

MINUTES
SC Board of Landscape Architectural Examiners Board Meeting
Board Meeting – May 6, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room
Columbia, SC

Call to Order

Chairman Kinney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

Statement of Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Landscape Architectural Examiners office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 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. Members of the public who wish to observe may do so at <https://llr.sc.gov/land/videos.aspx>

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: **Mr. McLeod moved** to approve the agenda of the May 6, 2026, meeting.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members participating included: Edward Kinney, PLA, Chairman; Andrew Cheatham, PLA, Vice-Chairman; J. Parks McLeod, PLA; Kenneth Simmons, Jr., PLA; Frank Barron, Public Member; and Jean Catalano, Public Member.

Staff members participating included: Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; Carolyn Sutherland, Office of Advice Counsel; Leanna McMenamin, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Other participants included: Sean Cary (Creel Court Reporting).

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: **Mr. McLeod moved** to excuse Laura Dukes from the meeting.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: **Mr. Barron moved** to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025, meeting.
Mr. McLeod seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Reports

Mr. Rose gave the following Executive's Report:

- Mrs. Catalano has been reappointed to the Board. Her current term is June 30, 2026 – June 30, 2030.
- The Board has 820 individual landscape architects and 248 firms actively licensed. 32 licenses have been issued since the last meeting.
- The 2nd Regular Session of the 126th SC General Assembly convened on January 13, 2026, and closes on May 14, 2026. Mrs. Sutherland will provide a Legislative Report.
- The CLARB Annual Meeting will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on August 26-29, 2026. Information on the meeting will be forwarded to Board members as it arrives. Board members are reminded to ensure that their passport is up to date if they intend to attend this meeting.
- Continuing education audits conducted through CE Broker were successful, with 70 individuals audited. Board staff will continue to build CE Broker into future renewals.
- The Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) will be offered July 27 – August 12, 2026. Registration opens in late May and closes on July 22, 2026.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2026.

Mrs. Sutherland provided a Legislative Report:

- Mrs. Sutherland provided an overview of Legislative Bills H.3021 and S.254, which are concurrent bills referring to the "Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act." Information regarding specific changes and new requirements for Agency and all Boards was provided.

Financial Report

Mr. Rose provided information to the Board regarding the current cash balance as of March 31, 2026.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report

Mr. Wharton stated that there have been 14 complaints received in OIE for the period of January 1, 2025 – April 25, 2026. There are no active cases, no closed cases, and one "do not open" case.

Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report

Mr. Wharton stated that there is one case on the Investigative Review Conference report.

MOTION: **Mr. McLeod moved** to approve the IRC recommendation.
Mrs. Catalano seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report

Mrs. McMenamin stated that there are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. One case has been closed since January 1, 2025.

New Business

1. **Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards (CLARB) Annual Meeting Travel Approval.**
Mr. Rose stated that the CLARB Annual Meeting will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on August 26-29, 2026.

MOTION: **Mr. Simmons moved** to approve funding for two Board members and one staff member to the annual meeting.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: **Mr. McLeod moved** to approve the candidates as listed on the 2026 Board of Directors & Leadership Advisory Council Elections Ballot.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 2. Discussion of Qualifications for Board.** Mr. Simmons inquired if an Emeritus Landscape Architect may serve as a professional Board Member. Mrs. Sutherland advised that the Emeritus status is defined as an inactive status, and the statute requires that the professional members of the Board must be actively licensed. Furthermore, the Engine Act prohibits formerly licensed individuals from serving as public members.

Mr. Rose stated that he has received questions regarding the powers and duties of Board members. Mr. Barron stated that he had questions about the details of the financial reports.

MOTION: **Mr. Cheatham** moved to enter executive session for legal advice.
Mr. Simmons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: **Mr. Barron** moved to exit executive session.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

Mr. Kinney stated that no votes were taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment

Motion: **Mr. Simmons** moved to adjourn.
Mr. Cheatham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.