
Idaho State Capitol Commission

Official Minutes February 15, 2000

A meeting of the Idaho State Capitol Commission was held on this date in the Attorney Generals' Conference Room, Idaho State Capitol Building. Chairman Eiguren called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Attendees

Members Present:

Roy Lewis Eiguren, Chairman
Pam Ahrens, Director, Department of Administration, and Secretary/Ex-Officio Member
Carl Bianchi, Director, Legislative Services Office and Ex-Officio Member
Andrew Erstad
Steve Guerber, Executive Director, State Historical Society and Ex-Officio Member
Stephen Hartgen
Skip Smyser
Will M. Storey

Others Present:

Donna Hartmans, Capitol Architect, Arrow Rock Architects
Jeff Shneider, CSHQA Architects
Jerry Lowe, CSHQA Architects
Jan Frew, Manager, Design/Construction, Dept. of Administration, Div. of Public Works
Mike Despot, Manager, Dept. of Administration, Div. of Public Works
Rick Thompson, Internal Management Systems Administrator, Department of Administration
Marta Watson, Analyst, Division of Financial Management
Jason Hancock, Analyst, Legislative Services Office
Jim Glass, First Counsel
David Leroy, Board of Trustees, Idaho State Historical Society

Gene Place, Board of Trustees, Idaho State Historical Society
Max Pavesic, Board of Trustees, Idaho State Historical Society
Jerome Mapp, Boise City Councilman
Jerry Armstrong, Citizens for the Beautification of Capitol Boulevard
Mike Simplot, Citizens for the Beautification of Capitol Boulevard
Diane Garcia, Management Assistant, Department of Administration

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Storey moved and Mr. Erstad seconded the minutes of the November 9, 1999 and January 27, 2000 Idaho Capitol Commission meetings be approved as written. The motion unanimously passed.

Citizens for the Beautification of Capitol Boulevard

A presentation by representatives of the Citizens for the Beautification of Capitol Boulevard (CBCB) was provided to the Commission as an informational item. This group was organized by the City of Boise to address Capitol Boulevard as part of a grand entry to the State's Capital City, Chairman Eiguren said.

Mr. Mapp explained in 1989 a plan was accomplished for Capitol Boulevard outlining recommendations for its restoration, and flow of pedestrian and automobile traffic into the downtown core. In 1996 the City prepared an ordinance of design guidelines for Capitol Boulevard. Since then, Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC), Boise City and private landowners formed a consortium to plan for Capitol Boulevard as a prominent thoroughfare anchored at each end by the Capitol Building and the Depot. The group set out to gain consensus of all boulevard property owners to meet its objective.

Armstrong Architects and Jensen Belts Landscape Architects were commissioned to develop the Capitol Boulevard Streetscape Master Plan. The City adopted the Plan in 1998 in an attempt to orchestrate future changes along the Boulevard.

Mr. Mike Simplot of S-Sixteen Limited Partnership and a member of the CBCB, explained it has taken over 2½ years to work out details and bring together a partnership and consensus between property owners, and governmental entities, CCDC, Boise Area Chamber of Commerce, and other interested organizations. The goal of the group is to complete the plans by 2001, if funding becomes available through the state, city and county.

Mr. Jerry Armstrong, of Armstrong Architects and a member of the CBCB, provided a slide presentation of various boulevard designs that other cities have adopted for entrance into their downtown areas. Many of the examples show green spaces, pedestrian-friendly areas, sensitive signing, historical lights, trees, and bike friendly elements. In comparison,

he showed the current condition of Boise's main boulevard, and delineated how it might be improved.

The portion of the boulevard plan, which affects the Capitol Commission, is the Steunenberg Park area located in front of the Capitol Building, he pointed out. The area could be made to look like a plaza to accommodate events, which occur on the building's front steps. At this time, he said, there is no money available for improvements in that particular area. Consequently, CBCB is looking for cooperation from the Capitol Commission on this portion of the project. The cost for the entire two-year boulevard project is \$4 million.

The Commission is in the same boat as far as competing for funds, Chairman Eiguren said. He suggested members of the CBCB meet with members of the Commission to discuss the best way to approach this proposal.

Historical Society Progress Report

Capitol Tour Program and Booth

Director Guerber reported the Capitol information booth is in place with the exception of the marble top, currently under construction.

Last year, he added, the Historical Society logged in 18,000 individuals who toured the Capitol Building through the Historical Society tour program. The Society is currently offering a training program for individuals interested in updating themselves on Capitol history.

State Historical Preservation Fund

Director Guerber reported there is pending legislation in Congress that would greatly increase available historical preservation funds for each of the states. As proposed, that bill would include \$100 million in the Historic Preservation Fund that has never been fully funded by Congress, and would bring between \$500,000 and \$1 million to Idaho for historic preservation projects. Work to be done on the Capitol Building would qualify for these funds.

Original Statehouse Furnishings

The Historical Society provided a listing of furnishings originally purchased for the Capitol, and is now trying to find brochures or catalogs dating back to that particular era, Director Guerber explained. The pictures will be used for identifying existing historical pieces located in various locations, as well as for reproducing certain items.

