



MINUTES OF MEETING FOR AUGUST 21, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

James Brown
Ray Litt
Bert McAlister
Ric Preuss
Marian Swint

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NOTICE OF THE MEETING WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD, LOCATED IN THE FIRST FLOOR EAST LOBBY, OF THE COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER, TWO WOODWARD AVENUE.

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Durand Capers: Supervising Electrical Inspector and Mr. Michael Cronk Jr., Ex-Officio member, were present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Litt and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of July 17, 2014: **Motion carried.**

BOARD HEARINGS:

None

BOARD CONSIDERATIONS:

Mr. Eric Jones (Director of Buildings & Safety Engineering): Mr. Jones was invited to meet and greet the Board and discuss the direction of the Department. Mr. Jones stated that BSEED is a very complex operation and there is a misconception regarding the perception and the function of the Department. All new Construction, new development, and new business have to come through this Department, and through weekly executive staff meetings, Mr. Jones is trying to bring BSEED to the forefront of making the City of Detroit better.

For example:

- Trying to create efficiencies overall
- Electronic Plan Review
- An upgraded Accela (Tidemark) program

Mr. McAlister stated that as a former employee of this Department, he is well aware that BSEED is essential to the quality of life for the citizens of the City of Detroit as well as statewide, specifically in citizens coming to Detroit facilities (i.e. Cobo Hall and Comerica Park). Mr. McAlister also brought forth the issue of achieving a full and complete board. The Board has made some recommendations to provide a diverse board including recommending the first female Master Electrician, and a Telecommunications Contractor which will reflect the city better. Evidently, there has been a selection of other members for positions in lieu of what the Board has recommended.



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Mr. Jones will check with Bryan Barnhill (Chief Talent Officer, Mayor's Office) about the positions on the Board. Mr. McAlister stated that the Board recognizes it is within the Mayor's purview to appoint as he sees fit, yet the Board had a perspective with its recommendations and the Board would like to be heard on this issue.

At this time, Mr. Glenn Davis (Construction Division Chief) has joined the meeting.

Mr. Litt brought up the concern regarding the Fire Department's *Certificate of Fitness* issue. The change in the rules causes concern. The Board feels the Fire Department should not approve a fire alarm installation. They should only deal with the patrolled locations, not the electrical and operational aspects of the system. The *Certificate of Fitness* is a bone of contention with the Electrical Division. The Electrical fire alarm permit should cover the installation of the fire alarm system, as well as, the installers are already licensed as Fire Alarm or Electrical Contractors, which the state allows for installation of fire alarm systems. The *Certificate of Fitness* is yet another exam and an additional fee that is imposed upon the abovementioned Contractors.

Mr. Davis stated the Fire Department does not have total autonomy. The Fire Marshal works side-by-side with the Buildings Department. The Building Department also spearheads the inspections, and the Fire Marshal is invited as a courtesy not as a requirement. The installation of the Fire alarm originates out of the building code (NFPA 72) and the Fire Marshal enforces NFPA 101. After the system has been installed, the Fire Marshal comes back for maintenance. That is their sole functionality. This has been a long standing political issue as opposed to a code one.

Mr. Davis stated there has been a municipality survey regarding this issue with the result being an inconsistency in the communities based on the staff of municipality Fire Departments, and their individual involvement in Fire alarm installations.

Mrs. Cynthia Gaines re: Access for All Apprentices Program: *Access for All* is a free nine week Apprenticeship readiness training program for City of Detroit residents. **(Courses take place Monday-Friday 8 a.m. -4 p.m. at Local 324 1550 Howard, Detroit, MI)** The curriculum is designed to prepare students for successful application into one of several trade apprenticeships.

Mrs. Gaines found out about this program through a job fair, and was not only a graduate of the first class, but the first female graduate. As such, Mrs. Gaines along with other graduates, serves as an ambassador for the program. Mrs. Gaines stated applicants are provided books, a hard hat, shoes, and a \$50 monthly stipend for gas. Towards the end of the program, applicants are also assisted in drafting a proper resume, and even provided a voucher for the applicant to dress for success, if needed.



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BOARD CONSIDERATIONS (CONT.):

At present, Mrs. Gaines has turned in her application to the JATC Local 58 program and is awaiting her school transcript to progress further.

Mr. Litt stated that he recently attended a Neighborhood Advisory Group for the Illitch development, brought the *Access for All* flyer with him to the meeting, and now the flyer will be published on the Group's web page and sent to all the members.

Mr. Jones stated that this is an excellent program and asked the Board secretary to get in contact with Helen Broughton, who oversees BSEED's website, in order to promote the program on the Buildings & Safety website, as well as other City of Detroit BSEED media. Hopefully, through BSEED, *Access for All* will no longer be the best kept secret in the City of Detroit.

Mr. Jones reiterated that Access for All is a wonderful opportunity, and if the Board has any further issues, please feel free to contact him, and left the meeting.

DTE Service Release Program: Mr. Capers met with two representatives (Mr. Thomas Selley and Mr. Rokib Myles) from DTE Energy on August 20th to discuss ways to improve the service release procedures between the Electrical Division and DTE. Also, improvements on how to assist customers and Electrical Contractors in getting a better clarification of the service release requirements was discussed. The representatives brought forth a rumor that the City does not have to inspect all residential requests for service reconnections. Mr. Capers informed them that a service release is premise wiring, and therefore, the City needs to inspect and be involved in the evaluation of reconnections (i.e. condition of grounding, cables, and illegal hookups). There was also a discussion of emailing approved service releases as another method to faxing, as well as, notifying DTE of services that do not pass. Mr. Cronk suggested putting a "No Pass" option on top of the service release form. Mr. Capers stated he extended an invitation to the representatives to the September Board meeting, and the representatives were receptive to this invitation. Mr. Brown in between time will discuss with the abovementioned representatives about setting up an email program. An update will be given at next month's meeting. Mr. Selley and Mr. Miles will be sent an invitation to the September meeting.

