

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #306 Open

MINUTES

June 25, 2026

The three hundred and sixth meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Thursday June 25, 2026 at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, Ontario and virtually via Zoom.

Present:	Lara McKendrick	President
	Anna Richter	Senior Vice President and Treasurer
	Kristiana Schuhmann	Vice President
	Susan Spiegel	Vice President
	Settimo Vilardi	Vice President
	Loloa Alkasawat	Councillor
	Donald Ardiel	Councillor
	J. William Birdsell	Councillor
	Maxine Blais	Councillor
	Jim Buttici	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Natasha Krickhan	Councillor
	Jenny Lafrance	Councillor (<i>virtual</i>)
	Michelle Longlade	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee (<i>virtual</i>)
	Elaine Mintz	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Nicola Russo	Councillor
	Ted Watson	Councillor
	Thomas Yeung	Councillor
	Kristi Doyle	Executive Director
	Christie Mills	Registrar
	Tina Carfa	Executive Assistant, Executive Services
Regrets:	Kimberly Fawcett-Smith	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
	Angela Panacci	Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Guests:	None	

The President called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

The President noted that a land acknowledgement and recognition of the Indigenous land and its people is being shared with Council through a video about the origins of the University of Guelph's Nokoms house (meaning grandmother) project. It is the first research lab on campus that is solely for Indigenous studies, set up as a communal kitchen and gathering space. The entire project from fundraising, pre-planning, construction and warranty is a part of the research on how easy it is to decolonize the building process on a university campus: <https://youtu.be/R20DTUzpefg?si=bpEXMJ1BiP4Y7Eoq>. Vice President Schuhmann spoke to the project and several photos were displayed.

DECLARATION RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The President called for declaration of any conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

AGENDA APPROVAL

10084. The President reported that there were no new items to be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Vilardi that the agenda for the June 25, 2026 open meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10085. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the May 12, 2026 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the May 12, 2026 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was noted that in the list of attendees, past Councillor, Andrew Chau's name should be removed. The attendance of LGIC Elaine Mintz was amended to in person from virtual.

It was moved by Butticci and seconded by Schuhmann that the minutes of the May 12, 2026 Open Council meeting be approved as amended.

-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

10086. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

10087. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Deputy Registrar, Claire Hepburn dated June 11, 2026 re. Mandatory Learning Hours for 2026-2028 Reporting Cycle. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

A member of Council placed a motion on the floor that the requirement for mandatory climate action learning hours be sunset for the 2026-2028 Continuing Education cycle.

A number of Councillors expressed concern with the move to sunset the requirement as the importance of addressing the changing global climate and that the topic is one of the two foundational themes of the OAA's Strategic Plan. It was also suggested that the requirement is simple to incorporate and easily understood, however another member suggested that the quality of education in this area could be improved.

It was noted by a member of Council that the original purpose of the requirement was to support the Strategic Plan and suggested that the requirement be reconsidered as part of the new strategic planning exercise priorities are established.

A Councillor noted that though in support of climate action, they are opposed to the administration under ConEd as an additional requirement.

It was noted by a member of Council that the AIBC has a requirement for specific courses for its members to complete.

A number of Councillors spoke in favour of retaining the requirement. It was also suggested that the withdrawal of the requirement around climate action may signal waning interest in climate action specifically on political levels which is a concern.

It was suggested that the requirement continue so as to act as a catalyst of more content.

Though there may be a need to improve on the quality of education around climate action, a Councillor suggested that continued emphasis will lead to further improvement.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Ardiel that Council sunset the mandatory Climate Action content requirement for the 2026-2028 Continuing Education Cycle.

-- DEFEATED (6 in favour, 10 opposed, 1 abstention)

The motion was defeated and a second motion was advanced.

It was moved by Spiegel and seconded by Watson that Council continue the mandatory Climate Action content requirement for the 2026-2028 Continuing Education Cycle.

-- CARRIED (11 in favour, 5 opposed, 1 abstention)

Council broke at 12 noon to attend the OAA Landscape Project groundbreaking ceremony followed by lunch.

Council resumed meeting at 1:25 p.m.

10088. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated June 16, 2026 re. Alternative Programming for 2027 in lieu of Conference and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

The President read the motion that Council was being asked to consider regarding programming for 2027 in lieu of a traditional conference. The Report prepared by Doyle was noted along with the graphic depiction of the proposed programming for both SHIFT 2027 and a menu of programming that could be offered in collaboration with the local societies.

