

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BUILDING CODES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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MEETING

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WEDNESDAY
MAY 16, 2007

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The Building Codes Advisory Committee met in Room 220 South, 441 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20001, at 10:00 a.m., Marc Fetterman, Vice-Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

JERRILY KRESS	Chair
MARC FETTERMAN	Vice Chair
LINDA ARGO	Interim Director
DON MASOERO	Chief Building Inspector
SARA BARDIN	DCOZ
FRANK BECKER	IES
GAIL MONTPLAISIR	AU
MICHAEL NEGUSSIE	DDOE
MARIA QUEIRLO	DCRA/BLRA
BELLUR RAVISHANKAR	DCRA/BLRA
NORMAN SMITH	NSA
JOHN STOVALL	M-NCBIA
SONNY YEATMAN	NEIEP
JOAN STOGIS DC/AIA	
RHONDA STEWART	DHS
DENZIL NOBLE	
JOHN DEVLIN SFPE	
SCOTT VANDAME	AFAA

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(10:18 a.m.)

MR. FETTERMAN: Good morning, everyone. My name is Mark Fetterman. I'm the vice chair of the Building Code Advisory Committee, and I would like to call our May 16th, 2007 meeting to order. We have an agenda that we will be following. And today we start our first voting on amendments. Jerrily Kress, our chair, is on her way to the meeting and I'm sure will join us as soon as she gets here. Under administrative matters, many of you in the room are currently members of the Building Code Advisory Committee, and our terms expired on April 7th of this year. I understand, for those who are members, that D.C. allows one to continue to serve unless replaced, for 180 days. That means that each of you who were members of the Building Code Advisory Committee can continue to vote as members through around October 4th of this year.

Jerrily Kress and Sara and others have been in touch with the part of D.C. government that handles appointments to boards, called the Mayor=s Office of Boards and Commissions, and we=ve been advised that they are focusing on groups that do not have a quorum or are not meeting and whom need to meet. Unfortunately, since we are a functioning group, that puts us not at the top. But we are continuing to stay on track of this so that we will

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be reappointed before we are no longer able to vote in October. Because as those of you that have been with us for awhile know from our timetable that we believe that our work cannot be completed as early as October.

So stay tuned. Yesterday DCRA distributed to us the part number three of their review of our amendments to the 2003 ICC codes. And we apologize, we discovered that there may have been an error in the transmission, because there=s a comments column that goes with the code that contains the reason for the proposed change. And this comments column is part of parts one, three, and four - or one, two, and four, excuse me, that you=ve previously received, but was not included yesterday. So we=re going to - we=ve been assured that it=s sitting in our computer and it=s a matter, perhaps, of simply formatting the page to be transmitted to include the comments column.

And so when that is done, we will re-transmit that to everyone. But this should - or does complete the amendments that we passed in August of >05, and, as I said, includes comments by DCRA and the city=s office of the attorney general. One more comment on that- many of the changes that are proposed are - have to do with how - what one calls a code and the use of certain terms like Aexception,@ Asection,@ and Asubsection.@ I=ve met with several

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subcommittees over the past month, and I'm encouraging each of you not to get involved of that level of detail, and people here at the front table are going to be looking to several of you who are more gifted, linguistically, than we are at code writing to figure out how to deal with this as a global issue for the entire code.

And once these are dealt with, as those of you that were part of our process the last time will remember, we sent the whole document back out before it was in its final version for review by anyone who was so interested. So we're thinking that that process makes sense again. Before we go to amendment voting, I wanted to introduce Linda Argo to speak, or just to say a word - or at least to stand up as the interim director at DCRA for whom we owe the B

MS. ARGO: Hi. Oh, there are people behind the poles. Hello, people behind the poles, sorry. Thank you. I appreciate being here. I've been in the role of interim director at DCRA for less than four weeks. I think it's four weeks tomorrow. I'm counting by the hour. And I have had a meeting with Jerrily Kress and other folks that are involved in the update of the codes, and one of the things that I did with her just as recently as a couple days ago was to reassert the commitment of the department to getting the codes updated according to the schedule that has been put forth,

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and to continue B well, really not continue, but to sort of reassert our commitment to have members of our inspections and our plan review staff be B participate fully in the workings of the subcommittees as well.

I reasserted that commitment I think just yesterday or the day before. And to continue with and uphold the commitments that we=ve made for any other support to the board and to the work that you=re doing. It=s very important to me. I just came from a meeting with the city administrator, Mr. Tangherlini, and told him I was on my way over here. And wanted him to know as well of our continued work with the BCAC to get these codes updated and in an expeditious fashion.

And Jerrily knows and you know that you can come to me if there=s work that you=re seeing that isn=t getting done or if there=s attendance that=s flagging at any of the subcommittee meetings. I know our staff is committed as well. If there hasn=t been robust attendance at the subcommittee or participation at the subcommittee meetings, I think there will be in the future. And it=s not for lack of interest or commitment sometimes. It=s a lot to juggle. We have a lot of B if any of you know DCRA, our plates are very full. And sometimes we don=t do as good a job as we could at organizing our schedules and calendars to do the things that are really

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important and that have sustaining value.

So we=ll be doing that. And I want to make sure to introduce B and if you have any questions for me, I=ll be glad to answer them. I don=t want to take up time right now. I want to introduce our new chief building inspector, who is also fluent in the art of the code. And I=ll let him tell you maybe a little about B he started Monday. So B but he=s jumped in with both feet. His name is Don Masoero, and he comes to us from the state of Washington. Maybe we=ll be a state someday too and we can say Athe state of Washington.@ That=s another agenda item.

