



**Mechanical and Plumbing Board
Approved MINUTES**

**BOARD MEETING
October 24, 2023**

The Mechanical and Plumbing Board convened in a Regular Called Meeting on October 24, 2023. Meeting took place at the Permitting Development Center at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive.

Vice Chairman Thornton, called the Meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Robert Thornton, Kyle Smith, Blaine Butler, Alex Ramirez, Joe Cooper, Stephen Cox, Mark Mapes and Ramon Perez

Absent members: Bobbi Jo Foster, Bill Harris and Joseph Bowie

Staff Members in Attendance: Chad Watson (DSD), Charlie Ablanado (DSD) and Todd Wilcox (DSD)

GENERAL CITIZEN COMMUNICATION- Clayton Spencer, Jake Musick, Walt Richardson and Cory Booen all attended the board meeting to speak on item 4.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. The minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting was approved as written. Board member Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes, board member Smith second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Board member Foster, Bowie and Harris were absent. Board member Mapes entered the room after the minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION ITMES

3. Appendix L- Water Heater requirements – This item was voted to be tabled for the next meeting as representatives of this item were absent. Board member Cooper made a motion to table, board member Smith seconded. motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

3. Appendix M-Water Saving Calculator- This item was voted to be tabled for the next meeting as representatives of this item were absent. Board member Cooper made a motion to table, board member Smith seconded. motion carried on a 7-0 vote.

4. Parking Garage Exhaust- Stakeholders came to the board for discussion regarding a commentary from the Uniform Mechanical Code that is being discussed within plan review on upgrading parking garage exhaust to a class 4.

Class 4 is defined as requiring discharge 10ft above property grade, 30ft from property line, 10ft above opening into buildings, 6t from exterior walls and roof that are in the direction of flow. Though the 2024 IAPMO commentary was discussed it was not adopted in the 2024 UMC codes but still classifies garage exhaust as class 2 in the 2021 codes which is also aligned with ASHRAE on how it garages exhaust systems are defined.

Class 2 air is defined with moderate contaminated concentration, mild sensory irritation, or mildly offensive odors. Also includes air that not necessarily harmful or objectionable but is inappropriate for transfer recirculation to spaces for different purposes, which is how ASHRAE, International Building Code and International Mechanical Code defines parking garage.

In the end, the language that is being used to describe class 4, is an ASHRAE commentary and since the published code continues to identify it as a class 2, the building official can provide an interpretation to the code. The issue lies in the plan review staff that still revert to the ASHRAE commentary and therefore signals the class 4 exhaust. Stakeholders are requesting to make it clear that garage exhaust is a class 2 environmental exhaust. Building official Todd Wilcox will see to that it is a defined as a class 2 exhaust.

As a result, board member Kyle Smith made a motion for recommendation to identify parking garage exhaust as a class 2 and to keep aligned with ASHRAE and other recognized standards. Second by Blaine Butler, motion pass 8-0

5. Shower Pans- Board member Cooper inquired with Development Service staff about a fiberglass shower pan being approved with a sticker that has been marked underneath the shower pan to indicate to the inspector that it was a code approved product. The question lies to staff, how does the inspector verify that the others are code approved. Staff indicated the inspector will request a cut sheet to verify that it is a code approved listed product if it is something that has not been seen before.

6. Legionellosis Prevention- Building Official Todd Wilcox in conjunction with the Building and Fire Board, updated the board that instead of inserting this into the UPC plumbing code and leaving the responsibilities for water testing in the hands of the general contractor and or plumbing contractor, leave the responsibility in the hands of building owners to supply the water testing and flushing before the city hands over the building. The health department agreed with this process as well.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

7. 2023 Board Schedule- Board member Cox made a motion to approve the 2024 Board schedule as written, board member Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve the 2024 Mechanical and Plumbing Board schedule 8-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Discussion on appendix L- Harris**
- 2. Discussion on appendix M- Stefani**
- 3. Discussion on Austin Water implementing a moratorium on irrigation permits and Swimming pools installation for water conservation.**

ADJOURN – Vice Chair Thornton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 am without objection.

The minutes were approved at the January 23, 2024 meeting on board member Cooper motion, Board member Bowie, second the vote. Board member **Harris, Foster, Ramirez, Mapes** and **Butler** were absent. Motion passed 6-0.