The Executive Director reported that the next Society Chairs meeting is scheduled for July 8 at which time, options for programming for 2027 will be discussed further, however added that the information has been circulated to them and some feedback received.

It was noted by the Executive Director that feedback received confirms the need to emphasize with the Chairs that the suggestions are open at the discretion of each society, adding that there will be assistance in facilitating events by OAA staff. There are opportunities at the events to incorporate ConEd sessions as part of the programming.

It was moved by Vilardi and seconded by Richter that Council approve, in principle, the proposed programming for 2027 in lieu of Conference which has been developed in consultation with the Society Chairs and the Communications and Public Education Committee as presented to Council on June 25, 2026; and, that staff be directed to move forward with identifying the necessary resources and budgets for consideration in the context of the 2027 operating budget.

-- CARRIED

10089. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated June 15, 2026 re. SHIFT Challenge 2027 Theme. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

CPEC Chair and Vice President Spiegel reported

It was moved by Spiegel and seconded by Mintz that Council approve the theme for SHIFT 2027- The Streets Challenge as presented to Council on June 25, 2026.

-- CARRIED

10090. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Governance Committee dated June 9, 2026 re. RFP Strategic Planning Consultant and Budget and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported.

Clarification was requested from a member of Council as to whether there is a specific reason to disclose the project's budget.

The Executive Director responded that an upset budget amount is generally requested from the consultants, which gives an idea of requirements based on the OAA's needs.

It was suggested that further consideration could be given to adding a request to provide a quotation for the consultant to provide direction in regard to execution of the Plan, and/or facilitate an annual review of the plan.

It was moved by Richter and seconded by Mintz that Council:

- **Approve the RFP for the engagement of a strategic planning consultant as presented to Council on June 25;**
- **Approve the proposed budget of \$70,000 for the entirety of the strategic planning exercise to be included in the 2027 operating budget;**
- **Approve the proposed schedule and timeline as set out in the RFP, and;**
- **that the Executive Committee of Council be directed to conduct the selection process with a final recommendation for the engagement of a consultant to be presented at the September meeting.**

-- CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10091. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle and Manager, Finance, Melanie Walsh dated June 15, 2026 re. Debrief on Conference 2026 – Waterloo Region and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'E')**

The Executive Director reported on the 2026 Conference noting that the OAA's event Planner, MCC had prepared a PPT deck that summarizes the feedback from the delegate survey that is administered immediately after the event. Doyle added that the financial outcome for the conference was positioned in that the subsidy from the OAA's general operating budget was much less than had been originally budgeted for. While not all expenses have been received, it is estimated that the subsidy will be \$71k, significantly under the projected amount of \$206k.

A Councillor expressed appreciation for bringing the conference to the Kitchener/Waterloo region and extended thanks to the Grand Valley Society of Architects for their involvement in the event. It was further noted that members of the Grand Valley Society make up 5% of all society members in Ontario however comprised 18% of the attendees at the Conference.

It was noted by a Council member that the sponsorship engagement was very positive, adding that there was excellent feedback from the sponsor hall and was deemed to be very interactive.

A member of Council suggested that future conferences include opportunities for visits to local schools of architecture.

The Executive Director noted that social media impressions were the highest on record for this year's conference.

A member of Council noted a skew in percentage of males attending, however demographic data for the profession indicates a higher percentage of younger architects are women. It was suggested that the demographic attending conference tends to be those that are more advanced in their careers and reflects that male cohort. They may also have the ability to take the extra time to attend and absorb the cost. A Councillor suggested that more education for women wishing to advance in the firm ownership structure might be appropriate.

The Executive Director noted that for 2028, conference planner, MCC will be coming forward to CPEC with options for the location and venue. It was observed that time and cost were the main hinderances to attendance. MCC was tasked with considering ideas such as a retreat-type event, reviewing the overall conference budget and understanding the high-cost areas in conference, as well as a review of a typical three-day event.

It was noted by the Executive Director that many venues are now booked for 2028 and that the OAA will need to make a decision soon. Consideration will also be given for a 2 versus 3 day event and review of a weekend schedule.

A Councillor suggested that the issue in general is the amount of time away from work for members to attend.

There was support in general the event be held again in Toronto which historically records the highest attendance. To assist with costs and availability consideration could be given to hosting events at schools and other independent venues.

