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# OSLAB Review

## Oregon State Landscape Architect Board

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### **CITY OF PORTLAND PRESENTS AT OSLAB MEETING**

Two City of Portland employees, Bill Ryan, Chief Engineer, Bureau of Environmental Services and Steven Townsen, City Engineer, joined the Work Session of the Board convened on Friday, May 8, 2009 in Salem, Oregon. The City of Portland contacted the Board regarding a scope of practice issue as to who should or could stamp certain plans and were invited to present and discuss the issue with the Board. Townsen provided historical background on how the City has dealt with runoff waters.

The city has a need to identify standard requirements for projects coming in front of the city. This includes an identification of the scope of practice. The Engineers shared that projects in Portland come under one of three different programs:

- 1) The City develops projects at a spot location.
- 2) A developer is required to fix a problem in order to move ahead with a Development.
- 3) A capitol project by the city is bid on by outside companies.

A handout was distributed which presented the multiple ways the City of Portland is working with storm water runoff through "Green Streets". The designs of four types of models were presented. A very interactive discussion occurred which confirmed that cross-pollination of registered professionals has lead to great end products in the City of Portland. The guests informed the Board that Portland is really at the cutting edge in the country for the development of Green Streets and that the City has both Landscape Architects and Engineers on paid staff.

Currently Registered Landscape Architects (RLA) are stamping plans where curbs and roadways have been modified. The City Engineer proposed to the Board that in the future the City would allow an RLA to stamp plans for work in the right-of-way from the property boundary to the curb line but a Professional Engineer must stamp plans for curb and roadway modifications, if any, within the project. The Board expressed approval of the proposal.

The Board expressed appreciation to the City staff for the very enlightening presentation.

## Using the Acronym RLA versus ASLA

From a regulatory perspective, RLA (Registered Landscape Architect) speaks of your legal right to practice landscape architecture in Oregon. As a registrant of the Oregon State Landscape Architect Board (OSLAB), you are encouraged to use the acronym RLA on your business card, on your letterhead, and with your name on the signature line. The RLA confirms to the public that you are registered to practice landscape architecture.

On the other hand, the ASLA acronym identifies you as a dues paying member of a professional organization. Individuals that use this acronym may not have met the standards required for Oregon registration as a Landscape Architect and may not be registered with OSLAB. *But*, even though the organization's acronym contains the name Landscape Architect, membership is not predicated on meeting the state registration standard. These non-RLA members of ASLA, as part of the member organization, use an acronym which could be confusing to the public. ORS 671.316 is the law behind the legal use of the words landscape architect and reads as follows:

**671.316 Registration requirement for practice of landscape architecture; registration as landscape architect in training; rules.** (1) Except as provided in this section, unless an individual is registered as a landscape architect by the State Landscape Architect Board, the individual may not engage in the practice of landscape architecture. Unless an individual is registered as a landscape architect by the board, the individual may not use the title of "landscape architect," "registered landscape architect" or "landscape architectural designer" or use other titles or any words, letters, figures, signs, cards, advertisements, symbols or other devices to represent that the individual or a business associated with the individual is authorized to practice landscape architecture.



### COMPLIANCE CASES CLOSED

Numerous compliance cases were closed at the February and May Board meetings. Many of those cases dealt with individuals advertising in the Yellow Pages under Landscape Architecture. If a business is listed under that category, it must have a Registered Landscape Architect on record. Information received directly from the Yellow Pages confirmed that they had made the decision about listing businesses under the Landscape Architect header.

Most of those businesses in violation in the Yellow Pages were landscape contracting businesses that did not authorize the advertisement. The owners were aware of the practice of landscape architecture and the laws regulating landscape architecture.

The Board also closed numerous cases from Central Oregon. Four cases involved two separate individuals not registered with the Board but being presented as providing landscape architecture services. Thanks to the diligence of registrants who reported the violations as required in the Code of Conduct, corrections have now been made so that misrepresentations about landscape architecture are removed.



**Question:** Must I stamp a set of bid documents on a project for construction?

ORS 671.379 requires that "*A registered landscape architect shall stamp and sign all final drafts for professional documents that the landscape architect issues for obtaining permits, obtaining approvals by agencies other than the board or fulfilling contractual obligations, including maps, plans, designs, contract documents and reports.*"



## OSLAB Mission Statement

To regulate the practice of landscape architecture in Oregon.

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We're on the Web  
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OSLAB's new address effective July 1, 2009:

The Association Center  
707 13<sup>th</sup> Street SE, #261  
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## Oregon State Landscape Architect Board

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## OSLAB Calendar Of Events

June 29 & 30, 2009	Office moving to new location
July 3, 2009	Fourth of July Holiday Observed (Office Closed)
August 14, 2009	OSLAB Quarterly Board Meeting, Salem, Oregon
Sept. 7, 2009	Labor Day (Office Closed)
Sept. 9, 2009	Deadline for LARE C & E Applications for Dec. exam
Sept. 10-12, 2009	CLARB National Meeting, Seattle, Washington

### PRIOR EDITIONS OF NEWSLETTER

All prior editions of the OSLAB newsletter are available for viewing at the OSLAB website. Registrants are encouraged to review prior editions of the newsletter for important information regarding Continuing Education and other topics concerning the Board. Information about Continuing Education may be of help to you in completing your PDH Log or making other continuing education decisions.