But I=ll let him - if I may - just tell you a little bit about his background so that you=ll understand how important he=s going to be to us in the process of working on the codes this year.

MR. MASOERO: Good morning. I=m Don Masoero, and I=m actually a retired public building official from the west coast. Out of retirement now to come and work in this lovely city. I=m a certified building official, certified plans examiner, etcetera, etcetera. I=ve been involved in the International Conference of Building Officials on subcommittees, and I=ve chaired their plumbing code TAG committees, Technical Advisory Group committees is what we call them back there.

We have the State Building Code Council, which is

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the parallel to this committee here. And I've been the head of two committees, the fire code committee and the mechanical code committee for that group over the years. So I'm very familiar with the process. I've been a class A voting member for ICBO, and of course when they transitioned into ICC, likewise. And we have yet to accomplished that, and this is my third day, as Linda pointed out, so we have some things to put together. But the B I'm a huge proponent of the IC, and we're stepping into the performance era of construction, for all the architects out there and everything.

That's what they wanted seven years ago. I was in Colorado when we voted and made the change. And we did away with the prescriptive, costly mechanism of the uniform codes. And that was the book of codes over on this coast. So not to knock them, they're still out there doing a good job, but the ICC method of the family of codes, as everybody understands and recognizes, is dying to get rid of any conflicts and duplications. And you're supposed to be able to sit down with five books and build an Empire State Building.

And it's our job to look at the local differences in the District and modify that code to our needs on behalf of the structural fire, life, safety and sanitation requirements for our community. So that's kind of a background on me, and I'll be

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actively involved on some committees, or my folks will. I guess we are now - do we have membership on some of your subcommittees?

MR. FETTERMAN: It is vital that you participate.

MR. MASOERO: Yes, I understand. But do we presently have?

MR. FETTERMAN: Some of your coworkers are very active in a number of subcommittees.

MR. MASOERO: Perfect.

MR. FETTERMAN: And we're looking B we need that to continue, and we need all of your good dedicated people helping us out, because we realize that those of us who are architects and engineers use the code, but you and your department are the people that look at this on a daily basis and can advise us on what works and what doesn't work. And that amount of participation in several aspects of the code was missing during our last code cycle. And we have asserted that that can't continue.

MR. MASOERO: Right. Well, and I appreciate that, and I'm here for you. That's my job. Also, as we go into the lead area of the architectural industry and green construction, it's huge. And for those of you who are fighting it, don't fight it, because it's here. And it's unique. It's unique when you get a lead certified architect working on this thing and listen to them talk, it's

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Ajeez, why didn't we think of that before?@ And so we're heading in another direction, and it's an ongoing training session, and we're all going to have to learn. And so with that, I'll B you can tell that I don't talk much, so I'll turn it back over. Thank you, glad to be here.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, Don. And thank you very much, Linda, for taking the time from your busy schedule to say a few words to us. I know you may need to duck out of here because of everything on your plate, and I wanted to leave with those of you a couple of things, and Linda, you know where to put them, or with whom to assign this. At the B couple more administrative matters - at the B late last year, when several of us were participating in the last aspects of the green building law that went into effect recently, in early March, DCRA representatives stood up in the meeting, Linda, and said that there were two aspects of the code that were being revised that had been amended by us.

And one has to do with signage, and we're very aware of the emergency signage aspects that have come to some members of this committee and have been published in the DC Register, so we understand that very clearly. However, it's my recollection B and I'm joined now by Jerrily Kress, our chair, and she may be able to help my aging mind - my recollection is at that

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meeting in November, we were told that the government was also looking at revisions to group occupancies. And now that we have all of the DCRA-approved changes, I don't see anything from that in here. And if that is a goal, we would certainly want to make sure that it is addressed.

And I apologize, Linda, for burdening you with that, but I don't know where to ask that question. Did anyone have any questions for the head of DCRA while she's here? Again, thank you very much.

MR. MASOERO: What is your target date for adoption of the 2006 editions?

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. We have a goal by legislation to have amendments presented to the city council by the first day of January, 2008. And sitting up at this table is Sara Bardin, and Sara has some information that she can get to you, which includes a proposed time table that was distributed at an earlier meeting that we're all working towards. Basically, in a nutshell, we realize we until the B we're trying to turn all of this over to DCRA sometime in November. We realize that that gives DCRA very little time for the type of review that they would like to do.

So each of our subcommittees are doing their best to get amendments in and acted on before then. And once entire

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chapters of the code are amended, we're hoping that DCRA can start looking at chapters. And that would include not only your technical people, but people from the office of the attorney general, so that at the end of November, you don't suddenly have six month task ahead of you. And we're very much trying to make this work, and we'll know once we've completed it how successful we have been.

MR. MASOERO: All right, I appreciate that. The B and just as an offhand comment, are you aware that the rest of the country is adopting on July 1?

MR. FETTERMAN: We are aware of that, yes.

MR. MASOERO: Okay, because B I just - for the record, and for the next cycle, that puts a tremendous burden on us to properly train our people and to keep the ongoing training, because we're going to be hit with the 2009 edition next year.

MR. FETTERMAN: That's right.

