

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2010, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Facilities Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held a meeting on February 22, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the Regents’ Room of the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. Participating were Committee Chair Robert Kogod and members Representative Xavier Becerra\*, Representative Sam Johnson, and George Hartman. Also present were Secretary G. Wayne Clough, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, Assistant to Representative Becerra Melody Gonzales\*, Assistant to Representative Johnson David Heil, Office of the Regents Program Officer Grace Jaeger, Director of the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFEO) Bruce Kendall, OFEO Office of Planning and Project Management Director Sheryl Kolasinski, Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana, General Counsel Judith Leonard, Assistant to Senator Patrick Leahy Kevin McDonald\*, Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Alison McNally, and Director of Government Relations Nell Payne.

Mr. Kogod called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

He asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes of the October 19, 2009, Committee meeting. There were none and the minutes were approved.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

#### **Legacy Fund**

Mr. Kogod reported that the Legacy Fund language was rewritten in the fiscal year 2010 Appropriations Bill and now contains \$30 million in Federal funding for the Arts and Industries Building (AIB) that is contingent upon the Smithsonian raising an equivalent amount in private funds for the building. To date, \$500,000 has been raised from a special appeal and donors will be notified their gifts will be directed toward AIB. The Smithsonian will request the Office of Management and Budget to release matching Legacy Fund dollars.

Mr. Kogod said there is a significant chance the Legacy Fund will be rescinded if substantial progress in raising qualifying private funds is not made by the time Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) marks up the fiscal year 2011 Interior Appropriations bill. Secretary Clough added that the final use of the building has not yet been decided but that his team is leaning toward an educational use. The Latino Museum Commission has indicated that it is still considering the building for its museum site. He said that fund-raising efforts for the building are complicated because a definitive use of the building has not been established. Secretary Clough said that an eight-figure gift earmarked for education will likely be received soon and that he will meet shortly with Senator Feinstein to determine if this gift can be applied towards matching Legacy Funds. If so, the Smithsonian would have access to the remaining \$29.5 million in matching Legacy Funds.

Mr. Kogod announced that Sheryl Kolasinski was appointed by Secretary Clough to lead the AIB revitalization effort. A hard-hat tour of the building may be provided for the Regents

*\* participated by teleconference*

during the Board's April 2010 meeting.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

Mr. Kogod reminded the Committee that \$25 million had been provided to the Smithsonian from the ARRA for infrastructure projects and reported that \$22 million had been obligated thus far. Mr. Kendall updated progress on using the funds and said that 46% of the funds had been spent to date, creating 147 jobs. Mr. Kogod commended the Smithsonian's leadership and the OFEO staff, noting that the Smithsonian's obligation and spending rates are among the highest of all ARRA recipients. Congress is currently debating another stimulus bill.

### **IMPACT OF SNOWSTORMS**

Mr. Kendall discussed the impact of the record February 2010 snowstorms on Smithsonian facilities. He recognized the outstanding performance of Smithsonian staff to maintain both the exterior and interiors of the buildings, which provided for collections protection and allowed the Smithsonian's facilities to be opened earlier than many similar public facilities.

He discussed facility damage reports and referred members to the meeting materials that gave preliminary repair cost estimates, as well as long-range requirements. Mr. Kendall said that AIB suffered no significant damage but did have roof leakage. This was expected since the roof panels installed in the 1980s were determined to be safe to a limit of only 12 inches of snow. Towers were erected to reinforce the roof and the building temperature was raised to expedite the melting of snow. Mr. Kendall said that OFEO will investigate a phased approach to the roof replacement to address funding concerns within the revitalization program.

Mr. Kendall reported on the partial collapse of the Suitland Collections Storage Facility (Garber) Building 21, which houses collections from the National Air and Space Museum; he also noted that other structures remained intact at the site. He said that the collections in Building 21 would be safely removed after first tunneling into the building and bracing it; he added that the building might be subsequently demolished. Because of an anticipated move to the new facilities at the Udvar-Hazy Center, many of the collections were already packed and ready for removal. Mr. Kendall also said that the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) had incurred minor damage to its trailers, which will be replaced by the future Mathias Lab, and that there was minor damage to a Museum Support Center loading dock.

