

Tri-Chapter Uniform Code Committee (TUCC)

Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2008
Milpitas City Hall
455 E. Calaveras Rd.

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. by committee co-chairperson Sheila Lee, City of Santa Clara.

1. In Attendance/Self Introductions:

*Sheila Lee, City of Santa Clara
**David Basinger, Shums Coda Associates
Keyvan Irannejad, City of Milpitas
Gary Layman, City of Dublin
James Russell, Building Codes Consultant
Ana Akin, Bureau Veritas
Jan Zhon, Bureau Veritas
Homer Maiel, City of San Jose
Kathryn Sedwick, City of San Jose
Mark Crain, City of San Jose
Matthew Fong, City of San Francisco

Mike Baird, Kutzmann and Associates
Mac Saberi, City of Palo Alto
Dennis Corbett, City of Pleasanton
Michael Richards, Foster City
Giyan Senaratne, WC3
Matin Miraftab, City of San Leandro
Mark Soltes, City of San Leandro
Leon Sheyman, City of Milpitas
Clay Salzman, Town of Danville
Tim Owens, City of Santa Clara

* Chairperson

** Secretary

+ Additional/Back-up Secretary

2. Minutes Approval:

The previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

Call to Order/Discussion of Related Topics:

Sheila opened with a group discussion of upcoming TUCC meeting schedules and whether there was enough enthusiasm from everyone to continue the efforts of the committee. There was a concern that we do not meet just for the sake of meeting, but rather to complete items that will assist the jurisdictions in the future. Keyvan urged that there should be more jurisdictional participation, as the code discussions undertaken have been extremely helpful and educational.

After an extensive conversation, the consensus was to continue with the TUCC meetings, but revise the meeting schedule and some of the procedural methods to discuss code issues affecting member jurisdictions. The proposed changes are as follows:

- With concerns for the upcoming holidays and CALBO ABM, the group will have the usual meeting date and time on December 4 (the first Thursday of the month), but starting January 2009, the meeting will be moved to the second Thursday of the month (same place and starting time at 1:15 PM).

- The minutes from the meeting will be completed and distributed to the members two weeks (or earlier) after the meetings, to help the Tucc members review and prepare for the next meeting.
- The group will attempt to resolve actions on smaller/less complicated items in a single meeting, or perhaps through an open code discussion session (towards the end of each meeting). From these discussions, items which the group deems worthy of additional discussion and review can be assigned to a sub-committee for written interpretation documentation.
- The sub-committees will now be assigned a lead member that will oversee interpretation document preparation, distribution to the chairperson/secretary for distribution (prior to the meeting) and presentation/revisions from the Tucc meeting discussions.
- Anyone who wants to discuss a code item during a particular meeting should contact either the chair or the secretary at least one week prior to the meeting to have the item included on the agenda.
- There will be time allocated towards the end of each meeting for code discussion brought up by anyone in attendance.

The group did determine that the previous items left open from past meetings would be continued and re-organized the outstanding items of discussion as follows:

- Suspended T-Bar ceiling requirements related to structural and special inspection requirements (Gary Layman designated the leader of the sub-committee, Mac Saberi, David Basinger)
- Fire wall construction and structural stability requirements (Giyen Seneratne designated the leader of the sub-committee, with the rest of the sub-committee comprised of combining the two previous groups – Keyvan Irannejad, Homer Maiel, Ben Yousefi, Fred Cullem, James Son and Gary Layman)
- Structural upgrade requirements (Mac Saberi designated the lead committee member, with Mike Baird).
- Updates on new special inspection requirements (Keyvan Irannejad designated the lead committee member, with Homer Maiel, Robert Woods and others attending the separate special inspection group meetings).
- Protection at overhangs and projections (Kathryn Sedwick designated the leader of the sub-committee, with Sheila Lee).
- Concrete anchors and pins (Gary Layman designated the lead committee member, with Giyen Seneratne).
- Soils report and special inspection requirements (Homer Maiel designated the sub-committee lead member, with Steven Lau).