MR. MASOERO: And so it kind of puts a real quirk in our training plans and whatnot, so I just wanted to - being the newcomer on the block, I get to ask some dumb questions.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you for the questions. They're not dumb. This group had committed to DCRA to begin working on the 2006 code when it was distributed to the public in February of 2006. And that didn't happen. Unless there are any

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more comments of an administrative nature, and I'll ask at the end as well, I'd like to move to voting on amendments. And today we have eleven existing structures amendments that were introduced at our last meeting. And if I could turn the floor over to Joan Stogis, the chair of the existing structure subcommittee, to guide us through these amendments.

Each of you were encouraged to print them out and bring them with you. We do have a couple copies here if people don't have them, but if you all rush the table, only the first ten are going to get a copy.

MS. STOGIS: This is Joan Stogis. I'm the chair of the existing structures subcommittee. These are amendments which were introduced at the April meeting of this group. The first one, amendment EX-1 - and most of these are more administrative in nature than substantive. EX-1 and - I'm not sure - there may have been confusion in distribution. It should be simply a one-page amendment which states that the administration and enforcement of existing building code shall be governed by chapter one of title A of the District of Columbia municipal regulations. That is to say the unified chapter one, which the issues and policies committee adopts, will govern the existing building code.

There may have been some additional pages that

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were distributed. Those were not intended to be part of the amendment. They were simply some guidance to the issues and polices committee on language which, in one form or another needs to be incorporated in that unified chapter one. So if that clears that up, I would like to move the adoption of amendment EX-1-1.

MS. KRESS: Is there any discussion?

MR. FETTERMAN: Any discussion on EX-1-1? It=s been moved and seconded. Again, these are B we=re asking for votes from the people who are already mayor-appointed members of the Building Code Advisory Committee, of which we need nine of us in the room to have a quorum. All in favor, raise your hand. All opposed? Twenty in favor. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I don=t see any abstentions. So amendment one passes. And you could certainly combine several of these in one vote if you feel so moved.

MS. STOGIS: I think they should go quickly.

MR. FETTERMAN: Okay, thank you.

MS. STOGIS: Next amendment is EX-2. Chapter two is the definitions chapter. EX-2-1 modifies two of the definitions in this chapter for consistency with the B what I continue to call the home-start legislation. Sean, you can probably tell me what the correct name is. But with previously passed DC laws. I

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move adoption of EX-2-1.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. A second? Gail Montplaisir seconds it. Any discussion? Seeing none, we call for a vote. All those in favor of EX-2-1, raise your hand please. Any other discussion on this amendment? Seeing none, let's B it's been moved and seconded. Let's B please raise your hand if you are in favor of this amendment. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I see no abstentions. The motion carries.

MS. STOGIS: EX-2-2 is again a definition. In this case we are adding a new definition. And this allows - permits the use of the - resource A in the international existing buildings code to establish fire ratings for archaic materials and assemblies, which are not rated in the usual modern UL books of various sorts. This is something we have done in DC as long as I've been involved in this process, which is the early nineties. And it's, I think, been a valuable tool for the city.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Will you move -

MS. STOGIS: I'll move adoption of amendment EX-2-2.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Do I have a second? Gail Montplaisir. Discussion on this amendment? Seeing none, we'll call for a vote. All those in favor of EX-2-2, raise your

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hand please. Thank you. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I see no abstentions. The motion carries. Thank you.

MS. STOGIS: The next amendment is EX-2-3. And this adds a new definition of a retroactive requirement, which is a provision applying to an existing building regardless of whether any repair, alteration, change of occupancy, addition, or relocation is performed. This relates to the chapter on retroactive provisions for existing elevators. Now - which has not yet been resubmitted. It will be next month. We're finding we have to do a number of things like this. If for some reason that chapter on existing elevators is not adopted, well we would go back and get rid of this definition, because it would be irrelevant. But because of our time frame, we're asking that BCAC move through these with the assumption that something in that area of retroactive provisions will be adopted. And if it's not, we'll just have to come back and delete it. If we let everything hang until we're perfectly coordinated, it will probably be next year sometime.

And you'll find B as I know with my subcommittee and probably with others - you'll find, probably, some similar conundrums like that coming through where we have to move now on what we anticipate will happen and go back and revisit it if it doesn't. So I'd like to move the adoption of amendment EX-2-3.

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MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, do I have a second? Art seconded it. Any discussion on 2-3?

MS. KRESS: Yes, I=d like to ask, where is the B I=m sorry, Jerrily Kress - on the retroactive requirement, it is in the body itself where and how and when it becomes retroactive - this is just the definition?

MS. STOGIS: This is simply the definition, since that is not defined in either the existing building code or the international building code - well, I didn=t really have access to other construction terminology. But since we couldn=t find it in the obvious sources, we thought we ought to clarify what it means, since it=s the kind of term that can be used in different ways by different people.

MS. KRESS: My question remains - at what point, when we adopt the codes, does the retroactive requirement go into effect?

MS. STOGIS: If we adopt what would become chapter sixteen as part of the existing building code, then it would go into effect with that building code.

MR. FETTERMAN: And remember there were B in chapter sixteen, there were times given for certain of the amendments that had high dollar value to them, how long someone had to B

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MS. STOGIS: Actually, there=s time for all of them. Chapter sixteen had - was it twelve or fourteen - technical safety related issues with existing elevators that the elevator subcommittee and the existing structure subcommittee felt needed to be rectified. And for each one of them there is a time table. There is also the alternative compliance plan, which is used for a couple of other purposes in DC by which a building owner can go to DC and ask for a deferred - longer time to fulfil it or some equivalent way in which they=re making the appropriate B taking the appropriate measures.

