



Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals Approved Minutes

**Board Meeting
August 23, 2023**

The Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals met in a Regular Called Meeting on August 23, 2023

Board Member, Brasfield called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Ashley Juraska, Ben Abzug, Ron Buys, Gary Wilks and Jim Rumbo and Aubrey Brasfield

Board Members Not in Attendance: Alan Schumann

Staff in Attendance: Rick Arzola (DSD), Tony Hernandez (DSD), Todd Wilcox (DSD), Jessica Lopez(DSD), Stephen Truesdell(AFD), Chuck Deatherage(AWU) Betsy Kirkpatrick (APH) Conner Lynd(APH); Kevin Kluge (AWU), Katherine Jashinski (AWU) Shwertha Pandurangi (AWU) and Eric Reynolds (AWU)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. The minutes from the **March 24, 2023**, Regular Called meeting were approved as written. Board member Rumbo made a motion to accept the minutes as written, board member Juraska second the motion. Motion pass 6-0. Board member Schumann was absent.

DISCUSSION:

2. **Legionellosis prevention in commercial Healthcare Facilities-** Betsy Kirkpatrick of Austin Health Department provided a power point presentation of legionellosis and the remedy of removing legionellosis by disinfection and flushing of potable water system, Legionella is a bacterium that is naturally found in freshwater environments. It becomes a health hazard when it is spread in human made building water systems, such as showerheads and faucets, cooling towers, hot tubs, decorative fountains and water features and large complex plumbing systems. In association with legionella is Biofilm, a slimy coating microbe that attach to underwater surfaces. It can form in valves, fitting, and pipe walls.

Austin Health is proposing a recommendation on adopting ASHRAE 188.8.4, of timing and disinfection and flushing prior to use. In that recommendation, disinfection and flushing would need to be completed no more than two weeks before full or partial occupancy. If occupancy of any part of the building is delayed more than two weeks, but less than four weeks, flushing of all fixtures shall again be completed.

If flushing is to partial of the building that is delayed four weeks or more after disinfection, flushing and disinfection of all fixtures shall again be completed.

After presentation, board member Wilkes wanted to know specifically as to where this presentation was focused on, and after several more discussions, it was agreed that it would focus on hospitals and nursing homes, which are the most at risk with legionellosis. It was also identified that the flushing of these systems to hospital and nursing homes would be focused on new construction only.

Board has agreed that further discussion needs to continue with a work group to discuss the correct occupancy type to these facilities and if the language can be added to the code that targets the appropriate occupancy type and then based on historic outbreak, can staff come up with a timeline prior to occupancy, and will it change the outcomes.

Workgroup staff include from DSD Tony Hernandez and other names to TBD, Board members, Aubrey Brasfield, Jim Rumbo, Gary Wilkes and Ben Abzug. Health work group staff are Charles Deatherage, Betsy Kirkpatrick and Conner Lynd. A future date was not determined.

3 FUTURE AGEND ITEMS:

1. No Agenda items proposed at this meeting at this time.

4 ADJOURN – Board member Brasfield entertain a made a motion to adjourn the meeting, board member Wilks made a motion to adjourn, board member Rumbo, seconded the motion. Motion pass 6-0. Board member Schumann was absent.

The minutes were approved at the February 21, 2024 meeting on board member Satt motion, board member Buys second the motion on a 7-0 vote. Board member Wilks and Rumbo were absent.