



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

CAMILE LINDSAY
Director

Illinois Architecture Licensing Board: Open Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2026

Location: Springfield / Chicago / WebEx

Convened: 9:02 AM | **Adjourned:** 9:51 AM

Roll Call

Members Present:

- Kimberly Kurtenbach, Chair
- Belinda O'Kelly, Vice-Chair
- Robert Anderson, Member
- Kimshasa Baldwin, Member
- Michelle Gillette-Murphy, Member
- Norman Lach, Member
- Robert Lyons, Public Member

Staff Present:

- Kyle Lazell, Design Licensing Manager
- Ronald Almiron, IDFPR General Counsel
- Karen McGee, IDFPR Legal office coordinator
- Roy Cepero, IDFPR Investigator

Guests Present:

- Eric Klinner, AIA IL
- Melissa Cannata, Amber Book

Open Session

1. **Board Member Comments:** No comments presented.
2. **Guest Comments:** No comments presented.
3. **Board Liaison Report:**
 - A. 2025 Year-in-Review
 - i. Mr. Lazell provided statistics on the profession for the previous year.
4. **Approval of Previous Open Minutes:** The Board reviewed the open minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting. Motion was made, seconded (O’Kelly/Baldwin) to approve the open minutes of the meeting as presented. Motion passed with a quorum of members.
5. **Ongoing Business:**
 - A. NCARB South African MRA
 - i. The Board continued the discussion on the issue presented.

Mr. Almiron shared that his legal review of the NCARB South African MRA has determined that the specification for this MRA is substantially equivalent with the other NCARB MRAs.
 - ii. Motion was made, seconded (Gillette-Murphy/Lach) to recommend that IDFPR adopt usage of the NCARB South African MRA and update the administrative rules to reflect this addition. Motion passed with a quorum of members.
6. **Report from Ad Hoc Groups:**
 - A. Complaint Review Group
 - i. Mr. Anderson shared the Complaint Statistics for each profession:
 - **Complaints reviewed at the November 2025 meetings:**
 - Architect: Opened 5, Closed 3, Referred 0
 - Structural Engineer (SE): Opened 2, Closed 1, Referred 0
 - Professional Engineer (PE): Opened 6, Closed 5, Referred 1
 - Land Surveyor (LS): Opened 0, Closed 1, Referred 0
 - **Complaints under investigation:**
 - Architect: 18
 - Structural Engineer (SE): 7

- Professional Engineer (PE): 30
- Land Surveyor (LS): 5

• **Cases in prosecutions:**

- Architect: 29
- Structural Engineer (SE): 9
- Professional Engineer (PE): 19
- Land Surveyor (LS): 5

B. NCARB Information Review Group

- i. Ms. O’Kelly shared a report, items of note were the Women in Architecture group is meeting tomorrow, the NCARB South African MRA and Regional meeting. Ms. Kurtenbach noted items about NCARB Committee recruitment, AI, and candidates/nominations for regional positions.

C. Continuing Education Group

- i. Ms. Baldwin suggested that an infographic with the CE requirements would be beneficial for licensee’s to have a quick & easy document to know what the requirements are and where to obtain them.
Mr. Lazell shared the existing white paper that was generated and said he would enjoy collaborating on developing a more user-friendly document.

7. New Business:

A. NCARB Annual Meeting – Delegate selection:

- i. Mr. Lazell shared that the 2026 NCARB Annual Meeting will be held on June 25 – 27, 2026, in Minneapolis, MN and requested the names of the board delegates who will attend for the Illinois Board.
- ii. Ms. Kurtenbach, Ms. O’Kelly, and Mr. Lyons will be attending with the annual meeting funding.
- iii. Mr. Lazell will check with NCARB Regional about possible funding to use for additional members. If available, Ms. Baldwin and Mr. Lach may also attend.

B. General Discussion: No further items presented.

Closed Session

Motion to move into Closed Session: Motion was made, seconded (O’Kelly/Anderson) to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2c (4 & 15) of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed with a quorum of members voting yes via roll call.

Entered Closed Session at 9:47 AM

Review of Previous Closed Minutes: The Board reviewed the closed minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting.

Application Review/discussion: The Board did not review applications during the meeting but will review and return recommendations in the next few weeks.

The Board Chair moved the meeting back into Open Session.

Returned to Open Session at 9:49 AM

Motions and Reminders

Approval of Previous Closed Minutes: Motion was made, seconded (Anderson/Lach) to approve the closed meeting minutes as presented, and keep the closed minutes closed. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Reminders: Mr. Lazell reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026, and to turn in a travel voucher for reimbursement.

Adjournment

Motion was made, seconded (Lach/Baldwin) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with a quorum of members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM