

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2021, FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Facilities Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) conducted a videoconference meeting on April 30, 2021. Participating were Committee Chair John Fahey and Committee members Representative Adrian Smith; Michael Govan; Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey; John W. McCarter, Jr.; and Mitchell N. Schear.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Director of Smithsonian Facilities Nancy Bechtol; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Associate General Counsel Craig Blackwell; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester; Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder); Under Secretary for Museums and Culture Kevin Gover; Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Administration Doug Hall; Inspector General Cathy Helm; Assistant General Counsel Bryan Hoynak; Chief Financial Officer Janice Lambert; Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer Julissa Marengo; Under Secretary for Administration Mike McCarthy; Senior Adviser to Senator Leahy Kevin McDonald; Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Jud McIntire; Program Management Specialist for Smithsonian Facilities Tiffany Myers; Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park; Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Rick Petito; Acting Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross; Director of the Office of Government Relations Vernon Simms; Under Secretary for Science and Research Ellen Stofan; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair John Fahey called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and reviewed the agenda. Mr. Fahey welcomed Representative Adrian Smith and Mitchell Schear to their first Committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2020, COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November 13, 2020, Committee meeting were approved without modification.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE

Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Administration Doug Hall updated the Committee on the Smithsonian’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Mr. Hall reviewed the Smithsonian’s initial reopening schedule, following the Smithsonian’s closure in November 2020. On April 23, 2021, the Smithsonian announced that it would reopen eight of its facilities to the public in May, starting with the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, on May 5. Additional museums and the National Zoo will open on May 14 and May 21. Mr. Hall reminded the Committee that all locations will reopen with added health and safety measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and visitors will need to reserve free timed-entry passes for all locations. All other Smithsonian museums will remain

temporarily closed to the public. The Committee also reviewed the current operational status of non-public facilities outside of the Washington, D.C., region.

NEW SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS

Acting Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Derek Ross gave an update on the status of site selection for the two new Smithsonian museums: the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. The final decision on the sites will be made by the Board of Regents, although the legislation for each museum names several locations to be considered and expresses the intent of Congress that the sites be located on or near the National Mall. Mr. Ross reminded the Committee that the deadline to select the sites, as per the legislation, is two years from the date of enactment of the bill – December 2022. Mr. Ross informed the Committee that site selection will require an outside consulting firm, or perhaps two separate firms, which will be selected through the normal Request for Quote (“RFQ”) procedure. The firm(s) will be hired to help identify, evaluate, test, and vet available sites for each museum concurrently, to be presented to the Board of Regents for consideration.

SAO CAMBRIDGE, MA DISCOVERY PARK LEASE RENEWAL

Director of Smithsonian Facilities Nancy Bechtol briefed the Committee on a request for authority to execute a new five-year lease extension for a portion of the existing leased premises consisting of approximately 58,888 square feet of administrative office, laboratory, and support space for continued occupancy by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (“SAO”) at 100 Discovery Park in Cambridge, MA. Because the motion required approval prior to the April 30, 2021, Facilities Committee meeting, the Executive Committee was asked to approve the lease renewal on behalf of the Facilities Committee, for recommendation to the Board of Regents at the April 12, 2021, meeting.

SMITHSONIAN FACILITIES CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

The Committee received an update on the facilities capital program and funding for fiscal years 2021 through 2022. Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction Jud McIntire reported that the Smithsonian submitted a request to Congress for \$230 million in facilities capital for fiscal year 2022, including \$56 million for the National Air and Space Museum (“NASM”) rebuilding, \$9 million for revitalization of the Smithsonian’s Historic Core, and \$7.6 million for the Pod 6 collections storage, the facility at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland. The Committee also reviewed the breakdown of federal funding for major capital projects for fiscal years 2020 through 2022, and the projected ten-year planned capital programs and projects.

Next, Director of the Office of Facilities Management and Reliability Rick Petito presented the facilities maintenance plans and funding for fiscal years 2020 through 2022. For fiscal year 2022, the Smithsonian submitted a request to Congress for \$116.8 million for the facilities maintenance program, an increase in \$1.5 million over the fiscal year 2021 enacted amount.

Mr. Petito also reviewed the fiscal year 2021 deferred maintenance plan by facility, to continue addressing the Institution’s deferred maintenance backlog. In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the Smithsonian completed a total of 447 maintenance projects.

POD 6 COLLECTIONS STORAGE FACILITY

Mr. Ross then updated the Committee on the progress to design, build, and construct an additional collections storage facility (“Pod 6”) at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland, in partnership with the National Gallery of Art (“NGA”). Mr. Ross reviewed the primary objectives, scope of work, projected cost snapshot, proposed schedule, and execution plan with the Committee. The design phase was scheduled for fiscal years 2020 through 2021 and is currently 65 percent complete. Final design completion is expected in November 2021 and construction is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2022.

REVITALIZATION OF THE HISTORIC CORE

Mr. Ross also led the Committee’s discussion on the execution plan for the revitalization of the Historic Core, which encompasses the Smithsonian Institution Building (“Castle”) and the Arts and Industries Building (“AIB”). The last comprehensive refurbishment of the Castle occurred more than 50 years ago, and although the exterior shell of AIB was revitalized over five years ago, the interior is unfinished. Mr. Ross informed the Committee that although both buildings are in need of major revitalization work, AIB is one of the four sites named for consideration in the National Museum of the American Latino Act, which could potentially impact the major capital project.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM REBUILDING AND RESTAURANT REPLACEMENT

The Committee reviewed the progress of the National Air and Space Museum (“NASM”) revitalization and restaurant replacement. The target date to complete concept design for the new restaurant was April 2021. Ms. Bechtol informed the Committee that the restaurant replacement project scope has changed to include the demolition of the existing restaurant and the creation of a terrace, to be replaced within approximately 10-15 years with a new education center or restaurant. Timing of the restaurant demolition and terrace construction is expected late 2022 to 2024, when the east portion of the museum will be closed to the public.

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

The Committee also discussed the Smithsonian’s sustainability implementation plan following President Biden’s Executive Order on *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (E.O. 14008, signed January 27, 2021). Ms. Bechtol informed the Committee that an SI Wide Committee is developing a climate action plan to address climate vulnerability, resiliency, and literacy. The sustainability plan will tackle mitigation measures around reductions in greenhouse gas emission, clean energy, water reduction, performance contracting, waste reduction, greening the fleet, procurement, electronics, and sustainable buildings. The climate action plan must be submitted by June 27, 2021, and the sustainability plan is due July 31, 2021.

Ms. Bechtol also shared that a review and updates would be made 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.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

The Committee then received updates on the Smithsonian's major capital projects. Ms. Bechtol first gave an update on the renovation status of the Bird House and Great Flight Aviary exhibit at the National Zoo. The project will renew the 46,090 square-foot Bird House and Great Flight Aviary and includes expansion of the entrance for improved accessibility, public restrooms, and programmatic space for the Congressionally established Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Construction began in 2018 and has progressed to 69 percent completion.

Ms. Bechtol also reviewed progress on the Historic Sellman House renovation at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Full completion of the two-phase construction project is expected in June 2021, including comprehensive sitework and a first floor interior rehabilitation to the house, historical exhibits, visitor orientation, and donor reception areas.

Next, Mr. McIntire provided an update on the scope of work at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden ("HMSG"), specifically related to revitalization of the Sculpture Garden. A 65 percent design effort was scheduled to be reached in March 2021, with a complete mockup in April 2021. Construction is slated to begin in 2022 and will encompass design modifications to accommodate the current programmatic needs for sculpture display, performances, and public events; improvements to landscaping; major repair of the garden walls; and replacement of waterproofing to reopen and modernize the underground tunnel that connects the museum's plaza with the garden.

Mr. McIntire also briefed the Committee on repair of the building envelope, roof, and panels at HMSG. Design for the repair was completed in 2020 and phased construction on the building envelope deficiencies began in October 2020. Scaffolding installation began in March 2021 to prepare for replacement of the roof, plus removal of the panels to provide a new attachment system, vapor barrier, and insulation.

To conclude, Ms. Bechtol briefed the Committee on project plans for the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at the National Air and Space Museum's annex in Chantilly, Virginia, which will restore the exterior envelope and replace the roof. Since August 2003, the facility has experienced water and air intrusion at exterior wall locations. Construction has been underway since 2019 and is approximately 40 percent complete.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then moved into an executive session at approximately 2:22 p.m. to discuss confidential business matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Fahey, Chair