

INDIANA FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission's Exploratory Committee for Code Updates

Video/Teleconference Cisco WebEx Format

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

APPROVED AS AMENDED AT 6/10/2021 MEETING

1. The Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission's (the Commission) Exploratory Committee for Code Updates (the Committee) was called to order by Committee Chairman Michael Popich at 9:00 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

- a. Committee Members Present:

Michael Popich,	Committee Chairman, City of Indianapolis (local building official) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Vice Chairman
Christina Collester,	RTM Consultants, Inc. (code consultant)
Donald Corson,	American Structurepoint, Inc. (licensed engineer)
Doug Elmore,	Gene B. Glick Company Inc. (Indiana Apartment Association representative)
Joshua Frost,	Zionsville Fire Department (local fire official)
Gregory Furnish,	Upright Builders, LLC (Indiana Builders Association representative) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission member
Scott Pannicke,	RATIO Architects (licensed architect) and Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Member

- b. Committee Members Absent:

None

- c. Committee Staff Present:

Douglas Boyle,	Director of the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission and Committee Secretary (IDHS)
Justin Guedel,	Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Deputy General Counsel
Bryston Sprecher,	Administrative Assistant to the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (IDHS)

2. Roll Call/Attendance – Committee Staff

Secretary Boyle conducted roll call, noting that quorum was met with six (6) voting members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Greg Furnish was counted as present shortly after, bringing the total number of members present up to all seven (7) members.

3. IDHS/Commission Staff Reports and Updates

- a. Status Update on Indiana Open Door Law and Public Meeting Requirements during the State of Indiana’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – Douglas Boyle, Director of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission & Justin Guedel, IDHS Deputy General Counsel

Secretary Boyle advised the Committee that Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-08 on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, extending the State of Indiana’s declaration of a public health disaster emergency disaster until April 30, 2021. He also advised that IDHS will closely monitor any plans, actions, or guidance from the Governor’s Office, should the State of Indiana’s declaration of a public health disaster emergency be terminated in the near future. Additionally, any rescission of the Governor’s modifications to the Indiana Open Door as well as the enactment of any new legislative from the Indiana General Assembly’s 2021 Legislative Session will also directly affect the Committee’s future meetings. Considering that attendance in the Committee’s virtual Webex meetings has averaged approximately 30 participants, Secretary Boyle advised expressed that the Committee should not have any issues hosting an in-person meeting in the History Reference Room of the Indiana State Library if necessary. Finally, Secretary Boyle advised the Committee that staff may attempt to look into ways to maintain an electronic means of communication, at least for the public, in any upcoming meetings.

4. Committee Review and Action on Meeting Minutes

- a. Thursday, February 11, 2021

Secretary Boyle called for amendments or corrections to the Committee’s Thursday, February 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Chairman Popich pointed out that the start time was incorrectly recorded as 9:07 a.m., instead of 9:01 a.m. Additionally, Chairman Popich recommended omitting the section identifying guests present. Hearing no other amendments or corrections, Scott Pannicke motioned to approve the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes as amended, with Chairman Popich’s two noted amendments. Joshua Frost made the second. It was voted on and carried.

	YES	NO
Christina Collester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donald Corson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Elmore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Joshua Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gregory Furnish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Pannicke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Popich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The February 11, 2021 meeting minutes were **approved as amended, with two (2) noted amendments**, by a vote of 7-0.

5. Begin Review of the International Code Council’s (ICC’s) I-Codes Revision Histories (Consideration of the Noted Changes, Benefits, and Financial Impact)

In terms of measuring financial impact, Justin Guedel advised the Committee that it only had to provide a rough estimate of cost/savings for any proposed amendments. It will be the responsibility of the Code Review Committee to take a closer look at the financial impact and calculate a more precise estimate.

Per Don Corson’s recommendation, Secretary Boyle will look into gaining access to the ICC’s *Significant Code Changes* booklet for the Committee to reference as they begin their work. Having a summary of relevant code changes will prevent the Committee from reviewing lengthy documents and hopefully speed up the rulemaking process.

6. Begin Consideration of the Committee’s Code Update Priority Pitches

The Committee’s members were not in a place to provide thorough pitches quite yet, so this will be the primary focus of the Committee at next month’s meeting. Christina Colleston pointed out the need to consider making modifications to existing Chapter 34 and GAR requirements of the current building code. Joshua Frost advised that, because the International Code Council’s (ICC) International Existing Building Code is not included in the list of reviewable codes under the Committee’s bylaws, stand-alone action to review this would be required. Chairman Popich added that the pitch must advise the Code Review Committee to look over both existing building codes and address changes to Chapter 34 in the Indiana Building Code.

7. Plan Forward

a. Set Meeting Date for May 2021

After some brief discussion, the Committee decided to schedule its next meeting date for Thursday, June 10, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. EDT. Chairman Popich advised that this allows staff adequate time to locate a suitable meeting space (likely the History Reference Room of the Indiana State Library), assuming that the public health emergency will be lifted, and the Committee will subsequently be directed to resume in-person meetings.

b. Set Agenda for May 2021 Meeting

Secretary Boyle advised that Bryston Sprecher, the Administrative Assistant to the Fire Prevention and Building Commission, will work on securing an in-person meeting space for the June meeting. Following Governor Holcomb's press conference this upcoming Wednesday, Secretary Boyle stated that he will begin to put a memo together outlining the potential need for an in-person meeting, which will be sent out to the Committee well in advance of the next meeting.

Secretary Boyle also stated that he would contact the ICC to inquire about gathering relevant materials, which may help the Committee as they attempt to consider code changes. In the meantime, the Committee's members were advised to compile a list, essentially ranking codes, in terms of which ones ought to be considered first. Staff also asked that the members reach out to code consultants and other constituents encouraging them to submit written comments on this matter.

The Committee will be accepting and encouraging comments from all interested persons regarding the impact the Commission's current adoption of older versions of model codes has on construction in Indiana, and the impact that updating these model codes to more current versions (e.g., the 2021 I-Codes) will have on construction, economic development, and public safety in Indiana. Comments should be limited to the following rules of the Commission:

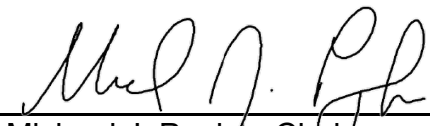
- 2014 Indiana Building Code (675 IAC 13-2.6)
- 2020 Indiana Residential Code (675 IAC 14-4.4)
- 2012 Indiana Plumbing Code (675 IAC 16-1.4)
- Indiana Electrical Code, 2009 Edition (675 IAC 17-1.8)
- 2014 Indiana Mechanical Code (675 IAC 18-1.6)
- 2010 Indiana Energy Conservation Code (675 IAC 19-4)
- Swimming Pool Code (675 IAC 20)
- 2014 Indiana Fire Code (675 IAC 22-2.5)
- 2014 Indiana Fuel Gas Code (675 IAC 25-3)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards (675 IAC 28-1)

Comments must be submitted by the **end of business (4:30 p.m. EDT) on Friday, May 21, 2021** to ensure consideration by the Committee at its June 10, 2021 meeting. This can be done by submitting a webform using the following hyperlink: (<https://www.in.gov/dhs/boards-and-commissions/code-comments-proposals-and-advice/>).

8. Adjournment

Chairman Popich adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. EDT.

APPROVED:


Michael J. Popich, Chairman