MR. FETTERMAN: Any other discussion on 2-3? Seeing none, we=ll call the question. All those in favor of 2-3, please raise your hand. Thank you. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? One abstention. Thank you.

MS. STOGIS: Next amendment is EX-3-1, and here I should say that chapter three of the 2006 existing building code is a new chapter, which they=ve titled prescriptive compliance methods. And what the ICC did is they took the prescriptive section of chapter thirty four from the building code and brought it in as chapter three, so it represents one of the paths you can take in determining code compliance for an existing building. And the amendment that=s proposed here is on that we have had in DC codes back to the early nineties for existing buildings and have also had in the amendments

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to the 2003 existing building code, which allows a reduction in live loads for buildings built before July 1st, 1925, and I've been asking exactly what that date represents and no one has been able to think enough time's gone by there's no historical memory there.

I believe that is when the first DC building code came into effect, although I'm not positive. But it gives the code official some flexibility in live load for buildings built before 1925. I move the adoption of amendment EX-3-1.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Do I have a second? Bellur Ravishankar has seconded. Discussion on 3-1? Seeing none.

MS. KRESS: Jerrily Kress. Did you know this has been in effect for a very long time.

MS. STOGIS: For a very long time, and in the previous cycle Howard Gibbs and I discussed it and he agreed to go forward. I have not heard back from him this time, but there's nothing I know that would change it.

MS. KRESS: Okay, thank you.

MR. FETTERMAN: Marc Fetterman. My earliest knowledge is the '72 code, and it was in there then. But I don't know when they introduced it. Any other comments? Norman?

MR. SMITH: Norman Smith. I just have a brief

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question. Placards should be an approved design. Is that something that we want to try to nail down anymore to eliminate any interpretation issues on that, or is there sort of a de facto standard that has always been abided by?

MS. STOGIS: The sentence you're referring to is in the basic ICC text, and I don't know of any reason to change that. It's the next sentence, which is underlined, which is the proposed DC amendment.

MR. SMITH: That's the proposed DC amendment, okay. Okay, thank you.

MR. FETTERMAN: Do I have another in need of the microphone? Any other comments? Seeing none, we'll call the question. All those in favor of 3-1. All those opposed? I see none. Any abstention? I see no abstentions. The motion carries.

MS. STOGIS: Amendment EX-3-2 relates to accessibility requirements contained in chapter three, and I might add, the last amendment, this one you'll see coming up again in another chapter, because the ICC has defined chapter three as a separate path than what they're calling the prescriptive compliance path, whereas chapters four through twelve are what they call the work area path. And so these two amendments need to appear in two different places.

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What this is - and again, this is one of these things that may require later coordination - in the last cycle the accessibility committee wrote a local amendment having to do with power door operators at main entrance doors in new buildings. And since we basically B the ICC references the B is it chapter eleven, the accessibility language of the IBC - with local amendments, in reviewing it for existing buildings we felt this would be an undue burden if in an alteration project you were not altering the main entrance. If you were doing tenant work on the fifth floor, it=s not really feasible or practical to change the main public entrance door down on the ground level.

So that was the reason for this amendment. I=d like to move the adoption of EX-3-2.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, do I have a second? Sonny Yeatman has seconded. Any discussion on 3-2? Yes, Bellur?

MR. RAVISHANKAR: Thank you. Bellur Ravishankar, DCRA. A couple of things. The boxes are not checked as to what is the B is it the revision. You say, I think, it=s highlighted as a revision. In the copy that I have it=s not checked. And the same thing at the bottom, the cost is increasing, decreasing, or negligible. And the question that I have is, in a scenario where the

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building is gutted, even though they may not be doing the front entrance to the building gutted except for the four exterior walls, how do we consider this thing?

MS. STOGIS: There is a local amendment in B which has been in the chapter for level three alterations, which is when you do more than fifty percent of the building, which says - and I'm paraphrasing - if you gut the building down to the structural frame and the exterior skin, treat it as a new building. So that would, I would think, supercede this requirement. I think in the practical world where this has happened to many office buildings in DC, usually they're substantially changing the skin and the entrances too as part of that kind of updating.

MR. RAVISHANKAR: What about historic buildings?

MS. STOGIS: Historic buildings there's a historic building chapter, which would B

MR. FETTERMAN: And chapter one, Bellur, says that you can - if you have an historic building - that you can meet with code officials and with Office of Planning to go through these issues.

MS. STOGIS: And in response to your first question, what I had done is highlighted the B instead of checking,

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because I'm too illiterate to figure out how to use the check box, but it is a revised B it's revising the section in our terms. I know the office of the attorney general put different terminology on it. And obviously this would decrease cost if you didn't have to provide the power door.

MR. FETTERMAN: And Bellur B oh, thank you, you had a comment?

MS. STEWART: This is Rhonda Stewart from the mayor's committee on persons with disabilities, and I wanted to comment about the cost of allowing power doors. If they're going to construct power doors anyway, is it an undue burden?

MS. STOGIS: Well, part of the problem - our most typical building type, larger building types in DC, are office buildings and apartment buildings. And typically these are multi-tenant. And if I'm the law firm up on the fifth floor and I'm renovating my offices, I don't have control over the main entrance, nor do I have any obligation to pay for anything that happens in the main entrance. Is this ideal, probably not. It was B we did work it through with the accessibility subcommittee the last time around. And I've sent it to Samantha McAskill this time. I haven't heard back from her. I know we're all focusing on our core amendments.

MR. FETTERMAN: Yes, and in your agenda, if you

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have one, at the bottom of page two is Samantha=s email and telephone contact list. And many of us who were part of the previous cycle asked the same kinds of good questions and we want to continue to try to figure out what the right way to go ahead is. So when we get to the accessibility subcommittee, Samantha=s not here today, but I=ll be able to offer a brief report on her behalf. But please get in touch with that subcommittee about that issue.

MS. STOGIS: Yes, and again, consider this a placeholder. If the accessibility committee passes an amendment for new buildings, similar to the one they did last time, this seemed to us like an appropriate modification for existing buildings. If the accessibility committee does something quite different, then we may have to come back and revisit this, and we certainly would. We=ve had a very cooperative working relationship with the accessibility subcommittee.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Anymore questions or comments? Yes?

MR. NOBLE: Denzil Noble, representing myself. On the modification here, I agree with Bellur. There should be some language here that would point you back to a building when it=s completely gutted. Because what=s going to happen in a situation like this, someone is going to look at an existing building. And the

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reviewers would have to be looking at - and saying well, you can't look at section one. And I think there should be some language here to say except for, just as you said, except where the entrances B or where the building is being gutted or is a class three. Add in something there to B

MS. STOGIS: I would like to take that back and look at it, Denzil and Bellur. I guess I'm having a little trouble relating to it because this chapter three, which is the old language lifted from chapter thirty four of the building code, I haven't been focused on as much. If you would like, I'll be glad to review that with the subcommittee and bring it back to you the next time.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. We'll table this amendment 3-2. Thank you, Denzil and Bellur. 4-1.

MS. STOGIS: All right, 4-1. This is a chapter in the existing building code which scopes out all of the chapters that follow it. And the changes here are purely administrative, to insert chapter sixteen, which B if we pass it will be the retroactive provisions for existing elevators. And the second deletion, ~~strikeout~~ and underline is to refer B this reference which was here is to section B chapter one of the existing building code. Since we've just deleted it, this will refer to the appropriate section of the chapter one, which is part of the building - the unified chapter one, I think of it as

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- which is part of the building code.

Again, it's the kind of thing, if the section number winds up changing, we're going to have to coordinate that later on. But that's the reason behind the two changes. I move the adoption of amendment EX-4-1.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, do I have a second? Art will second it. Any discussion on 4-1? Seeing none, we'll call the question. All those in favor of 4-1, please raise your hand. Thank you. All opposed. I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I see no abstentions. The motion carries.

MS. STOGIS: Amendment EX-4-2 creates scoping paragraphs B scoping section - for chapter sixteen. Again, this assumes we will adopt chapter sixteen, whatever its content may be. And so it's really entirely administrative in nature. I move the adoption of amendment EX-4-2.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Do I have a second? John Devlin has seconded. Do I have discussion on this amendment before we vote? Seeing none, we'll call the question. All those in favor of 4-2, please raise your hand. Thank you. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I don't see any abstentions. The motion carries.

MS. STOGIS: We're on to chapter five now. This

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is the repairs chapter. And amendment EX-5-1 adds some structural requirements, and this is exactly what we passed the last time around, and you will recognize the second exception with the buildings before 1925.

MR. FETTERMAN: And you'll move this adoption?

MS. STOGIS: And I move the adoption of 5-1.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Do I have second? Maria Queirlo. Any discussion on 5-1? Yes, please Don. Here's the microphone.

MR. MASOERO: Don Masoero, DCRA. Why is it that second time we're saying this in the code? We just passed an amendment prior. I see that as a duplication.

MS. STOGIS: Because the scoping sections make chapters five through sixteen a separate path from chapter three.

MR. FETTERMAN: A performance based path as opposed to B

MS. STOGIS: Well, or a work area based path. For instance, they have virtually the same accessibility requirements in chapter three and chapter five, as it happens. While chapters five, repairs, alterations, level one, level two, level three - each one builds on the other - none of them reference back to chapter three. I'm probably not nearly as knowledgeable in code writing as you, but it

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seemed to our subcommittee that since it didn't refer back to chapter three, we needed to state the requirement over again.

MR. MASOERO: Okay.

MR. FETTERMAN: Don, I think you had helped me understand this, that chapter three is newly introduced in the existing building code during this cycle, as a new path.

MR. MASOERO: That is correct, yes. It could have been handled in the general sense in chapter one of the IBC and referred to that. But it was just a question. It's just kind of more paperwork. We may catch it the next time around, maybe.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Any other comments? Seeing none, we'll call the question. All those in favor of 5-1? Thank you. All opposed? Seeing none opposed, any abstentions? Seeing no abstentions, the motion carries. Two more to go, people.

MS. STOGIS: The next proposed amendment is EX-6-1. And we are now moving into the alterations level one, which, for those of you who don't deal with existing buildings all the time, this has been described to me as the face lift alteration. You're not adding or deleting windows or doors, you're not moving partitions and walls around. And the B put in one amendment two subsections, EX604-2 is language which again we have had in the DC code for

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existing buildings since at least the early nineties. It permits the continuation of the use of exit access corridors as air return plenums under certain limited conditions.

And I am told - and I know when this was first created there were people from DCRA who were intimately familiar with the buildings around the city who said this is a condition which exists in a number of locations. And subject to these four safeguards, we should continue to allow it to exist. The second half of that EX604-3, allowance of fire resistance upgrading, is to try and remove a kind of a catch-22, where you may have a stair or an exist access corridor which is at minimum width and which doesn't have a rating, and in order to improve the rating you want to add a layer of fire-rated gyp board, but whoops, you've suddenly brought the width of the corridor down to substandard.

So this is to give a tolerance that, in order to improve a rating which you're required to improve, you accept the narrowing a corridor or stair by the width of gyp board, basically. Again, we have been using this in DC for a good long period of time.

And I make that comment that it's been around forever with some trepidation because I know that's not an ideal justification. I think there may be some of these things that, in a more leisurely cycle we would like to look again at and see if we still need them. However, it

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was the subcommittee=s feeling that under the time pressure we=re on, unless we=re quite sure that something is unnecessary and that nothing would be lost by deleting it, we=re proposing to carry some of these forward.

MR. FETTERMAN: And you=ll move for its B

MS. STOGIS: I=ll move for the adoption of EX-6-1.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, do I have second? Art. Thank you. Any discussion on 6-1? Seeing none, we=ll call the question. All those in favor of 6-1? Thank you. All opposed? I see none opposed. Any abstentions? I see no abstentions. The motion carries. Thank you.

MS. STOGIS: EX-6-2 will look familiar to you. This is the same language about accessibility related, about the power operated doors, and I would suggest that we table it and bring it back with the questions that were asked previously.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you.

MS. STOGIS: And that=s it for today.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much, Joan.

MS. STOGIS: Than you, one and all.

MR. FETTERMAN: We=ve now voted on every amendment that had been submitted at a meeting prior to this

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meeting, and we=ll now go, as you see in your agenda, into the next phase of the meeting, where each of the subcommittees has an opportunity to report. And during that report, each subcommittee will introduce new amendments, which can be considered by this group at our following regularly scheduled meeting at the earliest.

The first subcommittee is accessibility. And I would like to report for that subcommittee. I spoke with Samantha McAskill, who is still getting her subcommittee together. They have the same task that we all have, which is to look at the amendments that we passed the last time and see if they are still valid. Many of you are more fluent in accessibility issues than I. But my understanding from Samantha is that we are using the same ANCI 117.1 that we used the last time, because it is still the version in effect.

And ADAG, which has had proposed revisions to it for a number of years, still has proposed revisions to it. So the main task that accessibility has is looking at 2006 code and seeing how many of our proposed amendments got adopted by ICC. I know, to our credit, at least one did where they=ve raised the number of accessible entrances in a building from fifty percent to sixty percent, so in at least one area we have been ahead of the curve, and I believe we=ll be able to drop that amendment.

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If any of you are interested in serving on the accessibility subcommittee, as I mentioned, Samantha McAskill's contact information is on your agenda, and I encourage your participation. Because this has been an area that has been thoughtfully discussed whenever amendments come up.

Construction is the second subcommittee, and I'm afraid you'll have to listen to me again. Armando is the chair of that subcommittee, and we are both a member of that subcommittee and construction, to help Don and other newcomers - as defined by Byron Black, construction subcommittee handles everything that is not related to fire and life safety and yet is in the building code. So it handles fascinating subjects like signage, fences, and there's supposed to be a guffaw after signage - and similar items like that.

Issues and policies is meeting with construction, and I am the chair during this code cycle of that subcommittee. We met a couple weeks ago. Our next meeting is the seventh of June at Lourenco Consultants Office on upper Connecticut Avenue. We have met, so far, three times. And a plea to poor Lennox Douglas, who I know is swamped in his new work, but we really need his attendance at this meeting. And if there are other DCRA people that would be able to help on this subcommittee, your participation would be wonderful.

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Because as I said, the issues and policies part is chapter one. And during our last code cycle where we finished our work in August of '05, we were B did not have any regular participation from DCRA, and we really want this code to be what works and what doesn't work. And so with that plug, I will B I have nothing else to report, and didn't know if there were any questions on accessibility, construction, or issues and policies from the floor. If so, I'd be happy to answer them. Seeing none, I'll turn it over to Frank Becker for electrical.

MR. BECKER: We have two amendments that the electrical subcommittee wants to introduce. The first amendment is an amendment that's been in the code supplement for since at least 1946. It's been modified several times over the years. The District of Columbia has so much truck traffic and vibration in the street, the utility company is continually upgrading transformers in the street and changing power that comes into the building, and pieces and parts inside the building get loose. So we have this amendment for switch boards - over a thousand amps - that they need to be maintained, cleaned. The amendment's pretty self-explanatory.

The second amendment is an amendment that came in through the inspectors. And I know there are some questions on it. And what the inspectors were saying was when a commercial

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establishment upgraded or did a service-heavy up, put it in a bigger box, since we no longer have the requirement in the District to have fuses - screw fuses for the fire alarm system - the electricians, when they're doing these heavy ups, are putting the fire alarm system on circuit breakers downstream from the main. And in some instances, other circuits in the building are on with the fire alarm system. And they shut the circuit off for maintenance, and fire alarm system's off in a commercial establishment. And it's caused inspectors some angst.

It's clearly a code violation for the electricians to do this, however, the inspectors thought that if we added it to the code, specifically telling them that they must tie the fire alarm system ahead of the main when they do a service change, it would be better for the inspectors. They wouldn't have to slap the hands of the contractors. So that's the second amendment that we came up with.

It's only applicable when it's an existing fire alarm system, there is no battery backup, and it's line voltage. So other than that there's enough battery to make everything work. Fire, life, safety, if they've got any questions.

MR. FETTERMAN: So Frank, this is an historic system then?

MR. BECKER: This is an historic system, and the

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historic electric service needed to be upgraded.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. We=ll discuss this at our next meeting.

MR. BECKER: Right, those are the two being introduced today.

MR. FETTERMAN: And can you tell us when your committee meets and where it meets so that any interested people could participate, or at a minimum, when it next meets?

MR. BECKER: At this point, we went through all of the changes that we have reviewed the last time at the subcommittee meeting in Mohammed's office, and unless we=re given referred amendments, we don=t plan to have to meet again. We want to celebrate and have lunch together as soon as all this gets approved.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much, and congratulations. Thank you, Mohammed. As I said, we=ll discuss these amendments at our next time before voting just as we did with Joan=s amendments. Elevators are the next subcommittee. If I could ask Sonny to B

MR. YEATMAN: The elevator subcommittee is working diligently with existing buildings. All their amendments will be coming under Ms. Jones= existing buildings committee next month to be voted on in July. And we meet the first Wednesday of

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every month, 9600 Martin Luther King Highway, Lanham, Maryland.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much, Sonny. Michael? Energy.

MR. NEGUSSIE: Hi. We meet every second Thursday at 2 o'clock. And we have some amendments that we're working on, including on efficiencies, but we have to meet with mechanical. We need some of their feedback. And also with the fire and safety, so by next month we'll have something for you. We meet at the same place, 2000 14th Street, Suite 335.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, Michael. Existing structures.

MS. STOGIS: Joan Stogis, existing structures. You'll see listed on page three another batch of existing structures amendments which are being introduced today. I believe they were emailed to everyone yesterday. And we'll discuss them at the next meeting. We expect to have one more batch of amendments, and then we'll be at the point where I'm sure we'll need to coordinate a lot of things, or you may send us back to the drawing board on some. We meet typically the second Wednesday of the month from ten to noon across the hall of the zoning offices. So our next meeting will be June 13th. However, exceptionally, our July meeting will July

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25th. And I think that=s about it.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you Joan. Property maintenance is the next subcommittee. And Joan=s subcommittee on existing structures is hoping to be able to deal with these issues once their subcommittee=s work is completed. During the last code cycle, I had the opportunity to provide these amendments, and I=m looking forward to not having to do that again. We had before been interested in getting input from DCRA=s housing people on these amendments, and at the right time I know that Joan and I will be reaching out to those of you with that expertise to help us make sure that our amendments our relevant to your work and to our city.

Jerrily, who=s much more versed than I in how to conduct a meeting has suggested, Joan, that we read the amendments that existing structures is introducing, and I=ll be happy to do that quickly, since I=m already at a microphone.

The amendments that existing structures is introducing today as noted on our agenda are: EXF-1, EX7-1, EX7-2, EX7-3, EX10-1, EX14-1, EXPM-2, EXB-1, and EXB-2. To help you, the way that Joan and Sara have worked this out, the letter that follows B if there=s a letter that follows EX, it refers to the building code in which that amendment would be placed. So one of them has a F, meaning fire code. There=s a PM for the property maintenance

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code, and the last two are B, which would go in the building code.

Thank you, Jerrily.

MR. DEVLIN: The fire and life safety committee has had three meetings to date. We're meeting now twice a month. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at the address noted in the handout. We have now moved to a second meeting each month, which is before this meeting, which would be the third Wednesday of each month from eight to ten a.m., and it's at the DC Fire and EMS Fire Marshall's office.

To date, we've made good progress. We do not have any code change proposals to submit today. We will be submitting quite a few coming up at the next committee meeting.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, John, and my records show that our next meeting for fire and life safety is May 31st at ten o'clock.

MR. DEVLIN: Yes, because May is a five week month and the fact that we've got almost three and a half weeks before our next meeting, we're having a special meeting on Thursday, the 31st of May at ten a.m. at our typical location on 20th Street. So anyone interested, we'll see you there.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much. Issues and policies I've already reported on. Mechanical is the next

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subcommittee. I don't see Milton here, but is there anyone else from that subcommittee that's able to report today? Bellur?

MR. RAVISHANKAR: Bellur Ravishankar from DCRA. We did meet last month for initial introduction of the committee members. We do have a meeting tomorrow at ten o'clock at 441 4th Street, NW, for the subcommittee on mechanical, plumbing, boiler and fuel gas. And probably we'll be introducing some amendments in the upcoming meeting.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much. As those of you that are new to our process B a couple of subcommittees, as Bellur has suggested, have been meeting in unison simply because of the overlap that they have. And historically this has included mechanical, plumbing and fuel gas, for obvious reasons, Bellur has also taken care of in this group. And historically, these discussions have been shared with energy subcommittee. However, during this cycle, energy is meeting on their own. But of course will be coordinating with each of these groups.

Our next subcommittee is plumbing. I have the report on that. I spoke with John Puchala, the chair of the subcommittee, yesterday. His contact information is in your agenda at the top of page four. He is looking to use the same resources of personnel that were used during the last code cycle, during which he

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participated. And they have yet to have a meeting, but as those of you that are familiar with our work the last time recall, the number of plumbing amendments were not many, and he=s looking forward to that same goal this time.

So if you have any questions or would like to be involved in the plumbing subcommittee, please get in touch John. John is aware that his amendments will be into us if they=re to be considered during this code cycle by the end of July. The next subcommittee which has a report and an introduction of a number of amendments is the residential subcommittee, chaired by John Stovall.

