



Electric Board MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2012

The Electric Board convened in a regular meeting on September 12, 2012 at the One Texas Center building, 505 Barton Springs Road, 3rd Floor Conference Room 325, Austin, Texas.

Board Chair Randy Pomikahl called the Board Meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Randy Pomikahl, Robert Schmidt, Peggy Simpson, Randy Walden, and Chris Wagner. Board Members Ronny Williams and Tasha McCarter were absent.

Staff in Attendance: Dan McNabb, Carl Thompson, Julie Kirby, Leon Barba, Marvin Pace, Joe Ramirez, Tony Hernandez, JB Meier, Randy Haydon, Florin Vasile, Steve Booher, Reagan Moore, Charles Seaver, Allen Small, Tommy Nylec, Jonathan Josephson, Jerry Hernandez, Susan Groce, and Dan Smith.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting of July 25, 2012 were approved on Board Member Chris Wagner's motion and Board Member Suzie Simpson second on a 4-0 vote. Board Members Walden, Williams and McCarter were absent for the vote.
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Bob Bowne spoke on the Electrical Special Inspections program approved by City Council in 2011. Bowne asked why this program has not implemented because it would help for contractors. The Board discussed the issue and would like to implement the program. Dan McNabb, Building Inspections Manager, stated that his electrical inspectors currently have a heavy workload, so he does not have necessary staff to dedicate to the program. Dan McNabb will bring this issue for Board discussion in the future.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - c. **Discuss Code Compliance Enforcement of unlicensed or unregistered electrical contractors.** Code Compliance Officer Jonathan Josephson discussed that his department does check for Electrical licenses, and violations are referred to Texas Department of License Renewal. Code Compliance does ticket contractors for work without a permit, however, if a contractor shows proof of pulling a permit within 24 hours, then the ticket is waived. Dan McNabb stated that Building Inspections currently defer any compliance issues, such as unlicensed or unregistered electrical contractors, to Code Compliance. Dan McNabb will discuss with Code Compliance who should verify license and if workers are subcontractor vs. an employee when no permit exists on an electrical project. Carl Thompson, Chief Electrical Inspector, currently monitors subcontractor violations and will handle complaints and violations from the Board. Building Inspections will report back to the Board on ways to improve licenses checks when contractors are found on a project at the time of an inspection. Citizens should always be encouraged to call 311.
 - a. **Staff presentation on Proposed changes to the Austin Energy Design Criteria Manual.** Steve Booher of Austin Energy presented significant changes to the manual.

- Meter Equipment Installations will require customer to furnish, install, own, and maintain all metering equipment.
- A new section was added for Mobil Food Vendors.
- New Customer Demand Load Determination was revised in accordance with the National Electric Code for conductor sizing.
- There is new requirements for Meter Installation in the interior of a building
- There is a new Sub-surface Transformer Vault requirement.
- There are numerous other smaller changes.

b. Discussion and possible Action on draft changes to the Austin Energy Design Criteria Manual.

The Board appreciated the opportunity to review the changes, and discussed many of the significant changes. Many of staffs suggestions were incorporated into the manual. The Board is concerned about the delays in Commercial Plan Review caused by the conflict of opinion and code interpretation over the Design Criteria Manual between Austin Energy and Electrical Plan Reviewers. JB Meier, Supervisor of Commercial Plan Review, stated that in the future, Austin Energy will review and approve plans for Austin Energy requirements.

Austin Energy plans to finalize the revised manual by October 15 and submit for City Council approval by November 1, 2012.

Board Member Randy Walden made a motion to postpone this item to the next Board meeting and seconded by Board Member Suzie Simpson on a 5-0 vote.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Continue discussion item – Electrical Special Inspection Program
- Austin Energy Design Criteria Manual
- Officer Elections
- Adopt the Annual Board Schedule

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Suzie Simpson and seconded by Chris Wagner for a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.