

Advisory Committee on Capitol Services

**Capitol Building
WW-17
Boise, Idaho
February 25, 2013**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Co-chair, Representative Brent Crane. Capitol Services Committee members in attendance were Senate Pro Tem Brent Hill; Senators Patti Anne Lodge and Cherie Buckner-Webb; Speaker of the House Scott Bedke; and Representatives Wendy Horman and Hy Kloc. Co-chair, Senator Chuck Winder was absent and excused.

Also present were Jeff Youtz, Legislative Services Office (LSO) Director; Michelle O'Brien, LSO; Michelle Lynch, Idaho State Historical Society; Martin Santoyo, Division of Public Works; and Fred Riggins.

Co-Chairman Crane explained the rotating chairmanship of the committee and welcomed the new members.

Update on Ongoing and Pending Facility Improvements.

Mr. Jeff Youtz, Director of the Legislative Services Office began with a brief history of what the Capitol Services Committee is, why it was created and the different agencies and facility issues the committee will address.

Mr. Youtz reported on the first agenda item which is the improvements made to WW-17, the Senate hearing room the committee is meeting in. The improvements are all complete, which include removal of the traditional dais desks, hiding the exposed cabling and wiring under a new raised dais with railing, adding a large conference table and adding drop screens and projectors like the other hearing rooms. The intent of the improvements was to provide a flexible meeting room that could accommodate regular Senate committee meetings, as well as other conference-style meetings. The improvements have proven to be very successful and the popular room is in use almost every day.

Mr. Youtz moved on to update the committee on the parking garage that was approved by HCR 47 last session. The Boise Planning and Zoning Commission approved the project but there is a pending appeal by a neighbor on certain aesthetics of the design, and Boise's Design Review Committee rejected the initial design, which is being appealed by the Division of Public Works (DPW). DPW is working with the City of Boise to revise certain elements of the design to make it more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, and still stay within the budget.

Senator Patti Ann Lodge asked about the specific concerns on the design regarding the neighbor's appeal. Martin Santoyo from DPW indicated the neighbors' concern is that there aren't enough eye level design elements, which could include landscaping around the structure. DPW is looking into ways to alleviate this concern while keeping within the allotted budget for the structure. The Boise Design Review Committee is concerned with the placement of the access ramps as well as some aesthetic issues. DPW is re-examining the architectural drawings, but is committed to issues regarding security, programmed usage and possible future additions to the garage. Senator Lodge stated that she is appreciative of the security issues, in particular, being taken into consideration.

Mr. Youtz then addressed improvements to EW-05 and EW-20, the House committee hearing rooms in the Garden Level wing. The Capitol Commission has approved \$18,800 to extend the horseshoe-shaped dais area to accommodate one additional desk on each side of the dais area to seat additional committee members. A motion was made by Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb to approve the improvements to the House committee rooms and seconded by Speaker Scott Bedke. The motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Improvements to the Capitol Auditorium, also funded by the Capitol Commission, were outlined by Mr. Youtz and are before the committee for approval. The improvements will consist of aligning all of the electrical and cable connections to the dais desks to maximize the space on the dais between the two rows of desks, as well as creating more space in the knee wells so that chairs and occupant's feet aren't damaging the wiring underneath the desks. The improvements will also include re-carpeting as needed in the area. The Capitol Commission has approved \$42,200 for the renovations in addition to A/E fees.

Speaker Bedke remarked that the McClure Symposium that recently took place in the auditorium was nicely presented and questioned if this is a feature that could be utilized again with the extended dais and the presenter's station removed. Mr. Youtz responded in the affirmative, and added that he recently had casters added to the presenter's station for easy removal and that the legislature could look into purchasing this type of removable staging for future use. Senator Buckner-Webb mentioned an issue she had heard from the media regarding the media access boxes in some of the committee hearing rooms. Mr. Youtz indicated he would look into the quantity and type of media access boxes in each room and report back to the committee if there are any problems that need to be addressed.

