

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2012, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution conducted a meeting on March 20, 2012, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Participating were Committee Chair Robert Kogod and members Representative Sam Johnson*, Representative Xavier Becerra*, and George Hartman. Committee members Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Steven LaTourette were unable to participate.

Staff present in the Regents’ Room of the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C., were Secretary Wayne Clough; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia L. Bartlett; Assistant to Representative LaTourette Sarah Cannon*; Office of Planning and Property Management Walter Ennaco; Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Bruce Dauer; Assistant to Representative Becerra Melody Gonzales*; Assistant to Representative Johnson Dave Heil*; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations Director Bruce Kendall; Office of Special Events and Protocol Karen Keller; Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFEO) Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Sheryl Kolasinski; Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Special Advisor to the Secretary Alison McNally; Director of Government Relations Nell Payne; and Assistant to Senator Leahy Liz Stitzel.

Mr. Kogod called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2011, MEETING

The draft minutes of the Committee’s December 7, 2011, meeting were approved without comment.

FACILITIES CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

Mr. Kogod directed the Committee to the Facilities Capital and Maintenance Requirements snapshot in the meeting materials. He said that the charts were developed to allow the Committee to regularly track the Smithsonian’s facilities capital and maintenance requirements accounts over a 10-year period. Mr. Kogod observed that the charts would be significantly revised for the next Committee meeting; the 10-year period, which currently starts at 2008, will be updated to begin with 2012.

Mr. Kogod noted that the charts illustrate OFEO’s allocation of relatively scarce resources to priority capital and maintenance projects to avert any crisis or emergency. Ms. Kolasinski said OFEO also planned to revalidate the numbers contained in the revised charts for April 2012 Board meeting. Ms. Kolasinski said that unit directors have recently been polled on future capital needs and that information will be reflected in the revised charts.

CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING INITIATIVE

Ms. Kolasinski described the current status of the campus master planning process. Mr. Kogod

noted that the scope of the plan would include the Arts and Industries Building, the Castle, the Quadrangle, the Enid A. Haupt Garden, the Freer and Sackler Galleries, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the National Museum of African Art and be bounded by Madison Drive SW, Independence Avenue SW, Seventh Street SW, and 12th Street SW.

Ms. Kolasinski said that the programming aspects of the process will be framed through stakeholder input. She said that the approach will be “free-flowing” to allow for maximum creativity and directed the Committee’s attention to a series of maps depicting the area. She highlighted obstacles to the access to and visibility of many of the buildings and the African Art and Sackler galleries in particular. The current plan, Ms. Kolasinski said, is to engage an outside consultant to facilitate this initial piece of the process. At a later point, an architect/engineering firm will be engaged to match the aspirations with the actual physical space.

Mr. Kogod noted that the master planning process will be one of the most “exciting” undertakings in the foreseeable future and that many Regents will be involved. He said that the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee or an ad hoc Regents group will provide oversight and help identify uses for the campus components (subject to the any congressional action on the Arts and Industries Building). As that occurs, the Facilities Committee will outline the space available and possibilities for its use. He also observed that the initiative will impact the goals of the national campaign overseen by the Advancement Committee.

Mr. Kogod briefly described some of the processes that could be used to select outside architect/engineer team to provide support. He added that Committee members would be invited to participate in all stages of the selection process.

CASTLE/ARTS AND INDUSTRIES INTERIM USES

Ms. McNally noted that the campus master planning initiative will “take a little while.” In the meantime, she said, planning is under way for possible interim uses of the Arts and Industries Building and the Smithsonian Castle. She said that the goal is currently to use the Arts and Industries Building for programming beginning in spring 2014. The Castle, she added, is “in desperate need of renovation,” and funds are currently available to begin a planning process for its use. Any interim plans would align with the overall campus master planning initiative.

She said that the interim plan objectives were to (1) provide a unified introduction to the Smithsonian; (2) enhance the visitor experience; (3) engage new audiences; and (4) generate new revenue through retail or special event activities. Ms. McNally said the plan would likely encompass 2014–2020, but would be flexible as circumstances dictate. Planning would also include the Enid A. Haupt Garden. Staff teams from various units have been assembled to assist in the process. The Office of Planning and Analysis is conducting a survey to help identify those areas visitors would like addressed.

