

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on November 15, 2023. Participating were Committee Chair John Fahey and Committee members Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey and Mitchell N. Schear.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell; Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez; Chief of Staff to Representative Adrian Smith, Monica Didiuk; Director for the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Tony Edmonds; Deputy Under Secretary for Administration Rick Flansburg; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Director of the Office of Government Relations Rachele Graves; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; Acting Inspector General Joan Mockeridge; Director of Federal Resources for the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Andrew Mosley; Assistant General Counsel Anne Nelson; and Director of the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair John Fahey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18 AND SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the July 18, 2023, and September 26, 2023, Committee meetings were approved.

REVITALIZE HISTORIC CORE

Director of the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross updated the Committee on the revitalization of the Smithsonian’s Historic Core, which includes the Smithsonian Institution Building (the “Castle”) and the Arts and Industries Building. Although both buildings are in need of major revitalization, work is focused on the Castle at this time. The Committee discussed the scope of two project options, to include proceeding with the capital project as designed, or resequencing the project to include selective demolition and abatement on the upper floors, reducing work in the basement, and performing no site or foundation work. This alternative option would defer the base project scope to fiscal year 2027 to include all site, civil work, and base isolation and would allow parts of the building to be open to the public for the U.S. Semiquincentennial in 2026. Mr. Ross reminded the Committee that a goal of the revitalization will be to provide efficient and accessible space for visitors and staff, including restoring public spaces after years of piecemeal remodeling that has diminished the original proportions and appearance.

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Mr. Ross also briefed the Committee on the Sculpture Garden revitalization at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (“HMSG”), which will address deterioration of the garden walls, flooding in the garden, and leaking in the tunnel connecting the garden to the museum plaza. The new design will also improve accessibility, with ramps leading down to the garden from both Jefferson Drive and the National Mall. Mr. Ross informed the Committee that although the project is currently proceeding as designed and construction has been awarded, the total current working estimate has increased from \$60.876 million to \$107.15 million. An internal review is being performed to identify cost control initiatives. Additionally, the Smithsonian is in the process of developing a scope of work for a contracted third-party assessment of processes and internal controls to obtain recommendations moving forward. The Committee also reviewed the design renderings for the new garden and the reopened passages under Jefferson Drive that provides stairs leading to the museum plaza.

FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

Director of Federal Resources for the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Andrew Mosley briefed the Committee on the Federal Capital budget for fiscal years 2022 through 2024. The Smithsonian received \$251.6 million for Facilities Capital and \$119.3 million in Facilities Maintenance in Fiscal Year 2023. Mr. Mosley reminded the Committee that the Smithsonian is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) through February 2, 2024, and highlighted the potential implications to major capital projects if the budget is reduced to less than \$200 million for fiscal year 2024. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a topline of \$197.6 million for the Smithsonian’s Capital budget, which is \$54 million below the FY 2023 enacted amount. The Committee discussed using the \$55.0 million provided in fiscal year 2023 for the Castle revitalization, and proceeding with the HMSG Sculpture Garden revitalization, which will require increasing fiscal year 2024 funds for the project.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez updated the Committee on the Smithsonian’s real estate portfolio, specifically five lease approvals that will be required in fiscal year 2024: the Crozier Fine Arts 4 West building located in Newark, NJ; the Apollo Drive building located in Largo, MD; the OCIO Data Center located in Herndon, VA; Concord Avenue in Cambridge, MA; and 5 & 15 Wayside, Burlington, MA. Mr. Fahey reminded the Committee that real estate transactions with a net present value of \$10 million or more require approval by the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Facilities Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then moved into an executive session at approximately 3:08 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahey, Chair