

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2017, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a meeting on November 15, 2017, in the Secretary’s Parlor of the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. Participating were Committee Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.* and Committee members Sako Fisher,* Robert P. Kogod, Risa Lavizzo-Mourey,* Robert MacDonald,* and Lawrence C. Nussdorf.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary David Skorton, Director of Smithsonian Facilities Nancy Bechtol, Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Administration John Benton, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell, Deputy Director for Smithsonian Facilities Walter Ennaco, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Kendra Gastright, Under Secretary for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath, Senior Advisor to Senator Leahy Kevin McDonald,* and Deputy Director for Planning & Program Management Debra Nauta-Rodriguez.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair John W. McCarter, Jr., called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2017, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Committee then reviewed the minutes of the July 18, 2017, meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes were approved without modification.

FACILITIES UPDATE

The Committee reviewed the Facilities Capital and Maintenance financial reports. Deputy Director for Smithsonian Facilities Walter Ennaco reviewed the final fiscal year 2017 appropriation levels for Capital and Maintenance funding. In fiscal year 2017, the Smithsonian had \$145.4 million available for facilities capital. Mr. Ennaco explained that the Institution set a federal capital obligation goal of 85 percent, and achieved that goal in fiscal year 2017. He also outlined facilities capital productivity from fiscal year 2010 through 2017.

Director of Smithsonian Facilities Nancy Bechtol shared notable accomplishments from fiscal year 2017 including restoration of the canopy entrance at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum; renovation of the flooring, lighting, and humidification systems at the Freer Gallery; the completion of roadways providing access to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center; completion of the final design of the Dulles collections Storage Module 1 at the National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy center; approval of the final design for the Southside entrance at the National Museum of Natural History; and the conclusion of a two-year exterior stone assessment project at the National Air and Space Museum.

* *Participated by telephone*

Ms. Bechtol also highlighted the Smithsonian's LEED and energy achievements, and called the Committee's attention to the LEED-NC Silver certification received by the Renwick Gallery of Art in July 2017. The National Museum of African American History and Culture ("NMAAHC") received four awards for design and construction and seven awards for craftsmanship in fiscal year 2017, totaling 48 overall awards for the NMAAHC.

Deputy Director for Planning & Program Management Debra Nauta-Rodriguez reviewed funds available for the Facilities Capital and Maintenance programs. Facilities Capital for fiscal year 2018 is being provided under a continuing resolution ("CR"). For fiscal year 2018, \$191 million for revitalization was included in the federal budget request. The total Facilities Capital Funding request for fiscal year 2018 is \$228 million. The Committee discussed the financial impact of the National Air and Space Museum ("NASM") revitalization and deferred maintenance projects. Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez noted that due to the current uncertainty with fiscal year 2018 final appropriations and the fiscal year 2019 OMB request, several reduction level plans would be produced and impacts on the long-term Facilities Capital and Maintenance plan would be evaluated and presented to the Committee.

To close, Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Kendra Gastright provided the Committee with a review of fiscal year 2017 maintenance projects. The Committee analyzed the current facility condition ratings and recognized the need to continue to prioritize projects within the constraints of limited federal funding due to budget challenges in Congress.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM REVITALIZATION UPDATE

Next, Mr. Horvath and Ms. Debra Nauta-Rodriguez provided the Committee with an update on the National Air and Space Museum ("NASM") revitalization. Construction for the Dulles Collections Storage Module 1 at the Udvar-Hazy Center ("UHC") in Chantilly, Virginia, is approximately 7 percent complete. In the short-term the facility will provide artifact swing space during the NASM revitalization on the National Mall, planned for fiscal year 2018 through 2023. In the long-term the facility will provide additional collections storage for artifacts currently housed at the Garber Facility in Suitland, Maryland.

The NASM exterior envelope revitalization project, including the colonial rose granite cladding of the museum's exterior facade, continues on the National Mall. The revised concept for exterior components, site, and landscape was approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts ("CFA") in September 2017 and by the National Capital Planning Commission ("NCPC") on November 2, 2017. Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez noted that final design submissions, including documents pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, will be submitted to CFA and NCPC in January 2018. A final NCPC hearing is expected in March 2018. The Committee identified the inability to secure federal appropriations on a consistent and predictable timeline as the biggest variable affecting the NASM revitalization.

REOPENING OF THE FREER-SACKLER GALLERIES OF ART

Ms. Nauta-Rodriguez and Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Kendra Gastright presented an update on the reopening of the Freer-Sackler Galleries of Art (“FSGA”). The FSGA closed to the public on January 1, 2016, and reopened on October 14, 2017. The renovation included upgrades to the climate and security systems, revitalized gallery and exhibition spaces, refurbishment of the Meyer Auditorium and public corridor, and updates to public amenities. The Smithsonian celebrated the FSGA grand reopening in October with the IlluminAsia Festival, in partnership with the Smithsonian’s Folklife Festival. Committee Chair John McCarter thanked members of the Smithsonian Facilities team for their efforts in making the Freer-Sackler reopening a success.

MAJOR CAPITAL AND MAINTANENCE PROJECT UPDATES

Director of Smithsonian Facilities Nancy Bechtol and Deputy Director for Smithsonian Facilities Walter Ennaco briefed the Committee on the status of the Smithsonian’s major capital projects, including the (1) South Mall Campus Master Plan; (2) exterior stabilization of the Smithsonian Institution Building (“Castle”); (3) ongoing projects at the National Museum of Natural (“NMNH”) History, including renovation of the Fossil Hall exhibit, improvements to the South Entrance, and revitalization of the West Court; (4) a number of improvements and new construction at the National Zoological Park, including renovations to the police station, restrooms, pavilion, Bird House, Great Flight Aviary, and central parking facility; (6) the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Chandra Operations Control Center relocation; and, (7) the New Gatun Lake elevation at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Kendra Gastright reported on the status of the Smithsonian’s maintenance projects. The roof replacement and gutter repair project at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute has been completed. Hardscape repairs at the National Zoological Park and NASM Udvar-Hazy Center are currently underway. The Smithsonian also entered phase two of a multi-year project to replace building automation systems and equipment control panels for centralized monitoring and control.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no request for an executive session and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. McCarter, Jr., Chair