Some Councillor expressed concern with the idea of smaller cities/venues as they are difficult to access thereby resulting in lower attendance. Accessibility to travel would be an important consideration for younger attendees.

A member of Council suggested that there is a need to generate more excitement around the event and include the public.

A member of Council suggested that the team may wish to consider a large event in collaboration with RAIC and the provincial jurisdictions. Another suggestion was to hold the conference immediately following Door Open to continue the interest.

There was a suggestion from a member of Council that the AGM return to an in person event and be hosted alongside conference. It was noted by the President that the decision to move the AGM to a virtual event was a result of member feedback expressing a preference for a virtual event from an accessibility perspective.

The Executive Director thanked Council for their feedback and that it would be shared with the members of CPEC who are tasked with making a recommendation to the Council in September for a 2028 conference location/venue. It was further suggested that the ideas shared by Council could also be considered in the context of making a location selection for conference 20230.

The report was noted for information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

10092. *Reference Material Reviewed:* President's Activities for the months of May 2026 to June 2026. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The report was noted for information.

10093. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated June 25, 2026 re. Executive Director Report to Council. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

The report was noted for information.

10094. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills re. Office of the Registrar Statistical Report to Council for the period January 1 to June 9, 2026. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

The report was noted for information.

10095. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Senior Vice President and Treasurer, Anna Richter, dated June 8, 2026 re. Unaudited Financial Statements for the Six Months Ended May 31, 2026 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

The Senior Vice President and Treasurer reported. Appreciation was expressed to the Manager, Finance for the significant amount of work that has gone into the various reports over recent few weeks.

The report was noted for information.

10096. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated June 15, 2026 re. Update from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC). **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

10097. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Governance Committee dated June 4, 2026 re. Update from OAA Governance & HR Committee. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The report was noted for information.

10098. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the OAA Building Committee dated June 4, 2026 re. Update from the OAA Building Committee. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The report was noted for information.

10099. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Practice Resource Committee (PRC) dated June 15, 2026 re. Practice Resource Committee (PRC) - Update. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The report was noted for information.

10100. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President and Chair, Settimo Vilardi dated June 11, 2026 re. Update on the Policy Advisory Coordination Team's (PACT) work and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The Vice President and PACT Chair reported that the committee met yesterday where it finalized the Queen's Park Pick selections which has been an efficient and well-run event. This year's in person event will be held on November 3.

The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10101. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Communications Manager, Erik Missio dated June 15, 2026 re. January – June 2026 Operational Plan Update: Communications. **(APPENDIX 'O')**

The report was noted for information.

10102. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Deputy Registrar, Claire Hepburn dated June 11, 2026 re. Semi-annual Update – Continuing Education Service Area. **(APPENDIX 'P')**

The report was noted for information.

10103. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Finance, Melanie Walsh dated June 11, 2026 re. Semi-annual Operational Plan Update. **(APPENDIX 'Q')**

The report was noted for information.

10104. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Chief Operating Officer, Kathy Armbrust dated June 10, 2026 re. Semi-annual Update from Operations and Human Resources. **(APPENDIX 'R')**

The report was noted for information.

10105. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Information Technology Manager, Abhishek Chaudhary dated June 15, 2026 re. Information Technology service area – Half-year update. **(APPENDIX 'S')**

The report was noted for information.

10106. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Sara Trotta dated June 16, 2026 re. Mid Year Operational Work Plan Update – Policy and Government Relations and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'T')**

The report was noted for information.

10107. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Practice Advisory Services dated June 17, 2026 re. OAA Service Ara Semi-Annual Updates – Practice Advisory Services. **(APPENDIX 'U')**

The report was noted for information.

10108. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Summary: Annual Local Society Chairs Meeting – Conference 2026 – Waterloo Region. **(APPENDIX 'V')**

The report was noted for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

10109. The Executive Director announced that the current Architectural Grad, Alexa Holder has completed her term and welcomed Anvi Nagpal in the role.

The President noted that this would be LGIC Elaine Mintz's last meeting as a member of the Council after serving 19 years in her role and thanked her for contribution. The Executive Director noted that Mintz attended the staff chat where she was recognized for her contribution, dedication and kindness. Mintz was invited to join Council in September for a special celebration in recognition of her contribution to the OAA and the architectural profession.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10110. The next regular meeting of Council is Thursday September 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, Ontario.

ADJOURNMENT

10111. **It was moved by Butticci and seconded by Mintz that the meeting be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date