

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2009, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution held a meeting on October 19, 2009, 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 Sam Johnson* and George Hartman. Also present were Secretary G. Wayne Clough; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett; National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) Director Lonnie Bunch; Assistant to Representative Johnson David Heil*; Office of the Regents Program Officer Grace Jaeger; Associate Director of the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Ken Johnson; 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; Chief Financial Officer Alice Maroni; Assistant to Senator Leahy Kevin McDonald*; Under Secretary for Finance and Administration Alison McNally; Director of Government Relations Nell Payne; and Assistant General Counsel James Wilson.

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 from the June 1, 2009, Committee meeting. There were none and the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF THE CHAR

Introductions

Mr. Kogod introduced new Committee member George Hartman. Mr. Hartman is a highly respected local architect and founding member of the firm Hartman-Cox Architects, an internationally recognized firm that has received over 120 national and international design awards. Mr. Kogod also recognized the new Director of OFEO, Bruce Kendall. Mr. Kendall, who came to the Smithsonian from the Los Angeles Unified School District, has an extensive and distinguished background in facilities management.

National Postal Museum Lease

Mr. Kogod reported that the lease between the National Postal Museum and the United States Postal Service for additional space at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, was signed on September 10, 2009, after meeting all the required conditions.

Facilities Capital and Maintenance Investment Requirements for Fiscal Years 2008–2017

Mr. Kogod then reviewed the “Facilities Capital and Maintenance Investment Requirement FY 2008–2017” data provided in the meeting materials. The charts, which are updated semi-annually by OFEO, include: summary chart, priority listing, Trust capital requirements, and maintenance analysis charts. He noted several changes in buildings’

** participated by teleconference*

funding requirements from fiscal year 2007 with requirements dropping from \$2.5 billion to \$2.293 billion. The total requirement figure is constantly changing so that the annual requirement and funds availability tend to be more meaningful. Annual requirement for capital improvements was estimated at \$150 million per year with the federal appropriation between \$100–125 million per year. Requirement for maintenance was estimated at \$100 million per year and federal appropriation approximately \$67 - \$70 million per year. Secretary Clough suggested using facility age as a data point for comparison of facilities.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

Ms. Kolasinski and Ms. Payne presented a proposal for Congressional construction authorization for renovations and new construction at the National Zoological Park's (NZIP) Conservation and Research Center (CRC) site in Front Royal, Virginia. The Committee was reminded that it and the full Board had approved entering into a Memo of Understanding with George Mason University (GMU) in 2008 to create an accredited educational program in conservation studies and to provide facilities for the program. New construction and major revitalization of an existing structure will provide residential and educational space at the facility.

The Committee was told that an existing structure had been selected for rehabilitation to become the Educational Facility at an estimated cost of \$10 million (\$5 million Federal funds, \$5 million Trust funds). Of those costs, \$1 million for design funding is included in the fiscal year 2010 capital request.

A new facility would be constructed for residential and food service functions. The Smithsonian and GMU are currently finalizing details of the ground lease.

Discussion followed about whether the Smithsonian was required to seek Congressional authorization for the two projects. Since guidance from Capitol Hill about the need for authorization has been ambiguous, it was decided the Committee be prudent and recommend that the Board request authorization from Congress, should it be necessary. Mr. Kogod suggested Ms. Payne consult with the Congressional Regents. She agreed and said that, per usual procedures, she would first speak with the Congressional Regents on the Facilities Committee.

The following motion was then approved:

VOTED that the Committee recommends that the Board of Regents, as necessary, seek authorization for the design and construction of new and renovated facilities at the National Zoological Park's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

Ms. Kolasinski provided an update on the Facilities Capital Program for fiscal year 2009, which included many positive achievements. For the 12th straight year, OFEO exceeded its contract awards goal, awarding over \$120 million in fiscal year 2009. Highlights included obligations for Phase II at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, the first phase of the National Zoological Park's Seal/Sea Lion habitat, and the National Museum of Natural History's Laboratory of Analytical Biology. OFEO's Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation also published the *Guide to Smithsonian Architecture*, the first-ever review of the history of architecture at the Smithsonian.

She discussed several projects, noting in particular Pod 3 at the Museum Support Center, a technological achievement that provides 14 different climate-controlled areas, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's (SERC) Mathias Lab, the Smithsonian's first LEED-certified building. Discussions are ongoing about the use of the Renwick Gallery and the Holt House at NHP. Mr. Kogod noted he had received a letter from a concerned stakeholder about the Holt House. Ms. Kolasinski said that the project had been "mothballed" but that OFEO may spend additional funds for maintenance on the structure.

She also reported on the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds received from Congress and noted that Mr. Kendall would soon testify on Capitol Hill about the Institution's use of the funds. She said that \$21 million of the \$25 million was obligated and lower-than-anticipated bids allowed for the award of all additional contract options that had been identified. Awards were let for work at NHP and for other Smithsonian-wide revitalization projects, including \$4.6 million for repairs at the Arts and Industries Building (masonry repairs, interior demolition, and hazmat removal). Ms. Kolasinski said the Arts and Industries program committee established by the Secretary recently reported to him on suggested uses for the building; in addition, the Latino Commission toured the building in October 2009 to determine if it would be an appropriate structure for the future Latino Museum. Mr. Kogod noted that major rehabilitation of the building would begin when its use was determined and funds were available.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

NMAAHC Director Lonnie Bunch gave a progress report on the Museum. He first reminded the Committee that the design competition had resulted in the selection of Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup as the design team for the Museum. Dr. Bunch said that contract negotiations with Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup would be finalized in the coming weeks; a strategy for the regulatory approval process was being developed; and more intense fund raising would soon commence now that the building's design team had been identified. He reported that almost \$50 million in private funds had been raised to date, including a recent gift of \$10 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He emphasized that the strategy for fund raising needed to be in tandem with efforts to secure Federal funding. He said the Museum's fund-raising campaign would be national in scope and that the results of initial market-testing efforts were very promising. Mr. Bunch noted the importance of establishing the Museum's visibility during its development phase, and said that an array of programs would be promoted around the country and that the National Museum of American History now hosts an exhibition hall devoted to the future

Museum.

Secretary Clough said that a review of problems encountered in the development of other museums revealed that most related to fund raising, such as payments delayed by donors, rather than construction issues. He reminded the Committee that the Board of Regents had recently approved the NMAAHC's request to increase the size of its advisory board. Mr. Kogod asked if there was a staff oversight committee and Mr. Bunch said that one met monthly. Mr. Hartman suggested getting "pre-commitments" from, at least, the two major review commissions (National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts) and to make sure they fully understand the concept of the Museum. Mr. Bunch and Ms. Kolasinski agreed and said they would provide regular updates to the Committee.

SMITHSONIAN STRATEGIC PLAN-SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Ms. Kolasinski then discussed the last meeting topic: the development of a "green" Smithsonian. She explained the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, rating system adopted by the U.S. Green Building Council in 1998 and noted where LEED initiatives were already in place at the Smithsonian. She said that the SERC Mathias Lab will be the first new Smithsonian building to be ranked as a LEED Gold Building and described other projects at the Smithsonian utilizing LEED concepts. Ms. Kolasinski also explained the characteristics of projects that are promoted by the LEED rating: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design. She listed the criteria for every category and said that, if met, each would result in positive environmental outcomes, as well as credit towards a LEED rating.

Mr. Kendall tied the green concept to the Smithsonian's Strategic Plan saying that it fits into the grand challenge of "Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet." Secretary Clough noted that "going green" both saves money and demonstrates that the Smithsonian is a good place to invest (both private funds and funding from Congress).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Kogod
Committee Chair