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STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD HELD APRIL 30, 2014

The workshop was called to order at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at the offices of the State Contractors Board, 2310 Corporate Circle, Henderson, Nevada and video-conferenced to the Reno office. Exhibit 1 is the Notice of Intent to Act Upon a Regulation and a copy of the proposed regulation.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan B. Leggett

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Margi Grein, Executive Officer

Ms. Nancy Mathias, Licensing Administrator

Ms. Grein explained the purpose of the workshop is to receive public comment on proposed amendments to Chapter 624 of the Nevada Administrative Code. Regulation R018-14 revises the current C-10 Landscaping classification to include tree trimming and removal of trees and stumps. Regulation R019-14 modifies NAC 624.7251 to include standards used in the imposition of administrative fines for all violations of NRS 624.

Ms. Grein indicated that the notice of the workshop was posted in compliance with NRS 233B at the Paseo Verde Library, Sawyer State Building, Clark County Library, Washoe County Courthouse, Washoe County Library, Reno City Hall and the offices of the State Contractors Board in Reno and Henderson. In addition, the notice was posted on the Board's website and the State of Nevada's Public Notice website.

Ms. Grein further noted that written comments were received from J. P. Smith, Horticulture Consultants, Henderson, Nevada addressing concerns with proposed regulation R018-14.

Mr. Fitu Perry of Select Services stated that as a Certified Professional Arborist, he meets high educational and industry requirements through the International Society of Arboriculture and he does not support the proposed regulation.

Mr. Mylan Weedman, First Choice Tree Service indicated his support for the proposed regulation to help homeowners who may have been harmed by tree trimmers who may not carry appropriate workmen's compensation insurance or other liability insurance. He indicated that there presently is no avenue available to keep sub-standard tree trimming companies from harming individuals. He also agreed with Mr. Lamm's testimony regarding tree protection plans for construction sites stating that many landmark and historical trees have been destroyed by building contractors' failure to have a tree protection plan in place while performing site work and other construction.

Mr. Tom Henderson, President of Healthy Trees outlined his concerns with the proposed regulation. Mr. Henderson stated the International Society of Arboriculture was established in 1934 and provides several levels of certification for those who practice in tree care. Mr. Henderson indicated that the majority of tree companies are very small businesses and adding additional expenses such as license fees and bonding expenses would create an economic hardship. In addition, any additional costs incurred would be passed on to the consumer. He stated that workers compensation premiums alone take approximately 30% of a company's payroll as well as the very high cost of business liability insurance and vehicle insurance premiums. He also indicated that the field of arboriculture is not related to the building trades and therefore may not fall within the jurisdiction of the Board. He further indicated that the proposal may not benefit consumers since there is no requirement for a contractor to employ a certified arborist. He stated that there are currently consumer protections in place and that it may be more appropriate for municipalities to govern who may provide tree services through the business licensing function. He urged the Board not to proceed with the proposed regulation. Mr. Henderson provided a written copy of his testimony.

Mr. Paul Lamm, a Certified Arborist with Healthy Trees, agreed with the testimony of Mr. Henderson and added his comment concerning the harm that can be done if contractors do not protect trees on construction sites.

Mr. Bob Kelly indicated he would favor licensing provided that it is policed properly. He indicated many individuals who mow lawns also perform tree trimming. He indicated that non-licensed individuals perform many landscape projects that currently require licensure.

Mr. Noah Silverman, Noah's Park Tree Care, agreed with Mr. Henderson's comments in opposing the regulation.

Mr. Dave Harvey, a property manager relayed information concerning his experience with an uninsured company who caused damage during the trimming of a large tree. He supports licensure for tree services as a sub of the current C10 classification.

Ms. Grein indicated that there were no individuals present to comment on Regulation R019-14.

Since there were no further comments, Ms. Grein extended appreciation for the attendee's comments and stated that a hearing on the matter will be held May 15, 2014 at the same time and locations.

The workshop was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Reynolds Recording Secretary

Approved:

Margi A. Grein Executive Officer