Pro Tem Hill indicated that given the large investment we have already made in the auditorium, it makes sense to include these funds to make the room more usable and functional. Pro Tem Hill then made a motion to approve the \$42,200 improvements to the Capitol Auditorium funded by the Capitol Commission. Senator Buckner-Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Sesquicentennial Update on Designating a "Lincoln Auditorium"

The House has passed a Concurrent Resolution recognizing Idaho's Territorial Sesquicentennial, and will approve the renaming of the Capitol Auditorium to the Abraham Lincoln Auditorium, given Lincoln's close ties to the creation of the Idaho Territory. A bronze plaque will go between the double doors at the entrance and an 1863-era portrait of Abraham Lincoln, donated by Mr. David Leroy, will be mounted

in the hallway. The portrait will have security sensors and the front will be re-glassed. Representative Hy Kloc asked about the official name of the auditorium, to which Mr. Youtz responded that the HCR designates it as the "Abraham Lincoln Auditorium." Pro Tem Hill asked about the glass protecting the portrait and if it will be enough to keep the portrait in pristine condition. Mr. Youtz stated that yes, it is UV protective glass. Chairman Crane asked for an explanation on the security measures to be taken with the portrait. Michelle Lynch, the Capitol Curator for the Idaho Historical Society, answered that the hooks used will be secure hooks with alarms attached. Chairman Crane asked if these are audible only or will they be connected to security. Ms. Lynch responded that they are self-contained and audible only.

Mr. Youtz also handed out an itinerary of the planned celebration for March 4th on the Capitol steps, and indicated that the Legislature's official contribution to the Sesquicentennial event is the passage of the HCR renaming the auditorium. The Senate is timing the passage of the HCR to coincide with the March 4th event, and the celebration will be televised live by KTVB and also made accessible to schools around the state through the Idaho Education Network.

Representative Kloc made the motion to approve the hanging of the bronze plaque and the portrait outside of the auditorium. The motion was seconded by Senator Lodge and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Update on Temporary Exhibit Honoring Idaho Veterans and Idaho Military History

The final item requiring action on the agenda is approval of a temporary exhibit honoring Idaho's military history and Idaho veterans from Territorial days to the present. The exhibit would be in place for eight months in the third floor public lounge area beginning Memorial Day and going through the 2014 legislative session. The exhibit would then be a travelling display around the state in schools, public buildings and other appropriate sites. Chairman Crane asked if approval of this temporary exhibit will open the third floor lounge to future temporary exhibits. Mr. Youtz responded that it is not the intent of this specific approval, but that certainly the Legislature always has that option in the future if this committee feels that temporary displays are an appropriate use of that space. Currently that public lounge area on the third floor is intended to be used as public gallery overflow, and has two large screen TV's in the space to view House and Senate floor action. However the use of that space by the public has been minimal. A motion to approve the temporary Idaho military history exhibit for the third floor public lounge space from Memorial Day through the next legislative session was made by Representative Wendy Horman, seconded by Senator Lodge and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The floor was then opened up to the committee for miscellaneous issues or concerns. Representative Kloc asked about other temporary exhibits and displays in the Capitol Building and if we encourage that in our Capitol. Mr. Youtz responded that the Capitol Commission has an ongoing community arts program in the garden level area where different arts groups and sponsors throughout the state rotate in displays for a few months at a time. Also on the fourth floor in Statuary Hall there are rotating displays as well, and we have also allowed the Idaho Watercolor Association to use the fourth floor rotunda area each year. These are spaces that have been specifically designated and approved for these

types displays and help get Idaho citizens and arts groups connected to the Capitol Building. Representative Kloc responded that it is a great idea to have these exhibits and that they bring more people into the building during the interim as well as during session.

Senator Lodge stated that she would like to see more usage of the fourth floor rotunda area if possible. It is a beautiful setting up there, but the restoration and expansion of the Capitol has changed the flow of people and legislators in the Capitol, and the fourth floor is oftentimes very quiet with no activity. Chairman Crane also supported that idea and encouraged the committee to think about ways it can encourage events and usage of the fourth floor rotunda, and perhaps address that issue at future meetings.

Chairman Crane reminded the committee of one more action item: the approval of the minutes from the June 7th, 2012 meeting. Senator Lodge made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Representative Kloc and approved unanimously on a voice vote.

The chairman then asked on behalf of the new members what the traditional schedule was for this committee to meet. Director Youtz indicated that since there are leadership positions on this committee as well as on the Legislative Council, there is an effort to coordinate the schedule of the Capitol Services Committee with the Legislative Council meetings, so that this committee can meet the afternoon before the spring and fall Council meetings. So typically, if there are facility issues to consider, the Capitol Facility Committee will meet once in late spring, once in late fall, and perhaps once during the legislative session. Committee was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.