

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2023, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on March 10, 2023. Participating were Committee Chair John Fahey and Committee members Representative Adrian Smith, Michael Govan, 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; Director for the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Tony Edmonds; Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Stephanie Felton; Deputy Under Secretary for Administration Rick Flansburg; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; Assistant Inspector General for Audits Joan Mockeridge; Director of Federal Resources for the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Andrew Mosley; Assistant General Counsel Anne Nelson; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross; Assistant Secretary for Advancement Rob Spiller; and Chief of Staff to Senator Gary Peters, Caitlyn Stephenson.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 20, 2022, Committee meeting were approved.

UPDATE ON NEW MUSEUMS

The Committee received an update on the two new Smithsonian museums: National Museum of the American Latino (“NMAL”) and Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum (“SAWHM”). Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez and Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo led a strategic discussion on the progress of site selection, the launch of the virtual museums and other public programming, and fundraising efforts for the new museums. The discussion focused on building the two new museums while considering the Smithsonian’s strategy for seeking legislative action to secure the Tidal Basin site and South Monument site for NMAL and SAWHM, respectively. The Smithsonian is evaluating staffing and office space needs, establishing plans for interim and long-term collections storage, coordinating with the new museums on exhibit and framework planning, and identifying museum and Institution objectives for the selection of Architect/Engineer (“A/E”) Designers.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND 2024 CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE BUDGETS

Director of Federal Resources for the Office of Planning, Management, and Budget Andrew Mosley briefed the Committee on the Facilities Capital and Maintenance Programs for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The Smithsonian received \$251.6 million for Facilities Capital and \$119.3 million in Facilities Maintenance in Fiscal Year 2023. The President's Budget for FY 2024 was released to Congress on March 9, 2023. The Institution requested \$265 million for Facilities Capital and \$131 million for Facilities Maintenance in fiscal year 2024. The Committee reviewed major capital projects planned for fiscal year 2024, including revitalization of the Smithsonian Institution Building, construction of Pod 6 at the Museum Support Center, and planning and design for the two new museums.

CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

Under Secretary for Administration Ron Cortez updated the Committee on the Smithsonian's Consolidated Administrative Headquarters. With the acquisition of the Capital Gallery Building on June 25, 2020, the Institution acquired the West Tower and four floors of the East Tower of the Capital Gallery office property. The purchase of the building was part of a plan to consolidate office spaces in the Washington, D.C. area into a single consolidated administrative headquarters, including the financial and administrative offices located in Crystal City as well as the Smithsonian Institution Building ("the Castle"). Mr. Cortez informed the Committee that the relocation of Smithsonian offices and staff has progressed in multiple phases.

The Committee also discussed the potential Capital Gallery Lease Buy decision. The Smithsonian is analyzing a Right of First Offer for two alternatives: (1) two floors in the East Tower; or (2) four floors and the parking garage – which is the balance of the building. Mr. Cortez noted that a select number of floors at the Capital Gallery Building must be exercised between December 2023 and June 2024. A formal recommendation will be brought to the Facilities Committee and then the Board once framework planning and due diligence analysis have been completed.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Next, Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross gave an update on the status of three major capital projects: construction of Pod 6 at the Museum Support Center, revitalization of the building envelope and infrastructure at the National Air and Space Museum – Mall Building, and revitalization of the Historic Core. The final design documents for Pod 6 were completed in January 2022 and the construction contract was awarded in September 2022. Construction is underway and slated to be completed in 2025. Phase 1 of the NASM revitalization opened to the public in October 2022. Approximately 74 percent of construction is finished, with total construction scheduled to be completed in 2024. Revitalization of the Castle is moving forward to provide efficient and accessible space for visitors and staff. Construction on the Castle will begin in 2023, once all staff has been moved from the Castle to the Capital Gallery Building.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

To conclude, Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Stephanie Felton briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian's Sustainability and Climate Resiliency plans. The Smithsonian has continued working towards sustainability implementation, which is included as a Strategic Initiative to develop a culture of sustainability and activate the Smithsonian's Action Plan to further museum collections and facility sustainability, scientific research, and climate education. Ms. Felton informed the Committee that the Smithsonian is taking mitigation measures to make facilities more resilient against climate-related emergencies, and sustainability efforts will tackle reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, clean energy, water reduction, performance contracting, waste reduction, greening the fleet, procurement, electronics, and sustainable buildings. The Institution has also been working on updates to Smithsonian Directive 422 - Sustainable Design of Smithsonian Facilities and Smithsonian Directive 600 - Collections Management Policy, to ensure consistency with the new sustainability initiatives and certifications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then moved into an executive session at approximately 2:14 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fahey, Chair