



MINUTES OF THE FIFTH BUILDING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2019

DATE: November 7, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Andy Smith, Chair
Greg Beck
Colin Belliveau
Russell Croome, Vice Chair North
David Flanagan
Rick Gratton
Corey Klimchuk
Robert Kralka
Matthew Kramer
Lee Phillips
Ken Roskell
Darin Sceviour
Bruce Schultz, Vice Chair South
Ulrik Seward

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach, Sanah Sidhu;
Kris Schmaltz, Susan Rossmann, Michael Lalonde, Danielle Paradis (all for items 4.1. and 4.2. only)

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Rob Lane, Lance Leger

Guests
Karen Muir (BFSC Liaison), Gerry Wiles (ESC Liaison), Chris Taylor (FSC Liaison),

REGRETS: Keith Jansen, Stephen Hill

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

2020 MEETINGS: January 15-16, March 19, May 14, September 17, November 5

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. A round table introduction was held.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 2.2. In-Camera Session
 - 2.2.1. Appointment for the Architecture Industry Segment
 - 2.2.2. Appointment for the Large Industrial Developments Industry Segment
- 4.9. Professional Involvement re: Stamping Structural Designs for Small Buildings

Ken Roskell / Russell Croome moved that the agenda be adopted as amended, with a flexible order of business; CARRIED

1.2. Adoption of September 12, 2019 Minutes

Ken Roskell / Russell Croome moved to adopt the minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Code Review

The proposed changes to the National Building Code published by NRC in their Fall 2019 Public Review were reviewed in detail. The sub-council's comments on each change were documented in "Summary table of NBC Proposed Changes 2019 Public Review BSC Comments FINAL".

Bruce Schultz / Gregory Beck moved to present AMA with the Building Sub-Council's recommended comments on the National Building Code proposed code changes for submission to NRC; CARRIED

2.2. In Camera Session

2.2.1 Appointment for the Architecture Industry Segment

The letter of nomination and resume of Grace O'Brien was included in the portal and reviewed. Discussion was held in camera.

Rick Gratton / Bruce Schultz moved to recommend to the Board the appointment of Grace O'Brien to the Building Sub-Council to represent the Architecture industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2023, effective February 1, 2020; CARRIED

2.2.2. Appointment for the Large Industrial Developments Industry Segment

The letter of nomination and resumes of Laura Ritchie and Brendan Ottosen were included in the portal. Both candidates were given due consideration during the in camera discussion.

Ken Roskell / David Flanagan moved to recommend to the Board the appointment of Laura Ritchie to the Building Sub-Council to represent the Large Industrial Developments industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2023, effective February 1, 2020; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

Review of the Matters Arising/Action list was deferred due to time constraints.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Code Update Training

Michael Lalonde, Training Development Coordinator at the Council, was welcomed to the meeting to give an update on changes to the Council's approach to code update training. To enhance value and timeliness, the focus of code update training would be on the top substantive changes that all SCOs need to know. Code update examinations will be eliminated and more emphasis given to analysis and discussion of the key changes. Three-column documents of the code changes will be provided to SCOs. Similar discussions are being held with other disciplines as this new approach will be applied to all code update training developed by the Council.

The floor was opened for questions and comments were provided:

- There was concern that, without an exam and knowing not all students will participate in classroom discussion, it will be hard to evaluate the knowledge of students. This concern will be taken under consideration.
- It was clarified that this applies only to code update training, not the courses required to attain SCO certification.
- Continuing in-house training at the municipal level is very beneficial.
- Availability of code update training for AAA and APEGA members would be a great professional development opportunity.

4.2. Sub-Council Role in Certification and Training

Kris Schmaltz, Administrator of Certification at the Council, was welcomed to the meeting and provided an update on the generic competencies being created for all SCOs in the construction disciplines. There has been strong support for the initiative. The next phase will involve adding discipline specific competencies for each construction discipline. Once completed, all of the entry qualifications and training would be reviewed against the established competencies to ensure there are no gaps.

The goal is to gather input from the sub-councils regarding certification and training much earlier in the policy and training development processes and at every level. A group of volunteers will be gathered to help ensure that each of the competency profiles are consistent across construction disciplines. Ulrik Seward and Bruce Schultz volunteered on behalf of the building discipline.

It was questioned and clarified that the core certification courses will not be updated until after the 2020 code is adopted. Due to the volume of building courses, it was not feasible to update all of the courses before having to begin this new code cycle. It was recommended that the training be updated as soon as possible.

It was suggested that future code update training should include the differences between the 2014 Alberta Building Code and the new Alberta edition that is being developed based on the 2020 NBC. Members were reminded that the 3 column document of 2019 changes are available on the Council website.

4.3. 14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access

Ken Roskell will work with the Building Administrator in preparation for resolution at the next meeting. [Roskell / Chang]

4.4. Liaison Reports

4.4.1. Fire Sub-Council

The Fire Sub-Council liaison report was included to the portal as information.

4.4.2. Barrier Free Sub-Council

It was reported that the Barrier Free Sub-Council is investigating potential gaps in enforcement of barrier free requirements in elevators when they are modified or upgraded. It's possible that a joint working group with the Barrier Free, Building and Elevators Sub-Councils may be formed to look at this topic. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

4.4.3. Electrical Sub-Council

It was reported that two members of the ESC volunteered to support the distilleries working group to provide information on any electrical requirements that should be considered.

