

Construction Codes Advisory Council 12/16/2010, Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Bruce Hutchins
Gerhard Guth
Jerry Rosendahl for Robert Dahm
Kathleen Ostrom
Kevin White
Larry Stevens, Jr.
Mark Brunner
Matt Anfang for Kent Warden
Robert Bastianelli
Robert Jewell
Ross Noak
Scott McLellan for Thomas Joachim
Thomas Downs

Members Excused/Absent:

Daniel McConnell
Luke Stemmer
Thomas Seanger
William Freitag

Staff Present:

Cindy Valentine
John Rajkowski
John Schultz
Julie Klejewski
Carey Demaris

Visitors:

Gary Thaden
Remi Stone

Call to Order

At 1:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Scott McLellan. Announcements were made and administrative information was given.

Introduction of CCAC Members

Committee members, visitors and DLI staff introduced themselves, attendance was taken.

Approval of Agenda

Robert Jewell made motion to approve agenda, seconded by Kathleen Ostrom. There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Tom Downs made a motion, seconded by Ross Noak to approve the September 16, 2010 minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

New Business

McLellan advised that most applicants for re-appointment have submitted applications, those that haven't Julie Klejewski has touch base with. There was a discussion on the process and the timeline. The committee will be advised of new members or reappointments by the next meeting as designated by the new Commissioner.

Rajkowski gave a legislative update for the upcoming session and the recommendation of restructuring is being review by Tom Joachim. The Department has submitted their budget requests to Minnesota Management and Budget. The proposals are as follows:

- The topic of misclassified employees for both commercial and residential construction industry was discussed. The task force for misclassified employees agreed to propose that contractors that are not registered or licensed with DLI be required to register with the State. According to the previous legislative audit, 1 in 14 employees in the construction industry are misclassified as independent contractors. Instead they should be employees.
- OSHA will require a written safety plan be developed by window cleaning contractors and building owners.
- The repeal of the 1.5 million dollar transfer from the construction code fund to the general code fund is a main focus for the Department for this session.
- Workers' Compensation Division has forwarded several recommended policies changes to the WCAC for consideration.
- Proposed is a small bill to allow petroleum manufacturing companies (Flint Hills and Northern Tier) to go from an annual inspection of their boilers to a bi-annual inspection; this is a four year pilot project.

Schultz gave update from previous meeting on the fee for service. The proposal of a fee increase on boiler inspections and high pressure piping inspections will not move forward. The increase that was proposed for the electrical inspections will be reduced.

- Additionally, a proposed elimination of the HUD portion of the Manufactured Home Program will reduce expenses by \$150,000.
- There is a proposed reduction to the plumbing plan review fees of about \$200,000
- CCAC has authority to give input into the rules to the state building codes. Plumbing board is in the process of amending its rules to waterless urinals, applicability to the plumbing code 4715.0320 code reference statute in 326B, grease interceptors, backflow prevention of dental systems, water pumps, macerating toilet systems, etc. (complete list is found on DLI website). It was suggested to members to track the progress at <http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/Plumbing.asp>

An inquiry on the extension of the elevator upgrade requirements was brought up by Anfang. Schultz advised that the Department has had meetings on the issue and at this time, there is no formal language. Most likely will be addressed and brought to session.

There was discussion on the IRC code language for the requirement of fire sprinklers in all new homes. The Residential Fire Sprinkler Committee recently met to try and find a common ground and come to an agreement. This was not accomplished as they agreed to disagree.

McLellan clarified that the Department's hope is to repeal the \$1.5 million transfer to the general fund. If unsuccessful then the proposal of the \$5 surcharge that goes on all fixed permit fees be extended to off set the 1.5 transfer to the general fund. In addition, McLellan reiterated the fee-for-service increases as discussed earlier which was a result of a study over the past year. The study was performed to determine costs to provide the services that the industry needs, not to over or under charge, making it more of a fee for service.

The last piece that was touched on was the elimination of the HUD program. McLellan gave brief background stating that DLI administers the HUD program on behalf of the Federal Government. Based on the economy this program was examined and the expenses vs. revenue are too great and DLI is looking into giving this back to the Federal Government to find their own contractors for installation.

Committee Reports

None

Unfinished Business

None

Open Forum

Guth advised he may serve on the Minneapolis AIA Building Code Committee and may or may not be able to continue on the CCAC but looks forward to gaining information from members also offering an open invite.

White stated that the advisory council hasn't done much advising, inquiring on the need or purpose of continuation. McLellan gave perspective of the CCAC advising council that the Department's objective was to have representation from stakeholders to study, adopt, and share information.

McLellan reminded council to turn in expense reports for reimbursement to Carey.

Lastly there was discussion on the December 6th request for comment on the continuing education requirements for the licensed engineers and education equivalency offsets. Schultz gave overview on request for comments; he stated this is the first step to adopt rules. The Department is looking for input from interested parties within 60 days. However, you may submit comments all the way through rule process, the sooner the better.

2011 meeting schedule was given

- Thursday, March 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- Thursday, June 16, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- Thursday, September 15, 2011, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey Demaris

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