

OC/NIBS
Board of Directors' Meeting
BOCA Mideast Regional Office
Westerville, Ohio

MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2001

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Bill Smith, Chairman
Dave Williams, Vice-Chairman
Bruce Larcomb, Secretary/Treasurer
Dave Denison
Laik Ali
Jim Shoaff
Larry Brown
Joe Schmitt
Paul Myers
Dave Ledvinka, Executive Director

ABSENT:

Sara Ward
Donn Ellerbrock
Bob Schmitt
Hank Sherowski
Kerry Illes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2000, meeting with one minor comment. It was noted that Dave Denison's absence from the last meeting was due to his car being trapped in the garage because of catastrophic failure of the tension spring which rendered the door opener inoperable.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the treasurer's report compiled by Bruce Larcomb as submitted (copy attached). Comments were made regarding the apparent excessive fees being charged on OC/NIBS accounts by Bank One. Bruce Larcomb agreed to explore other checking, savings and investment account options. Ledvinka also agreed to contact ASCINET to get a detailed explanation of the \$485 charge for maintaining the OCC/NIBS domain name for e-mail communications.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smith initiated discussion regarding excessive permit fees related to certain kinds of remodeling work indicating that given practices by various jurisdiction are grossly inconsistent and tantamount to over-regulation. Other board members offered additional examples and agreed that the system needs fixing. Paul Myers described the system used

by the City of Cincinnati, which employs CADD technology to speed up the permit process and also offers a 10% discount for doing so. Still, response is weak because the cost is viewed as a pass-through with limited impact to the designer/builder. Suggestions were made to create more awareness of some of the system inequities at the political level. More education at both the city management and architectural design levels might yield improvements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dave Ledvinka reviewed a number of current activities to update the Board.

NIBS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL: Ledvinka reported that the NIBS Consultative Council had finalized recommendations for restructuring its organizational makeup and will forward recommendations to the Board of Directors calling for reducing the number of council members in each of the twelve construction sectors from three to one and adding the chairs of the current standing NIBS Councils, Committees and Affiliated Councils (OC/NIBS). This will continue to give Ohio representation on the Consultative Council. Dave Williams also expressed his willingness to continue to fill the Labor slot on the Council if selected by the Nominating Subcommittee. His wishes have been personally passed on to Earl Kennett at NIBS.

ACE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Ledvinka reported on the ACE Program, which has been started by NIBS Board member Charlie Thornton. The program is intended to offer inner-city young men and women opportunities to get involved in career paths in the fields of architecture, construction and engineering. The program now is in place in six or seven major cities across the country. Dave Harris accepted a position on the ACE Board of Directors in the greater Washington, DC area. There are similarities between the ACE program and the apprenticeship-training program being pursued by OC/NIBS. Ledvinka is communicating with Charlie Thornton to see if any linkage exists to enhance OC/NIBS efforts in this area.

MEETING WITH JOY PADGETT, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA: Dave Williams and Dave Ledvinka met with Joy Padgett early in the year to review OC/NIBS initiatives in Ohio's Appalachian area. Padgett expressed interest in the apprenticeship-training program and offered possible financial support when the project is up and running.

OHIO MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION (OMA): Ledvinka met with OMA to address concerns they had with HB 434, the "Licensing Bill." The meeting led to a second meeting with Steve Regoli and Jan Sokolnicki present to explain specifics of the bill and also issues related to regulation of boilers. During the discussions, the subject of code uniformity was addressed and OMA indicated that they would be supportive of any initiative that would benefit regulating the construction of manufacturing facilities and buildings in general. Luther Liggett, attorney with Brickler and Eckler, who is counsel to OMA also expressed interest in code uniformity issues and offered to work in concert with OC/NIBS to improve the process.

MEETING WITH HOCKING TECHNICAL COLLEGE: A meeting was held at the offices of Brickler and Eckler to explore formalizing the apprenticeship-training program. In attendance were: Dr. John Light, president of Hocking College; Luther Liggett of Brickler and Eckler; Dave Williams, OC/NIBS; Mike Shuman, Speer Mechanical and Dave Ledvinka. Discussion focused on formulating the apprenticeship-training curriculum along with additional credits from Hocking College to achieve a two-year degree. The curriculum format is now under development and will be discussed at a second meeting to be held in late May at Hocking College

OHIO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (ORDP): Ledvinka is a member of the ORDP Steering Committee. The committee last met in March of this year. A report was given on OC/NIBS' activities with particular emphasis on the disaster response initiative being developed in conjunction with the Ohio Building Officials Association. A review was also given of the organizational structure of ORDP with the thought that the steering committee format might be something OC/NIBS might want to consider to simplify its structural makeup. Ideas will be developed along these lines for the next OC/NIBS Board meeting.

PAUL MYERS MEETING WITH GOVERNOR'S STAFF: Paul Myers met with David Celona, Executive Assistant for Business and Industry for Governor Taft. Model code issues were reviewed in the context of their impact on construction in Ohio. Follow-up is planned to persuade Governor Taft to champion Ohio leadership in promoting use of the I-Codes. A letter indicating OC/NIBS support was sent to David Celona. Additional effort will be directed to getting OMA in the fold to support this issue.

FIRE ISSUES UPDATE: During the working lunch, Bruce Larcomb updated the Board on fire/building code issues. There is significant interest in the position being taken by the State Fire Marshal in not endorsing the *International Fire Code* for use in Ohio. The Fire Marshal prefers to remain non-committal until the NFPA completes its code development program. As a result, the OBBS staff is incorporating random references from the *International Fire Code* into the *Ohio Building Code* as it completes its code updating process. The code process in Ohio remains somewhat in a state of flux because of the lack of a coordinated policy between the fire and building code regulators.

OC/NIBS BOARD ELECTION POLICY

A discussion then ensued regarding the process to be employed in conducting the election of Board members for this year. Ledvinka distributed a sample nomination form to be used in seeking nominations for Board positions. Most current Board members have indicated their interest in running for reelection, and Ledvinka will place their names in nomination. In addition nominations will be solicited from the OC/NIBS general membership. Mailings to the membership will be sent in May.

CODE/REGULATORY ISSUES

The final item on the agenda dealt with code/regulatory issues relating primarily to the Residential Advisory Committee being formed under the dictates of HB 434. Ideas relating to how OC/NIBS should interface with this group were discussed. Included in the discussion was the possibility of joining forces with OBOA to develop an educational package for regulators at both the state and local level to better inform them on the impact of building regulations on their constituents. Some Board members expressed reservations as to how effective such an educational effort would be since past experience indicates a general lack of interest on the part of legislators, mayors, etc., in these kinds of issues. It was emphasized that any effort to do this would have to be very selective and well focused to justify spending time in this area. A review of Dave Denison's articles on a state residential building code, which have been published in the FORUM, was also incorporated into the discussion. It was generally agreed that a strategy to promote better code uniformity in Ohio would be useful as long as it was well conceived and targeted to the right groups. It was also acknowledged that any major effort along these lines needs to be dovetailed with the efforts of the Residential Advisory Committee when it is launched on September 18.

On that note, the meeting ended and was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Due to a number of conflicting commitments, the next Board of Directors meeting was rescheduled to August 8.