Electrical Licensing Jurisdictional Issue: Earlier this week, the secretary spoke with an Electrical Contractor licensed in the City of Detroit, who had a negative experience, specifically in Genesee County, not accepting City of Detroit Licenses, and stating City of Detroit Licenses were not valid. Mr. Litt made a motion to communicate (in the form of a letter) with the State of Michigan, as well as the offending community, the Board's concern that it has appeared communities have not recognized the fact that



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Electrical Licensing Jurisdictional Issue(cont.):

Licenses issued by the City of Detroit Electrical Division are suitable for work in their community, and to not have these discriminatory practices. Motion seconded by Ms. Swint. **Motion carried.**

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL/REVIEW

Ortega-Escudero, Juan Approved for Master's exam

EXAMINATIONS/RE-EXAMINATION

None

APPRENTICE REGISTRATION

Ahmad, Elette
Alexander, Alan
Braxton, Eugene
Brown, Anthony
Brown, Hurriah
Kidd, Kennan
Ligons, Dajuan
Wainaina, Njoki

APPLICANTS NOT APPROVED

None

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSES & REGISTRATIONS

Cloverleaf Electric	Registration
Lakin Electric	Registration
MCG Management	Registration
RCI & Associates	Registration
Retail Electrical Services	Registration
William C. Holland Electric	Registration

JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN

None

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

None



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FIRE ALARM CONTRACTOR

Diebold Registration

FIRE ALARM TECHNICIAN'S LICENSE

None

FIRE ALARM APPRENTICE

None

SIGN SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE

None

SIGN SPECIALIST LICENSE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Preuss updated the Board on the two assignments he spearheaded before leaving the meeting for another engagement:

- ***Mr. Jimmi Smith: Testimonial Memoriam Resolution:*** After speaking with Brenda Jones, President of the Detroit City Council, and Mrs. Tamara Smith (wife of Jimmi Smith) Mr. Preuss stated September will be the best time for both parties. Ms. Jones relayed that she would be proud to present the Resolution to Mr. Smith's family at a Council meeting. The date will be determined by Mr. Smith's family.
- ***Apprentice Residency Requirements:*** Mr. Pruess provided documentation from the ODM (Olympia Development of Michigan) the Illitch arena project, which is in concert with the Mayor's Office outlining their requirements for residency:

A "Bona-fide Detroit Resident" shall refer to an individual who can demonstrate permanent residency in the City of Detroit as of a date at least one hundred eight [sic] (180) days prior to the date the person seeks to be employed for this Project. Permanent residency shall be established by the address listed on any two of the following:

- a. Voter's Registration Card*
- b. Motor Vehicle Registration*
- c. Michigan State (Issued) Identification Card*
- d. Michigan State (Issued) Driver's License*
- d. Federal, State, or City of Detroit Tax Return*
- e. Utility bill (recent)*
- f. Lease affidavit signed by landlord*



MINUTES OF MEETING FOR AUGUST 21, 2014**UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONT.**

In an effort to have consistency across the board, can the Buildings & Safety Department apply this criteria for establishing residency for Electrical License/Registration applicants? This discussion will be tabled for the September meeting.

- **Electrical Inspection Division/Board Newsletter Update-** The Electrical Division had a meeting earlier this month with the Electrical Inspectors. A couple of the Inspectors volunteered to write articles, and now the Board needs to discuss its contribution. The Division is planning to send out the first newsletter at the end of September.
- **Bryan Barnhill Board Invitation-** Mr. McAlister did not extend an invitation to Mr. Barnhill due to the fact that Mr. McAlister wanted to discuss the Board appointments with Mr. Davis (Construction Division Chief) first. Now that the issue has been presented to Mr. Jones today, perhaps this issue will be revisited by the Mayor's Office. Mr. McAlister will keep the Board informed as new information is presented.
- **Apprentice Coordinator Forum-** The secretary has revisited this issue to discuss putting a plan in place. Where/When to hold meeting? What information will be provided? Mr. Litt suggested at the next meeting, Board members should come to the meeting prepared to discuss ideas of what we want to accomplish, an agenda, who will speak to what, and who are we going to invite.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board would like to officially welcome Mr. James Brown (Utility Representative). Mr. Brown comes to the Board as a 32 year employee of DTE Energy. Mr. Brown is an engineer who has worked for DTE in the following capacities: testing medium voltage equipment in distribution systems, served in the Standards group for several years in overhead and underground construction standards, served as an expert witness for DTE where electrical equipment was involved in fires and electrical shock cases, and for the last four cycles of the NEC (National Electrical Code), has served on code making panels in reference to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) representing utility and customer interests.
- **Board Communication/Update(s) Protocol:** After Board discussion, it was determined that if a member commits to providing information it should be expected there is a report at the next meeting. That member will not be required to automatically send out an email to report a status, unless there is an issue for the Board to consider prior to the meeting.
- **Board Non-Appointment Letter:** This will be tabled for next month's meeting with Mr. Jones.



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CORRECTIONS:

None

ACTING CHAIRMAN MCALISTER

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in Room 418 Fourth Floor, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

BERT MCALISTER

Acting Chairman, Board of Electrical Examiners

WM/ms