

MINUTES
S.C. Board of Architectural Examiners
9:30 a.m., January 21, 2026
Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Low Country Conference Room
Columbia, SC

Meeting Called to Order

William Wes Lyles, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Other members participating were Michael Allen, Amanda Green, James Stevens, Jr., and Anthony Lawrence.

Staff members participating in this meeting included Lenora Addison-Miles, Board Executive; Kenesha Wilson, Program Coordinator; Candace Bourke, Administrative Coordinator, Ely Grote, Advice Counsel; Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Wattie Wharton and Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

Barbara Ham (Huseby Court Reporting) served as the court reporter.

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Lyles announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of Architectural Examiners office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, on the board website, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mr. Lawrence made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Ms. Green seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of the November 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Green seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences

Mr. Tate was not present due to a work commitment. Mr. Allen was not present for the November 5, 2025 meeting. Mr. Allen noted his absence from the November 5, 2025 meeting was due to an emergency health, safety and welfare issue with a project.

Motion: Mr. Stevens made a motion to excuse those absences. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Reports

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

Mr. Wharton provided the OIE status report. From January 2, 2025 to December 31, 2025 there were a total of 18 complaints received; no active investigations and four cases closed. The board accepted this as information.

Investigative Review Conference Report

The January 12, 2026 IRC recommended one case for formal complaint, and one letter of caution.

Motion: Mr. Stevens made a motion to approve the IRC report as presented. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report

Alexis Bell presented the ODC status report. As of January 16, 2026, eight (8) cases are open, three (3) pending hearings and agreements, two (2) closed since the last meeting. The board accepted this as information.

Board Executive's Report

Number of Active Credentials by Prefix and Subcategory
Board: Architect
as of 1/14/2026

Credential	Description	Count
AR	Architect	4841
ARA	Partnership Firm	7
ARB	Business Corporation Firm	96
ARC	Professional Association Firm	52
ARD	Sole Proprietor Firm	15
ARF	Firms	1557
	Sub Total	6568

Financial Report

The board accepted the November 2025 financial reports as information.

Board Reports

Mr. Stevens indicated he would be attending the 2026 Southern Conference of NCARB Educator and Practitioner Conference, at Florida International University, on Saturday, February 7th.

New Business

Interior Design Legislation

Chelsea Lawrence and Kelsey Kees (International Interior Design Association) presented the draft legislation that will be introduced. The legislation will amend the current statute to include the practice of interior design, and registration for interior designers.

Federal Professional Degree Definition

The Board discussed the U.S. Department of Education's proposed new definition of "professional degree" programs which would exclude architecture programs. The Board would like to include a statement/information on the Board's website regarding this issue. Advice counsel will consult with LLR's Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs.

2026 NCARB Regional Summit and Annual Business Meeting Travel

The NCARB Regional Summit will be held in Oklahoma City, OK, March 20-21, 2026. NCARB will provide funding for up to six representatives at no cost to the board or agency. Mr. Allen and Mr. Lyles indicated they may be able to attend, but will confer with Mr. Tate to see if he is available in order to determine who will attend.

Motion: Mr. Stevens made a motion to approve two design professional members, legal counsel and the public member to attend. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The NCARB Annual Business meeting will be held June 25–27, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. NCARB will provide funding for up to six representatives at no cost to the board or agency. Mr. Lyles, Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. Allen expressed interest in attending.

Motion: Ms. Green made a motion to approve two design professional members, legal counsel and the public member to attend. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments

Board of Architectural Examiners
Board Meeting
January 21, 2026

The next meeting of the SC Board of Architectural Examiners is May 6, 2026.

Motion: Mr. Stevens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Lenora Addison-Miles, Board Executive