals to allow for reciprocity of professions, adding that architecture already has reciprocity in place. There has been some concern with regards to the protection of the public interest and Doyle noted that staff will continue to monitor as government resumes.

The report was noted for information.

9896. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills re. Office of the Registrar Statistical Report to Council – January 1 to February 18, 2025. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

A member of Council referenced page three of the report and requested clarification for the reporting of no Experience Requirements Committee (ERC) assessments. Mills responded that this pertains to the reporting period which is noted at the outset of the report. The member also asked for additional detail regarding the project of the ROAC CACB standing committee and their pursuit of federal funding. Mills

noted that this is related to federal funding for a BEFA competency assessment initiative which may be useful to all Canadian regulators depending on the outcome; she is awaiting further detail and will provide that information once provided.

A Councillor referenced page eight of the report and requested clarification with respect to the impact of the 'parallel process plan'.

Mills responded that the requirement for a parallel processing plan for all regulators is a proposal within the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARPACTA). The requirement is not in force yet, however, the content is a summary of what the OAA must address and comply with as soon as the amendments are in force. The proposal requires regulators to have a plan, reviewed and approved by the Fairness Commissioner, setting out how the various requirements for licensure could be fulfilled at the same time as opposed to sequential.

It was suggested that the sequence is important and that fulfillment of some requirements before moving to the next should be preserved. Mills noted that with the government prorogued consultations have been suspended but more information and details should be coming as soon as the government is back in play.

The report was noted for information.

9897. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated February 21, 2025 re. Communication and Public Education Committee – General Updates and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

A member of Council requested clarification with respect to the proposed review of the OAA website.

A Councillor responded that options are being presented to the Committee in regard to enhancing the home front page to lessening the number of touchpoints to reach desired information. The search engine will not be as rich as Google however the site is rich in information.

The Manager of Communications reported that the last review of the website was five years ago. Review of the website includes:

- Landing page – review is underway by CPEC and the Communications team
- User Experience – consideration is to be made as to who will lead the charge. Website consultants and UX designers are possible options.

It was suggested by a Council member that an advisory group be tasked with testing the website.

It was suggested by a member of Council that they observed that students had little knowledge of the website. It was suggested that website training be offered to interns and students.

Doyle noted that instructional videos for interns and students are being developed and this could include a guide to finding information on the website. Doyle added that staff is implementing a quarterly newsletter for interns and students. The inaugural edition will be shared with Council in the coming days.

The report was noted for information.

9898. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Governance Committee dated February 18, 2025 re. Update from OAA Governance & HR Committee and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

A member of Council suggested there was discrepancy in the terms of reference such that guests were permitted, however another section suggested that Council approval is required.

It was noted that this was not a discrepancy, and in fact two different situations, one where a guest would attend by invitation to speak to a specific item that may fall on the Committee's agenda. The other scenario occurs where the Committee may wish to engage additional expertise or resources.

The report was noted for information.

9899. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the OAA Building Committee dated February 10, 2025 re. Update from the OAA Building Committee and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

It was reported by the Chair of the Committee that construction for the Presidents Wall has been retained.

Armbrust noted that work will commence in April, adding that the Committee is planning an event to unveil the Wall after completion.

It was suggested by a member of Council that invitations include Past Presidents.

The report was noted for information.

9900. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Practice Resource Committee (PRC) dated February 24, 2025 re. Practice Resource Committee (PRC) Update and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

Vice President Yeung reported that work is ongoing to update many PAS resources that related to the Building Code and *Construction Act*.

A member of Council enquired as to whether PRC is provided with a list of hotline topics to be discussed at the committee level.

Audet responded that the Practice Advisory Services (PAS) report outlines those topics semi-annually. If a pattern emerges, then it would be brought forward to PRC.

A member of Council enquired about the committee appointment process for Councillors, suggesting that a correction is needed in the Terms of Reference.

Doyle responded that the Governance Committee make the appointment of individual Councillors to the Committee at the beginning of each year. The Committee members at large are appointed by Council. It was agreed that under 'Composition and Term Limits' for the Building Committee that the last sentence of that section be amended to reflect that Councillors are appointed by the Governance Committee and not committee members.

The report was noted for information.

9901. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President, Susan Speigel dated February 20, 2025 re. Update on the Policy Advisory Coordination Team's (PACT) work and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The report was noted for information.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

9902. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President, Susan Speigel dated February 20, 2025 re. OAA Local Society Annual Reports for 2024 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The report was noted for information.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

9903. There was no other business.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9904. The next regular meeting of Council is Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Ontario Room, Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

9905. **It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Vilardi that the meeting be adjourned at 2:25 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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President

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Date