

Mechanical Board of Appeals
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2015

Board Members Present:

Dave Huston, Chairman
Bret Brecke
Russ Allen

Board Members Absent:

Brian Joyner

Also Present:

Kevin Ciabatti, Building Services Director
Randy Croft, Chief Mechanical Inspector
Duncan McCallum, Plans Examination Coordinator
Tammy Seber, Permit Technician
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary

Chairman Dave Huston brought the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Floor was opened for appointment of Vice Chairman. Russ Allen nominated Bret Brecke; seconded by Chairman Huston. All in favor; motion carried.

Minutes from the February 17, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Russ Allen requested the word "informed" be removed from the 4th paragraph to make the sentence flow correctly. Bret Brecke requested his given name be spelled properly within the minutes. Russ Allen requested "Uniform Plumbing Code" be added to the 6th paragraph so it now reads: "Duncan stated the changes to the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Plumbing Code, and the Uniform Plumbing Code will not be reviewed at this time." Russ Allen made a motion to accept the minutes with changes; Bret Brecke seconded. All in favor; motion carried. Minutes approved with changes.

Minutes from the November 20, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Russ Allen made a motion to accept the minutes as they stand; Bret Brecke seconded. All in favor; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Discussion began regarding the International Fuel Gas Code. Randy Croft stated the City of Cedar Rapids is currently operating under two Fuel Gas Codes with a goal to eventually operate under only one. Both Codes reference NFPA54. Three suggestions were given regarding adoption of the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code:

1. Adopt the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code
2. Have a joint discussion between the Mechanical and Plumbing Boards
3. Continue with using the current two codes: International Fuel Gas Code and International Plumbing Code

The Board decided to hold a joint meeting between the Mechanical Board of Appeals and the Plumbing Board of Appeals allowing for a collaborative decision regarding the amendments to the International Fuel Gas Code.

Randy Croft stated a question might arise concerning which Fuel Gas Code to test over for Mechanical licensing. He said he would provide the current requirements for testing to the Board members. Duncan McCallum stated Marion and Hiawatha have already adopted the International Plumbing Code; he was not sure if Iowa City has. He said there is a push to move toward a metro Code. Russ Allen stated Linn County had already adopted the International Plumbing Code.

Kevin Ciabatti requested the Board move forward through the adoption process of the 2015 Mechanical Code; Chairman Huston stated he didn't feel comfortable doing so without input from the Plumbing Board. Bret Brecke stated previously the Board has adopted and approved the split Code. He stated if the Board moved forward and solicited the Plumbing Board to see if we could get to one Code, then the approved 2015 Mechanical Code could be amended as necessary. Duncan McCallum stated if the 2015 Mechanical Code were adopted today, the 2015 Fuel Gas Code Could be omitted. Kevin Ciabatti stated these amendments are recommendations only and changes could be made at a later date if necessary.

Code language for re-inspect fees was discussed. Duncan McCallum informed the Board members that the Building Services Dept have begun performing combination inspections. This is where an inspector from one trade area (ie: Mechanical) will do an inspection for another trade area (ie: Plumbing). This process was developed for efficiencies for both the Building Services Department and the customer. The Building Services Department is seeing positive input from this process. He felt this would always stay only within the residential scope. He stated the only problem they've encountered with this process is some contractors use this as their punch list; this is where the re-inspect fees would come in. The re-inspect fee would be charged to the individual or the contractor who scheduled the inspection. The intent is not to penalize mistakes, but rather for those who use this as a punch list (ie: calling for inspection but not ready for the inspection because work is incomplete or corrections not done). Duncan showed the group the re-inspect fee language. He stated all trade Codes will basically have the same language. The fees will be removed from the Code and will be listed in a Resolution. The current re-inspect fee varies for each trade; \$50 is the recommended re-inspect fee charge which will be standard across all trades.

Discussion held on the words "Re-inspect Penalty" versus "Re-inspect Fee". Some felt the word "penalty" might have more impact than the word "fee"; others thought the word "penalty" might create feelings of discrimination. This language might be revisited at a future meeting.

Currently, the appeals process allows for a decision to be reviewed by City Council if the appellant is not satisfied with the Mechanical Board's final decision. Duncan McCallum recommended a change whereas the appellant will take the Mechanical Board's final decision to a Court of Law, not the City Council. Bret Brecke stated he felt this was a good decision as it takes the City Council out of the loop and keeps the final decision with the Board.

Kevin Ciabatti requested a recommendation to move forward and proceed with City Council action on the entire Code amendment. If the Board approves the recommended amendments today, the information is presented externally to the Developer Council, Home Builders Association, etc., as well as the City Council Committees. Russ Allen stated as he does not feel comfortable approving the changes without seeing the final document. Duncan McCallum stated he needs the input from the external groups before the final document can be made available to the Board, although he could provide the

document as it currently stands to the Board members. Bret Brecke made a motion for staff to move forward with the process, presenting the 2015 Mechanical Code Amendments to the external groups, and then have the final draft presented to the Mechanical Board prior to it being presented to the City Council Committee. Russ Allen seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Bret Brecke made a motion to reach out to the Plumbing Board of Appeals for purpose of having a joint meeting to discuss the change to the 2015 Fuel Gas Code; Russ Allen seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

The Board scheduled their next meeting for April 22, 2015, at 10:00a to discuss finalization of the 2015 Mechanical Code Amendments. Dawn Kolosik will work with the Mechanical and Plumbing Boards to schedule the joint meeting.

Bret Brecke made a motion to adjourn; Russ Allen seconded. All in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary