Mr. Butch Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Dan Downs  
Kip Lathrum – Absent  
Seth McClintock  
Bill Miller  
Butch Simpson  
Rafael Valdez

Others Present:  
Don Gerjevic, Chief Electrical Inspector  
Anna Bespoyasny, Acting Superintendent of the Permits and Inspections Division  
Autumn Drickey, Board Secretary

Motion by Mr. Simpson to waive opening statement.

Motion carried by mutual consent.

II. Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Simpson to approve the minutes from July 20, 2018. Second by Mr. Seth McClintock.

AYES: Downs, McClintock, Miller, Simpson, Valdez

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved
III. Appointment of Chairman and Secretary

Mr. Don Gerjevic stated that it is up to the Board. There is discussion about returning members.

Motion by Mr. Bill Miller to appoint Butch Simpson as the Chairman. Second by Mr. Rafael Valdez.

AYES: Downs, McClintock, Miller, Simpson, Valdez

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

Motion by Mr. Simpson to appoint Dan Downs as Secretary. Second by Mr. Miller.

AYES: Downs, McClintock, Miller, Simpson, Valdez

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

IV. Discussion

There is discussion about returning members to the Electrical Board. Mr. Simpson asked about recommendations for positions that need to be filled. Ms. Anna Bespoyasny stated that a recommendation would be helpful and should be passed on to Mr. Gerjevic. Mr. Dan Downs asked how that should be done. Mr. Gerjevic stated a name and contact information would be helpful. There is discussion about what would be required to become appointed.

Mr. Gerjevic stated he wanted to address the Omaha Municipal Code and what it allows for the Electrical Board to do. He stated he would like to allow for them to do more within their power and job duties, but it would have to go through proper channels. He asked for input from the Board. He explained about licensing. Mr. McClintock asked about allowing for something other than suspending or revoking registrations for individuals who are brought before the Board. Mr. Downs stated he would like to see the decisions of this Board to be backed up and not overturned at another Board. Ms. Bespoyasny stated that it is typical that any appeal is heard by another Board. She explained the process for some other Boards. Mr. Valdez asked if there is a way to counter the appealed decision as was the instance in a previous case. Mr. Downs stated that the individuals associated with the first case who were brought before the Board for disciplinary reasons confirmed what the Board discovered during the first individual’s case. Mr. Gerjevic restated that the Board is trying to do their best and they may not feel like they get a fair shake. Ms. Bespoyasny asked what would happen if that individual were to come back before the Board. Mr. Gerjevic explained the process. There is discussion about what could happen in the future and the appeals process. There is discussion about the Board doing their job and wanting to support the inspectors. Mr. Simpson stated that was the only time a lawyer was involved from the beginning. Mr. Gerjevic recounted how there were other things that impacted that individual and that he has yet to pull a City of Omaha permit. He stated that a representative from the state contacted him about the individual. Ms. Bespoyasny asked for clarification of whether it was a registration or license. Mr. Gerjevic recounted what happened on the state level. Mr. Simpson suggested coming up with a pre-determined disciplinary action. Mr. McClintock asked about adding the ability to revoke online permitting process for those violators. There is discussion about policing those who aren’t pulling permits and doing work within the City limits. There is discussion about farming out licenses.

Mr. Gerjevic thanked the Board for their dedication and support.
Mr. Simpson asked about working on some things at home and meeting in March to discuss. Mr. Downs asked who the code changes would go before. Ms. Bespoyasny stated ultimately it would go before the Law Department, but there would be some input from the Panning department to form drafts.

Mr. Downs asked about MC cable and if there was a ruling. Mr. Gerjevic stated that a decision never came back, but it could be part of their draft and change. There is discussion about how it went previously. There is discussion about the Omaha Municipal Code that does not allow it that supersedes the National Electric Code that it is allowed. There is discussion about what it is and the view points. Ms. Bespoyasny asked if there are studies that show that it is not as effective. Mr. Gerjevic explained the listing. There is discussion about how it is installed. Mr. Downs explained the cable in detail. Ms. Bespoyasny confirmed that it is being used in other jurisdictions. Mr. Miller stated that there was speculation that some big box stores have stayed out of Omaha because it wasn’t allowed like in other jurisdictions. There is discussion about how the product has it’s place and usage. Ms. Bespoyasny asked about what the code allows for the use of this product. Mr. Gerjevic stated it is allowed with special written permission only.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Simpson to adjourn. Second by Mr. Miller.

AYES: Downs, McClintock, Miller, Simpson, Valdez

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

*Aapplicant must be present at meeting.*

A full, continually current agenda is available for public inspection in Room 1110 of the Omaha/Douglas Civic Center during normal business hours.

The Omaha Electrical Board reserves the right to modify the agenda at the public meeting. If alternative (tape) to the agenda is needed, please advise Don Gerjevic. A 72-hour notice is required.

Visit the Planning Department’s Site on the Internet at https://permits.cityofomaha.org/electrical-information