Ms. Kolasinski emphasized the preliminary nature of the reports and said that additional studies by engineers are necessary to fully assess any damage. Mr. Kogod requested that, given that this type of situation may occur again, OFEO provide a report within 45 days on its risk assessment of Smithsonian facilities. He emphasized the necessity of planning for this type of event in the future. Secretary Clough reiterated the importance of identifying these remediation projects before next winter.

Mr. Kogod noted that strides had been made in the storage of the Smithsonian's collections. He cited several examples, including the Donald W. Reynolds Center's off-site storage, Pennsy Drive, Cooper-Hewitt's New Jersey lease, Artex, and Pods 3 and 5 at the Museum Support Center. Ms. Kolasinski said that Pennsy Drive was a successful program and that the Institution should probably look for similar arrangements for the storage of its collections.

### **HIRSHHORN MUSEUM'S SEASONAL INFLATABLE PAVILLION**

Ms. Kolasinski provided an overview of the proposed inflatable pavilion that would provide additional conference and programming space at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Twice a year the pavilion would be erected for a month on top of and on the side of the museum. Because the concept is both unique and controversial, it was decided that, regardless of requirements, approvals would be sought from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Ms. Kolasinski has met with the staff of both agencies, and the project has been presented formally to the CFA, which gave its preliminary approval, and the project will appear on the April 1, 2010 hearing agenda with NCPC. Mr. Kogod said that approximately \$15 million in private funds would be raised for the pavilion's installation, programming, and recurring structural costs. Representative Becerra suggested that, even though the funds will be privately raised, appropriate Congressional oversight committees be notified. Ms. Payne said she had done so, and that she had not received any objections from the committees contacted, which include the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, the House Public Buildings Subcommittee, the House Administration Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee.

### **MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Ms. Kolasinski provided updates on eight of the current major capital projects: AIB Revitalization, Cooper-Hewitt Improvements, Suitland Greenhouse Complex, Udvar-Hazy Center Phase 2, National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), National Zoological Park (NZN) Asia Trail II, SERC Mathias Lab, and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Gamboa Laboratory. Highlights of her overview included:

NMAAHC: fiscal year 2010 will be spent in consultation with the reviewing agencies, with preliminary designs to NPCC and CFA by June 2010.

NZN Asia Trail II, Elephant Trails: the construction contractor will be replaced shortly.

SERC Mathias Lab: bid request will go out at the end of fiscal year 2010 with an award expected the first quarter of fiscal year 2011; construction funding is in the fiscal years 2011 and 2012 budgets.

STRI Gamboa Laboratory: currently in design.

## **SMITHSONIAN AFTER *TREASURES IN TROUBLE***

Ms. Kolasinski addressed the topic of looking forward to identify what are the most pressing and difficult facility issues facing the Smithsonian. She referred members to the meeting materials that provided a progress report on Smithsonian facilities since the publication of a series of volumes entitled *Treasures in Trouble*. Published in 2003–2006, the publications illustrated the state of facilities throughout the Institution, focusing on the condition of seven of its “campuses”: AIB, the National Zoological Park, the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian’s art museums on the National Mall, and the Castle. With the exception of AIB and the Castle, substantial work has been accomplished on five of the seven campuses. The meeting materials detailed the work that has been accomplished, projects in the Facilities Capital Five-Year Plan, as well as the future focus for each campus. Projects listed in the Five-Year Plan will be completed if the Institution continues to receive its scheduled \$150 million annual Federal appropriation for maintenance. Projects listed in the Future Focus section highlight items that are not yet in the Plan but that may be cause for concern. Ms. Kolasinski noted that the series did not include, among other things, collections care, sustainability, leased space, and security.

Secretary Clough requested that this information be updated and projected beyond five years, as well as emphasize the renovation of the Castle. He noted that the condition of the building has deteriorated and said that building tours for Congressional members had previously been an effective way to highlight its deterioration. Ms. Payne noted that the Institution will continue to include charts outlining its facilities needs in budget requests.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Kogod  
Committee Chair