

Minutes of the  
Advisory Committee on Relocation  
February 16, 2007  
Gold Room

Chairman Patti Anne Lodge called the meeting to order at 2:21 pm. Present were Senators Davis, Darrington, and Langhorst and Representatives Moyle, Bedke, Roberts, and Henbest. Also present were Keith Johnson, Director, Department of Administration; Tim Mason and Joe Rutledge, Division of Public Works; Nick Guho, Guho Corporation; Jason Gray and Linda Morton-Keithly, Historical Society; Shelia Ison and Robyn Davis, Legislative Services; Pamm Juker, Judy Christensen, and Terri Franks-Smith, House Staff; Dawn Hall, Division of Financial Management; Jeff Youtz, Director, Legislative Services; Robyn Davis, Relocation Specialist; and Eric Milstead and Lisa Kauffman, Legislative Services Office.

Chairman Lodge welcomed everyone and asked for approval of the minutes from the August 24, 2006 meeting. Senator Langhorst moved that the minutes be accepted as written, motion was seconded by Representative Henbest and there was unanimous consent to accept the motion.

Robyn Davis, Relocation Specialist, gave the committee an overview on the progress of the remodeling of the Capitol Annex. Currently construction is ahead of schedule and they anticipate that phase one of the construction which pertains to the year round staff will be completed in April. Phase two, which pertains to session only use and employees will be completed on time this summer. Currently all furniture is being inventoried and will either be relocated to the Annex, put in storage to be used when moving back in the Capitol, or be surplus as excess furniture. When it comes time to actually move, all items in an office will be tagged and designated to either be moved to the new location, put in storage, taken to the Historical Society for refinishing, or surplus out if the item is not needed. They are currently taking bids from different moving companies to complete the move. In order to keep to the current timeline, she requested that this committee decide today on the sound system they would like to see in the Senate, House and JFAC chambers so they can start getting bids and making plans for that. She also brought some samples of floor desks that House members could test to see what style they would like in the chambers.

Jason Grey, Historical Society, reviewed the work that the Historical Society has been doing in order to get the historical artifacts out of the Capitol building. Almost all of the large statutes have been taken out and the art work is scheduled to be taken down next month. These items will be checked for damage, restored, and then stored until the work on the Capitol is completed and then they will be taken and put back in their original place.

Linda Morton-Keithly, Historical Society, is in charge of preserving and restoring all historical documents. Her group began last summer and has been collecting historical documents that will be stored and then either returned to the building upon completion or

permanently housed at the Historical Society for the public to view. They are renting an off-site facility to house all the documents since their current facility cannot do so and that facility should be ready by the first week in April.

Nick Guho, Guho Construction, updated the committee on the construction timeline at the Annex. Phase one of the project began in mid-October and that phase is almost complete and will be completed ahead of schedule. Phase two consists of the demolition of both the House and the Senate chambers and that work has already begun. The hard construction portion of Phase Two, which consists of framing, drywall, etc., is expected to be completed by summer. Mr. Guho stated that Phase Two is to be completed by mid-September but that he expects that session offices could be occupied late summer, giving legislative leadership and committee chairs time to settle in and any changes that may need to be made would be able to be done so at that time.

Senator Davis stated that it would be nice if some committee rooms could be completed before summer begins so that the legislative interim committees would have somewhere to meet. Mr. Guho stated that if that was a concern, he would check the schedule and see if they could get a few hearing rooms done so that the committees could meet at the Capitol Annex.

Mr. Guho reviewed the sound system for the Senate, House, and the JFAC room. The existing audio equipment in the Senate is old and antiquated. If this system is moved to the Annex and parts need to be replaced, they will have trouble finding those parts. He suggests purchasing new equipment for the Senate to use in the Annex space which would then be able to be relocated in the new Capitol building. The cost of the sound system for the Senate will be \$61,900. On the House side, the equipment is even older and the same determination was made on the House equipment as was made on the Senate system. The cost to replace the House sound system is \$80,664 which again would be relocated in the new Capitol building. In the JFAC room the equipment is the most up to date, but it's still old. There are three options available: 1) take the existing equipment and relocate it which would be \$7,612; 2) replace the existing processor with a digital processor and relocate the existing audio equipment which would be \$18,424. By replacing the processor with a digital one, that would make the Senate, House and JFAC all operating off the same signal; and 3) purchase all new equipment and then relocate it to the Capitol which would be a substantial amount. By choosing this last option, all of the sound equipment in the Senate, House and JFAC would be the same and could be relocated.

Chairman Lodge asked if in three years when the legislature moves back into the Capitol if we purchased new equipment now that technology would be outdated. Mr. Guho replied that the items they were looking at are digital, which is the newest on the market at this time. He couldn't say for certain that the equipment would be outdated or not but the products listed have unique applications for the space and intended use.

Senator Langhorst asked if there was any way to do a wireless sound system. Mr. Guho replied that all the sound systems are manual, even the digital ones.

Representative Roberts asked if the current older equipment in the JFAC room would be compatible with the new processor and would it hold out for the three years that we are in the Annex. Mr. Guho replied that yes, it would work with the new digital processor but that it is older and he couldn't guarantee that the equipment would not break down.