Discussion of new guard requirements at modified condition now moved to a group discussion item only (not needed to have an interpretation written).

3. Simplified Wind Design (Giyen Senarantne and Ben Yousefi)

Giyan re-distributed a modified wind analysis table for review by the group. The numbers had not yet been compared to the ICC proposed code change language for a simplified method. After a brief discussion of the chart, the group asked Giyan to modify the chart to provide the following information: (1) a simple picture of the structure type being analyzed as well as typical variables used in the equations; (2) a sample calculation that shows how the number/assumptions in the chart have been generated; (3) a clarification of assumed plate heights and ridge heights used in the calculations; and (4) complete the comparison of these numbers to the ICC simplified code change language presented by Ben at the October meeting.

Action Taken: Giyan and Ben to provide the additional clarifying information and put both methods into an interpretation formatted document.

4. Emergency Egress from Podium Type Buildings (Giyan):

Giyan presented a revised version of the interpretation document from the previous month's meeting. After additional discussions of the new information provided, the group felt that there was no need for a code interpretation of podium egress. Further, the interpretation was still focused on an Alternative Materials and Methods Approach, which was still considered possible by most without the interpretation recommendation.

Action Taken: No interpretation document/policy deemed necessary.

5. Standardized plans for residential Solar Panel Installations (Tim Owens):

Tim presented the sub-committee's work on a draft document, and the new document was reflective of previous group feedback on the initial information gathered. Tim spent a while discussing the changes made to the document, and some of the reasoning behind changes that were made to the document. There were a few suggested minor changes to the document.

Action Taken: Tim would make the suggested revisions to the document, and it was approved as interpretation item #11– to be emailed to the group when finalized.

6. Meeting open for general code item discussions – per new meeting format:

Group discussed 2007 CBC changes to guard height requirements, and how to apply the change from 36" minimum to 42" minimum, particularly where modified by remodel/new construction – consensus was that if modified, the guard must comply with the new requirements, but if not changed the old minimum height can remain. It was also agreed that the new requirements applied to replaced or repaired guards as well.

Additionally, the group noted that the previous residential structural design requirements for the guards was no longer part of the 2007 CBC code language – thus, new guards needed to be reflective of higher (commercial) design loading conditions.

There was a question as to whether or not the group was requiring a 30" wide stairway in a residence to be made wider with the addition being constructed at the upper level – group felt that if the stairways were not modified, the reduced width was still acceptable.

Brief discussion as to whether or not a private office was allowed to be non-accessible under the new code (i.e., a dentist or doctor/tenant owner) – group agreed that this was no longer allowed unless this was the owner of the property (not just a tenant space owner).

There was a brief discussion as to whether or not anyone had run into the new sliding door requirements (when serving more than 10 occupants) to be powered operated – most indicated that the occupant loads served had been reduced to less than 10 persons.

Someone noted that there was a push to change the emergency refuge area requirements in new buildings back to not being required if building is equipped with automatic sprinkler system – although not yet formally adopted.

Keyvan wants to relay that with the economy being what it has been lately, he has had several requests to extend existing permits. However, when he called the State Building Standards Commission to discuss, they empathically indicated that extensions should not be granted beyond the current code limits. However, Sheila indicated that this is still a local administrative provision requirement.

New classifications for the after school occupancy – was previously considered a group B occupancy, but is now classified as a group E occupancy, which may require a one-hour separation.

Giyam asked that there be a discussion of a single elevator being provided at podium structures, instead of all accessible exits.

Jim indicate that the Tri-Chapter code change committee is going to meet in January and February to finalize possible suggested changes to the 2009 I-codes (such as the discussed emergency egress windows, etc.). He asked that any such suggestions be forwarded to Jim, John LaTorra, or other code change committee members.

Next meeting scheduled for December 4th at 1:15 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.