

Board Meeting Minutes
Virginia State Bar
Construction Law & Public Contracts Section
April 12, 2017
Via Telephone Call-in

- I. **Call to Order 12:05 p.m.** – Present by telephone: Jennifer Mahar (Chair, Presiding), Christopher Boynton (Vice Chair), Barrett Lucy (Secretary), Hanna Blake (Treasurer), Shannon Briglia (Immediate Past Chair), Alison Mullins, Jonathan Straw, Spencer Wiegard, Randy Wintory, Scott Kowalski and Dolly Shaffner.

Absent: Judge Robert Ballou, Judge Richard McGrath, Jesse Keene, Mark Crawford, Dan Fitch, Christopher Hill, Arnie Mason, Lauren McLaughlin and Christopher Page.

- II. **Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2017** – Minutes were approved unanimously, and reading dispensed with.

- III. **Financial Report** – Hanna Blake reported, referencing the financial report attached to the agenda. Hanna reviewed balance, \$1,826.86, in account. Section did not have expenses in January, February or March, 2017. Hanna discussed the Section's expenses in December, 2016 (\$4,423.79): Postmaster, Virginia CLE, web maintenance, printing newsletter, mailing and additional postage.

Attendees discussed the reasons for less money this year, including, website expenses, meeting expenses, scholarships, additional attendees at Board dinner. Scott Kowalski stated that meeting at the Sandwich Shop could be cheaper. Shannon Briglia noted that it is difficult to call into the Sandwich Shop. Chris Boynton noted that the present food expense is \$1,300.00.

There was a general discussion about the number of box lunches left over from past lunches following the Board meeting. It was noted that the cost of renting the room for the meeting is only \$150.00.

Jennifer Mahar noted that the cost to the Section to have the Fall Board Dinner at The Local is less than the C&O Restaurant expense. Dolly Shaffner advised that the Section has already signed a contract with The Local for 2017.

- IV. **Chair's Report** – Jennifer Mahar generally noted the hard work of the committees and turned the floor over to the committee chairs for their activity updates.

- V. **2017 Fall Seminar** – Alison Mullins reported. Alison discussed some of the obstacles encountered during the 2016 Fall Seminar. Alison provided an update on the speaker line-up speakers and solicited input from the Board for filling a few remaining slots. Alison explained that the theme for the 2017 Fall Seminar will focus partly on topics not strictly limited to construction law and partly on traditional construction law topics.

Jennifer Mahar noted that the weekend scheduled for the 2017 Fall Seminar overlaps with UVA family weekend and a UVA home football game. Jennifer suggested that Board members promptly secure a room for the 2017 Fall Seminar.

VI. Handbook Committee Report – Spencer Wiegard reported. Spencer advised the Board that the Handbook Committee is about one (1) month away from sending out topics/cases to be digested by Board members.

VII. Newsletter Committee Report – Hanna Blake reported. Hanna advised the Board that the Newsletter Committee is working on digesting relevant cases and the legislative update. Hanna predicts that the Spring Newsletter will be sent to print in advance of the annual meeting. Hanna updated the Board about a new committee member, Kristin Tisdelle. Hanna will advise Jennifer Mahar about the deadline for submission of the Chair's Column. Randy Wintory discussed a recent case to consider including in a subsequent Newsletter, and agreed to send the case over to Hanna and Jesse Keene. Scott Kowalski requested that Randy also send the case to him and Spencer Wiegard for inclusion in the Handbook.

VIII. 2017 Membership/Membership Committee Report – Jon Straw reported. The mediation ethics CLE Membership pushed from May to June 29, 2017. Registration will be done by webcast, there will not be onsite registration available. Dolly Shaffner will assist with eblast and email link for event.

IX. Publications Committee Report – No report. The next edition is scheduled for February, 2018.

X. Website Committee Report – No report.

XI. 2017 Annual Meeting CLE (Summer Program) – Chris Boynton reported for Dan Fitch.

Board members are welcome to attend dinner at Salacia at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, Virginia Beach, Virginia, as part of the Annual Meeting CLE.

Section is co-sponsoring the Showcase CLE *seminar* “*Expert Witnesses: Who Are They and What Can they Say?*” The CLE program will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 16 at the Sheraton Oceanfront, 36th Street in the Hatteras Ballroom.

Subsequent to the seminar, at 12:00 noon the Board will convene our joint Summer Meeting of the Board of Governors and Annual Meeting of the Construction Law & Public Contracts Section, in the Avocet Room of the Oceanaire Resort Hotel, 3421 Atlantic Ave.

XII. Young Professionals – No report.

XIII. Federal Government Contracting CLE Program – Shannon Briglia reported. The CLE will take place on September 12, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. at Waterford at Fair Oaks.

XIV. Old Business

- a. *Joint Event with Maryland Construction Law Section:* Jennifer Mahar reported. Jennifer advised the Board that Maryland's Bar had not responded to Jennifer Mahar's inquiry concerning a possible joint program between our respective Sections. Shannon Briglia advised that she had communicated with Emily Branan of the Maryland Bar and the Maryland Bar proposed having a joint program on May 11 or 18 at The Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. Ms. Branan proposed that the Sections split the food cost, and look for an entity willing to sponsor alcohol for the event. In light of the Section's present budget, it was suggested that the joint program take place in the Fall. Jennifer Mahar noted that we must first obtain Virginia State Bar approval prior to seeking third-party funding as our Section is not allowed to solicit. Jennifer Mahar inquired of the Board whether having the joint program at The Gaylord is in our Section's best interest due to traffic issues.
- b. *Writing Competition Exploration:* Randy Wintory reported. Randy noted that there is no money in the budget for the writing competition. Dolly Shaffner stated that she would look into the financial issue raised by Randy.

XV. New Business – Discussion concerning Nominating Committee. Shannon Briglia will send email to committee explaining process. The Board has open slots for two new board members and one judicial slot. Shannon asked for qualifications. The chair will be a non-board member.

XVI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Next meeting June 16, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.