Jeff Youtz reminded the committee that there is a separate budget for all IT needs which will cover these costs.

Representative Roberts asked if the new microphones for the Senate and the House would be voice activated or manual. Mr. Guho stated that he would like to get some samples together and then have a couple of legislators come in and test them. They can purchase either voice activated or manual switch microphones, but the switch microphones do have a chairman's override option which may appeal to leadership.

Representative Moyle asked if we should spend the approximately \$120,000 to buy all new equipment that he feels will probably be replaced again with a new sound system once we move to the renovated Capitol. Mr. Youtz replied that the information that he has received from IT experts suggests that digital is the way to go and it will not change that much in the coming years, and the dilemma is whether to spend \$60,000 to relocate the old equipment that will be difficult to repair if it breaks or spend approximately twice that amount to buy new equipment that can be relocated to the renovated Capitol.

Pro Tem Geddes commented that if the State ultimately plans on keeping the Annex that depending upon future use, it might be more prudent to buy new equipment and leave it there rather than try to move it back over to the Capitol. He acknowledged that in essence we would be buying new equipment twice, but once we move back he feels that the new building should have the latest technology available to use.

Representative Roberts moved that the committee approve \$61,900 for new Senate equipment, \$80,664 for new House equipment, and \$18,424 for new JFAC equipment. Motion was seconded by Senator Davis. There was unanimous consent to accept the motion.

Mr. Guho reviewed the chamber layouts for both the Senate and House. The Senate has two different options for their layout. Option one is to relocate the existing millwork that is in the Senate chambers now and position it in the new chambers for a cost of \$24,772. Included in this cost is the reuse of an existing judge's desk that was in the courthouse that they are going to reincorporate and that represents the \$1,000 credit shown. Option two would be to use new millwork for a cost of \$41,809. The House chamber configuration will be more of a challenge because it has double the members and the same amount of space as the Senate to work with. Senator Davis stated that the Senate would like to just relocate their existing millwork and that any leftover dollars be given to the House since they have more of a challenge of getting a layout that works and that will give everyone enough space to feel comfortable.

Senator Davis moved that the committee defer to each of the bodies to design their own chamber space with the understanding that the Senate will use the existing millwork which will be relocated to the Annex and that any cost savings be given to the House to use as needed for their layout. Motion was seconded by Representative Henbest. There was unanimous consent to accept the motion.

Next item on the agenda was the discussion of the murals in the Capitol Annex. Ms. Morton-Keithly from the Historical Society feels that the murals have great historical value regardless of content. The murals were done by several artists at a time when many people were unemployed. Many writers were also employed during this time when the building was built to help categorize historical happenings. The Historical Society strongly feels that the murals should remain in place as part of the architectural integrity of the building.

Representative Henbest asked if an expert had been consulted to see if the murals could be pulled from the building, restored and preserved for future use. Ms. Morton-Keithly replied that a few years back they had a textile expert review the murals and the expert stated that because of their condition, they could possibly be destroyed in the removal process which would also be time consuming and expensive, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000.

Director Keith Johnson, Department of Administration, offered the committee another suggestion which would be to have the murals cleaned, then covered with a material that would preserve them, cover that with drywall and fresh paint so that the wall would appear to be a blank wall, and that way the murals would stay intact until a final decision could be made as to what should be done with them.

Senator Darrington moved that the committee direct the murals to be cleaned up and displayed in their current locations. Motion was seconded by Representative Roberts.

Representative Henbest proposed a substitute motion that the committee follow the recommendation as stated by the Department of Administration to preserve and cover the two offending murals until a time when a final decision would be made. Motion was seconded by Senator Davis.

Voice vote was taken on the substitute motion which did not pass. Voice vote was taken on the original motion and the motion passed.

Mr. Youtz stated that there will not be offices available for legislators in the Annex except for committee chairs and leadership. He asked the committee if they would like the staff to try to find areas that legislators could use as a workspace. There currently is space in the basement of the JR Williams building that is being used, but it is not enough to offer workspace for all legislators who will not have offices in the Annex. Leasing modular trailers, like the ones used for portable classrooms, is one option that could be explored. However, leasing modular units is very expensive; approximately \$360,000 for two units for two sessions, but it is an option. There is limited space within the Capital

Mall that could house legislator workspace but it would not be close to the Annex building.

Representative Henbest moved that the legislature keep the current space in the basement of the JR Williams building for 49 workspaces for the House and 18 for the Senate, if possible, and to continue to look for additional space as well. Motion was seconded by Representative Moyle. There was unanimous consent to accept the motion.

Mr. Youtz addressed the issue of parking at the Annex. There will not be tunnel access to the Annex so all access will be above ground during the winter months. They are considering designating the spots at the Annex as handicap parking for those who may have difficulty walking long distances. They are also looking at possible shuttle service for legislators from the parking garage to the Annex during session.

Mr. Youtz also broached the subject of having a mock session or a rules making session in the fall as a dry run to see how things flow. This idea is being discussed by leadership of both houses.

Representative Moyle moved that the meeting adjourn until a later time. Motion was seconded by Representative Bedke. There was unanimous consent to accept the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.