Ms. McNally then described various options “for both the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building that included visitor orientation, retail, exhibition, and opportunities to educate the

public on the strategic plan's grand challenges." Dr. Clough stressed that exhibitions in these buildings must showcase the best of the Smithsonian and encourage visits to Smithsonian museums.

SPECIAL EVENTS POLICY PILOT

Ms. Bartlett provided the Committee with an overview of contemplated changes to the Smithsonian's special event policy for facility use. The changes would allow for events that are not cosponsored by the Smithsonian nor tethered to a particular gift to the Smithsonian or hosting museum venue. She said that the current prohibitions against political, partisan, religious or civil ceremonies, events charging an admission fee, and events hosted by groups that discriminate against legally protected classes, would remain. Assuming Regent concurrence, the policy changes would be implemented in summer 2012 under a pilot program.

Ms. Bartlett noted that the staff working group that developed the proposed changes recognized the risks that exist should facility space be rented by organizations with missions potentially inconsistent with that of the Smithsonian. Dr. Clough noted that museum directors were "on board" with launching a pilot program. Ms. Keller noted that staff are engaged in benchmarking the proposal with special event policies of other government or non-profit entities. She said that many, but not all, would allow for events like those that would be in the pilot.

Mr. Becerra noted that while he concurred with opening the policy to allow for more personal and community organization-sponsored events, he remained concerned that the policy would eliminate the requirement that materials distributed at these events be reviewed by the Smithsonian in advance. Without such review, he said, materials could be distributed that were contrary to the Smithsonian's mission or that could adversely affect the Smithsonian's reputation. Mr. Becerra also asked what criteria would be used in approving (or disapproving) a request to rent a Smithsonian facility. Having clearly articulated criteria would protect the Smithsonian when a decision to rent or not rent a venue is challenged. Mr. Becerra also requested clarification on the scope of the continuing prohibition against religious or civil ceremonies.

Ms. Leonard said that approvals would be based on the type of event and not on the sponsor or the materials distributed at the event. Ms. Payne added that the Smithsonian would still not permit groups that discriminate against legally protected classes of people to use its facilities, even if the type of event is permissible. The Committee then discussed the application of the new policy to a series of hypothetical fact-patterns and, in the end, concluded that more research would benefit future deliberations on the topic before the full Board.

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Ennaco provided brief updates on six major capital projects, all of which, he said, were "on time and on budget": the Arts and Industries Building; Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum; the National Museum of African American History and Culture; the National Postal

Museum; the education facility at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute; and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Replacement Lab.

Arts and Industries Building. Mr. Ennaco began by noting that the current Arts and Industries Building project is “about 50 percent complete” and will be completed by early 2013.

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. Cooper-Hewitt improvements are also on budget and on schedule for completion by early 2014. Staff have been moved from the Carnegie Mansion to the Miller and Fox Houses and renovation of the Mansion has begun.

National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Ennaco noted that, following the groundbreaking on February 22, 2012, digging on the site had begun in earnest.

National Postal Museum. Because the bids to renovate the museum’s new programming space came in unexpectedly high, the museum re-bid the project in January 2012. Responses are due on March 27, 2012.

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia. Mr. Ennaco said the renovation of Building 701-0116 is “going great” and that it, along with the George Mason University construction, will be completed by August 2012.

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Replacement Lab. Progress on the Lab is “very satisfying,” Mr. Ennaco said. He noted that the facility will be a certified LEED Gold Standard building. In that regard, work on geothermal wells has begun.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Kogod thanked Ms. Kolasinski and said that the projects appeared to be under control and handled well.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Hartman noted that his wife is editor of the Princeton Architectural Press Campus Guide Series and is researching an upcoming volume on the buildings of the Georgia Institute of Technology. He observed that Dr. Clough’s impact on that campus’s buildings cannot be underestimated.

There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Kogod thanked the Committee for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Kogod
Committee Chair