4.5. Administrator/AMA Report

There was nothing to report.

4.5.1. SLALA and PDD Update

There was nothing to report.

4.6. Council Updates

It was reported that the Safety Tips brochures have recently been revised and are now available only online. It was suggested that all Authorities Having Jurisdiction should review them to ensure no conflicts with their internal policies.

The Council written report was included in the portal and the following highlights were provided:

- An update was provided on upcoming sub-council training
- All Members are required to complete online FOIP training by December 31, 2019
- An overview was provided of the changes to the Expenses Policy and new expense form
- Open House – Friday, November 29
- The Board has approved the change to add Large Industrial Developments to the matrix

4.6.1. Appeal Consultation

Feedback was sought on whether the sub-council would like to see regular reporting of appeals statistics, and if so, what information would be most valuable. There was no objection to this information being provided. It was suggested that when decisions are published that notification be sent to the sub-council members. The need to ensure all sub-council members have taken appeals training was emphasized.

This led to a discussion regarding data on variances and it was reported that in-depth analysis of the variances issued in the building discipline would be a challenge due to high volume. This will be further discussed with the Administrator of Accreditation. [Council Administration]

It was further noted that Accredited Municipalities can issue jurisdiction-wide variances.

4.7. Working Group Reports – defer to next meeting if needed

4.7.1. Occupant Load

It was reported that the working group is looking at how to harmonize with the national codes.

4.7.2. Breweries and Distilleries

The written report was included in the portal and reviewed. Fire engineer experts are working with industry on how the risk indexing would work. Electrical Sub-Council members are working with the working group regarding hazardous area classification. Discussion is being held about how to address ready-to-drink beverage manufacturers.

4.7.3. Using Stopped Escalators as Stairs

The working group is compiling a list of safety concerns and control measures, reviewing incidents involving escalators and looking into the set up of existing buildings where the ability to use stopped escalators as stairs is a major concern.

A discussion was held regarding OHS involvement and it was reported that, while this inclusion was considered, the issues don't specifically involve worker safety issues.

4.8. Skills Matrix Review

The matrix document was included in the portal and, due to time constraints, only the Architecture and Professional Engineers industry segments were reviewed.

Consensus was reached that the Architecture industry segment section of the skills matrix will read:

- Practicing Architect actively involved in building design
- Works with a variety of AHJs
- Works on or has knowledge of a variety of project types (commercial, residential, industrial, institutional, etc.) and forms of construction
- Strong knowledge of the Alberta Building Code

Consensus was reached that the Professional Engineers industry segment section of the skills matrix will read:

- Practicing Professional Engineer actively involved in building design (preferably a Structural Engineer)
- Works with a variety of AHJs
- Works on or has knowledge of a variety of project types (commercial, residential, industrial, institutional, etc.) and forms of construction
- Strong knowledge of the Alberta Building Code

The remainder of the review was deferred to a future meeting.

4.9 Professional Involvement re: Stamping Structural Designs for Small Buildings

Vice Chair Bruce Schultz chaired this agenda item in its entirety.

The code reference was included in the portal and reviewed. It was recognized that there are processes in place relative to professional involvement for larger buildings.

Relative to 2.4.2.1.(3), architect or engineer seals or stamps are not required for several instances:

Except as required in Sentence (9), registered architectural professional and registered engineering professional seals or stamps are not required on plans or specifications for a building

a) 3 storeys or less in building height, classified as an assembly, care, treatment or detention occupancy that,

i) if 1 storey in building height, has a building area of 300 m² or less,

ii) if 2 storeys in building height, has a building area of 150 m² or less, or

iii) if 3 storeys in building height, has a building area of 100 m² or less,

b) classified as a residential occupancy that is

i) a single-family dwelling, or

ii) a multiple-family dwelling that contains 4 dwelling units or less,

The City of Edmonton has seen architects stamping detached dwelling drawings, including foundation reinforcing, engineered-l-joint connection to top of wall and column pad footings. Examples were provided and discussion was held regarding scopes of practice for each of the different types of professionals.

It was clarified that in accordance with the EGP Act, APEGA has no jurisdiction on what happens with single family residential buildings.

Although some may learn the skill, most architects do not receive the necessary education for structural engineering. Architects may consult with engineers separately and incorporate the design into the single set of drawings, stamped by the architect. It was clarified that for Part 4 components in single family dwellings, the SCO can accept an architect stamp without an engineer stamp and it is reasonable for an SCO to seek verification that the architect is accepting responsibility for the work.

The City of Edmonton is currently waiting for confirmation from APEGA in relation to a specific request on this topic and follow up comments may be provided at the next meeting based on their feedback directly or through the Professional Engineering representative.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

Bruce Schultz agreed to put together a presentation on the Grenfell findings. [Schultz]

It was reported that as of January 1, 2020, the Council has made the business decision to do all sub-council administration in house. Sandi Orr was thanked for 19+ years of service as a contractor of the Council.

5.2. Next Meeting

An overview was provided regarding the very full agenda for the January 2020 meeting and it was suggested to add an additional meeting day in January or another meeting specific to code review in February 2020. It was agreed that the next meeting be confirmed for January 15 and 16, 2020.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Bruce Schultz / Rick Gratton moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY’S MEETING –

4.3. 14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access

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4.6.1. Appeal Consultation

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– MOTIONS –

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5.3. Meeting Adjournment

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