

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution conducted a meeting in the Regents’ Room of the Smithsonian Castle on February 11, 2014. Participating were Committee Chair Robert Kogod and members France Córdova*, Roger Sant, and George Hartman*. Committee members Senator Patrick Leahy, Representative Tom Cole, Representative Sam Johnson, and Sakurako Fisher were unable to participate.

Staff present included Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia L. Bartlett; Director of the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFEO) Nancy Bechtol; Acting Inspector General Epin Christensen; Deputy Director of OFEO Walter Ennaco; Office of the Regents Senior Writer-Editor Barbara Feininger (recorder); Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Kendra Gastright; Assistant to Representative Johnson Dave Heil*; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Senior Government Relations Officer Cheryl Johnson; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Assistant to Senator Leahy Kevin McDonald*; Assistant to Representative Cole Sean Murphy*; OPPM Acting Director Debra Nauta-Rodriguez; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter N. Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kogod called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 29, 2013, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes of the July 29, 2013, Committee meeting were approved without modification. Mr. Kogod noted that the Committee also had a teleconference update on the status of the corona cladding for the National Museum of African American History Culture (NMAAHC) on October 17, 2013.

UPDATES ON SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

Facilities Capital and Maintenance Investment Requirements and Appropriations—Fiscal Years 2013–2019. Mr. Kogod noted that \$94.471 million in appropriated funds were expended on the Smithsonian’s facilities capital program in fiscal year 2013, versus industry standards of approximately \$150 million. Federal support for facilities maintenance in fiscal year 2013 totaled \$63.758 million, versus industry standards of approximately \$100 million. Fiscal year 2014 appropriations total \$103 million for the Smithsonian’s facilities capital program and \$72 million for facilities maintenance. Neither reaches the Smithsonian’s facilities capital and maintenance requirements levels, and OFEO continues to carefully manage available funding to avoid major problems. Mr. Kogod reviewed the Smithsonian’s facilities capital and maintenance requirements versus appropriations for fiscal years 2008–2017.

* *participated by telephone*

Facilities Capital Federal and Private Investment Requirements. Mr. Kogod reported on Federal and private investment requirements for recently completed, under way, and planned facilities-capital projects. Federal funding for the projects totals \$542.1 million and private funding totals \$444.3 million. Mr. Sant noted that the numbers did not reflect funding for the National Museum of Natural History; those numbers will be provided to the Committee.

Facilities Capital and Maintenance—Fiscal Year 2013 Final, Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Status, Deferred Maintenance and Repairs. The Committee reviewed a fiscal year 2013 summary of capital productivity. The graph presented available and expended Federal and private funds, and demonstrated that the Smithsonian consistently expends its funds on a timely basis.

The Smithsonian’s facilities condition index (FCI), which indicates the average status of facilities from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2013, was discussed. The index highlighted the top facilities maintenance challenges. The index, said Dr. Córdova, would be especially useful if distinctions are made between facilities with poor condition index ratings, noting those that currently have remediation and financing strategies and those that do not. Ms. Bechtol discussed the anticipated impact on deferred maintenance and repairs from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2018 if funding is increased, remains level, or is reduced. The target FCI for Federal facilities is 95 percent; the Smithsonian’s current FCI is below that level. The Committee discussed the need to review the Smithsonian’s FCI benchmark with regard to peer institutions and the age of its facilities.

Super Storm Sandy Projects Status. Mr. Ennaco provided an update on the fiscal year 2013 Federal supplement of \$1.9 million for Super Storm Sandy repairs. All but two projects have been completed. The remaining projects, which have been impacted by poor weather conditions, should be completed by early spring 2014.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez reported on three major facility issues must be addressed at the National Air and Space Museum’s (NASM) building on the National Mall: seismic augmentation and repair of damage from the 2011 earthquake; revitalization of mechanical systems; and revitalization of the building’s exterior envelope. It is anticipated that the design schedule for the revitalization will take about two-and-a-half years. The detailed design process will begin in spring 2014. Final budgets and schedules have not yet been established. It is projected that renovation activity will begin in fiscal year 2017 and will take approximately 48 months to complete.

Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez noted that the building is a “victim of its own success,” as visitation has far exceeded what was anticipated when the museum opened to the public in 1976. The heavy use of the building has accelerated the decay of the mechanical systems’ lifespans. A sustainability study and a building-envelope study were combined into a feasibility study for the cost, phasing, and implementation of the building’s revitalization. Project goals have been established for the project’s performance goals and requirements. Different energy efficiency

strategies have been proposed, and determining the cost- and performance-effectiveness of each strategy will inform the final design.

The Committee discussed the potential for the building to remain open to the public during revitalization work. Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez also reviewed different phased implementation schedules that have been proposed to support the building's revitalization.

The Committee agreed that safety is the number one priority with regard to the NASM facility. The congressional Regents will be briefed on the NASM revitalization project as soon as is practicable, and a project management team led by Mr. Horvath will be created. Mr. Kogod asked OFEO to provide a coordinated plan as soon as possible.

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

National Museum of African American History and Culture. Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez reported that the Smithsonian has completed due diligence work on the corona panel system design, which will be reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission in late February 2014. Staff is optimistic that the revised corona design system, which is within budget, will be approved. A Jim Crow-era railroad car and Angola guard tower were inserted in the construction site in November 2013. The building's first major structural steel elements arrived in January 2014.

SI Campus Master Plan. Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez reported that the international architectural firm Bjarke Ingles Group (BIG) is studying the area bounded by Independence Avenues, 7th and 12th Streets NW, and the National Mall. The studies will support long-term revitalization plans for the Smithsonian facilities in the area, which include the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Arts and Industries Building (AIB), the Castle, the Quadrangle, the Enid A. Haupt Garden, the Freer and Sackler Galleries, and the National Museum of African Art. The next steering committee meeting will be held in March 2014 and the full Board of Regents will receive a presentation on the initiative in April 2014.

Arts and Industries Building Shell Revitalization and Interior Stabilization. Mr. Ennaco updated the Committee on the AIB revitalization and interim use initiative. The shell revitalization project is 98–99 percent complete: the windows are installed and the removal of scaffolding has begun. Designs for limited special event use are being explored. Mr. McDonald asked for an update on the proposed innovation space plan that had been explored with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Although the AIB cannot host a USPTO innovation fair in the near future, discussions continue between the two organizations about other joint activities that celebrate American ingenuity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee adjourned for executive session at approximately 12:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Kogod
Chair