MR. STOVALL: Sara was very kind to edit the change proposals that we submitted. And I don=t know if everybody has received a copy of them. I have fourteen additional copies here if anyone would like a copy. I=ll set them up on the table here and they can pick them up before they leave. There are twenty four change proposals that we have submitted. The first group of proposals, one through ten, are proposals that were submitted last cycle for the 2003 code and are repeats of that and are still necessary under the 2006 version.

The proposals R-11, 12, 13, and 14, and R-22 and R-23 are proposals basically based on National Association of

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Homebuilders= recommendations. And they are proposals that we have been introducing in the various counties of Maryland also. And a number have also been adopted in Virginia, and we=ll obviously go over them in detail when we vote on them. The proposals R-15 through R-21 were actually approved at the ICC hearings at Orlando. And we feel are important and cost-saving additions that can be added to the DC code at this time.

And R-24 really is a very cost-effective sheathing alternative that is fully justified in a three-page handout that is attached to the report. And we=ll look forward to voting on them next month.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you John. Do you have a next meeting scheduled?

MR. STOVALL: We have a meeting scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, and it=s at the Maryland National Capital Building, Industry Association Office, which is on Elton Road, and I=m sorry I don=t have that specific address. If anyone wants to contact me, I=ll be happy to confirm the meeting time - it=s normally at 8:30 B and the address for them.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. One issue I want to raise in our goal of transparency here, during our last code cycle, many of you may recall a lively discussion on the appropriateness of

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sprinklering single family houses in the District that are detached. And as a result of a number of presentations and discussions at the subcommittee and at the full committee level, that amendment was approved the last time. As I understand it from the residential subcommittee, they do not recommend putting that amendment forward. I know there are those of us in the room that feel both ways about this, and what I've suggested to John is that this be an issue that we discuss during this code cycle, but let's try to get to the things that we're in complete agreement with out of the way.

And those of you that feel strongly one way or the other are certainly urged to contact the residential committee or Jerrily or myself, or simply speak up at an appropriate time during our full committee meetings. Yes, Scott?

MR. VANDAME: Scott Vandame, AFAA. Just a question, I noticed some of the residential proposals are for the building code and fire code means of egress sections, which the fire protection subcommittee is looking at and I think some of the changes may be affecting these same sections. I'm wondering if we want to do that twice or try to get these together.

MR. FETTERMAN: Well, I think that's a very good point.

MR. STOVALL: I think that is a good point. And

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yesterday, when I submitted these for publication, I contacted John and stated I=d be at your next meeting. And we=d basically go over them together, and my notion is that we=re saving time by putting them in now, and if we come to some change at that meeting, we can introduce that change at our next BCAC meeting.

MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Any other questions on residential? Thank you. Seeing none, our next subcommittee is structural, and do I have anyone here from that subcommittee? I didn=t think so. I=ve tried to reach Howard Gibbs and left messages for him, and have so far been unsuccessful, but I will continue to try. On the sustainable subcommittee, Charles Bergen called me late last night after realizing he had a funeral of a beloved professor to attend this morning. And that=s the reason he=s not with us.

But I can B is there anyone from that subcommittee that would like to give a brief report? Or if not, I could summarize where the subcommittee is. Thank you. The committee is meeting monthly, as you see in the agenda. And Charles= contact information is in there. They have divided sustainable issues into two groups. The first group being those minimum requirements that are needed to meet the green building law that went into effect in March. And the second B and those issues will be brought forward

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and submitted as amendments first.

The second group are those that fall B that are described later in the green building law as green building practices that are practical. And all of you, I'm sure, know that leaves things very wide open for interpretation and thought, and there are a group of committed people who are trying to understand what those might be and how many might be introduced to the city as part of this code cycle. There's another group, as some of you are aware, that was established by the green building law that is a separate task force chaired by the head of the Department of the Environment.

And I know Jerrily has been trying to get a meeting with that person and a few of us to find out how we might all coordinate our work. And I believe he had just started, and didn't think that was the right thing to do, to call him on his first day of work, even though we didn't mind doing that to Linda Argo or to Don. So we will be in touch with this new head of the Department of the Environment. Hawkins is the last name, thank you.

Those are the reports on the subcommittees. Our next meeting is June 20th, in this room at ten o'clock. And I believe that following that meeting we may find ourselves with the necessity of meeting more than once a month. And I realize we're coming into a summer season. But we are trying very hard to meet the city's

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goal of handing these sets of amendments to DCRA as soon as we can. Before we adjourn, are there any comments that anyone would like to offer the committee? Yes, Sonny?

MR. YEATMAN: Sonny Yeatman, elevators. I was wondering, have you ever thought about having a roll-call vote? Because I don=t know everybody in here. And the only people who are supposed to B have been sworn in are supposed to vote. And there are going to be some contentious amendments coming forward. I was wondering have you ever thought about having a roll-call vote.

MR. FETTERMAN: I think we=d be happy to do that. I think we feel B we recognize the faces of the people that are voting, Sonny, as being members of the subcommittee. But if B that=s certainly something we could do. John?

MR. DEVLIN: Just a suggestion, if we have to do that, we just have people sit on one side of the room versus the other.

MR. FETTERMAN: Yes, right. Or we=ll each wear hats of a different color. Thank you. Yes ma=am?

MS. STEWART: Rhonda Stewart, mayor=s committee on persons with disabilities. You=re supposed to have roll-call vote. Okay, or not a roll-call vote, but at least acknowledge the people that are on the board, and then have them raise their hands.

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MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Any other comments? Great, thank you all for coming. Meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.)