The next step is to compare this list to the inventory compiled recently of furnishings located at various state agencies that may have originated at the Capitol. Some state agencies have expressed concern they would not be compensated for items they return to the Capitol.

Joint Heritage Preservation Campaign Proposal

The Historical Society's Board of Trustees is attempting to deal with its capital needs, Director Guerber reported, and has proposed to the Commission the possibility of a combined statewide "Heritage Campaign".

A committee of the Board of Trustees was created to research the needs and feasibility of a capital campaign for the Historical Society, Mr. Leroy beginning a major long-term fundraising plan on behalf of historical preservation in Idaho. This plan could be in conflict with the Capitol Commission's efforts, he said, and proposed joining forces for a more vigorous fundraising effort by both the Historical Society and Capitol Commission. A letter of response to this proposal had been sent earlier to the Trustees from Chairman Eiguren who explained the Commission wants a focused fundraising approach for the Capitol Building.

Mr. Leroy added the fundraiser selected by the Historical Society has completed an initial report. He suggested the Capitol Commission's fundraiser, Mr. Jim Glass, meet with the Society's fundraiser so that Mr. Glass can understand what elements the Society could bring to the Commission's campaign. If not a joint campaign, the Society might then benefit from proceeding with a fundraising venture from the point where the Commission completes its campaign in a couple years, and carry it on with a statewide focus.

Dr. Pavesic reiterated the Historical Society is moving forward with its campaign and thinks a combined effort would avoid duplication. Mr. Glass offered that he would be pleased to meet with representatives of the Historical Society if accompanied by a representative of the Capitol Commission. At the moment, he said, he would have to be persuaded that there are fundamentally good reasons that would benefit the Commission relative to a joint effort. Director Ahrens added the Capitol Commission is not as far along as the Historical Society in its fundraising assessment process. A study needs to be done initially for the Commission to know the feasibility involved, she said.

One reason the Society is proposing the joint venture is due to responses received from the 35 interviews conducted statewide as part of the feasibility study, Director Guerber noted. Indications were that individuals may be more likely to contribute to a joint endeavor. Mr. Glass replied he will be conducting 65 interviews statewide and if there are indications that a joint campaign is preferred he will bring it to the attention of the Commission.

Chairman Eiguren asked Mr. Glass to meet with the Historical Society fundraiser and report back to Commission at its May meeting.

Special License Plate

At the last Commission meeting, Director Bianchi was asked to research the possibility of a special license plate to generate revenue for the Capitol restoration project.

Director Bianchi reported there are two types of special plates that cost more than regular plate registration. To deal with the proliferating number of special plates, the Legislature established law that says all special plates must look generally the same. They must be red, white, and blue, and the design must fall within a specified parameter. However, the second type of special plate is not required to be red, white, and blue and it can have a unique design such as the mountain bluebird or elk.

Legislative approval would be required should the Commission want exemption from the three-color plate. Both types of plates cost \$35.00 for the first year and \$25.00 each year thereafter. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is provided \$10.00 of those amounts and the agency or the program sponsoring the plate gets the remaining money. The three-color plates do not raise as much money as the special plates, and may not be worth pursuing by the Commission. It is difficult to estimate possible revenue should the Commission choose a plate with a unique design, he said, but it could be as much as \$100,000 or more annually. He distributed draft legislation that would allow a special plate for the Commission.

While conducting this research, he said, it was discovered that moneys currently collected for personalized plates, unlike all of the other special plates, have not been directed to any specific fund. The funds are currently added to ITD's general budget. This draft legislation, he explained, also amends statute to take the portion of the special plates after ITD's \$10.00 per plate share, and relocate it into the Capitol Commission's Endowment Income Fund which would add about \$300,000 per year. If the Commission would like to proceed with this piece of draft legislation, he said, it will have to be delivered to the Legislature this week in order to request that it be processed through the Legislative Transportation Committees.

Mr. Smyser cautioned there might be resistance in the creation of a new plate. Additionally, diverting funds from ITD will also be very difficult to change. However, the license plate would provide a way for citizens to assist with the Capitol Commission cause, if they choose.

Director Ahrens suggested rather than recommending diverting the special license plate fees to the Capitol Commission indefinitely, that they be diverted for a certain time frame at the end of which time they divert back to ITD.

MOTION: Mr. Smyser moved and Director Guerber seconded that the Commission pursue legislative sponsorship of the proposed legislation with the modification that the allocation of special license plate funds be diverted to the Capitol Commission for a period of 5 years. The motion passed unanimously.

FY00 and FY01 Budgets

Mr. Hancock requested the Commission draft a letter to the Department of Lands asking for information in regard to value of land associated to the endowment fund. The information will be used by staff to decide how best to invest that asset for the ultimate return. The Commission agreed.

At this date, Mr. Thompson explained, this Commission's current budget is 58% through the fiscal year. He reported since the last Commission meeting, there have been four significant financial transactions.

During the first 5 months of FY00, \$17,400 in architect fees was charged to current operations rather than to encumbered FY99 funding for outstanding architect fees. This has since been adjusted. Additionally, \$3,800 in Website development charges had been credited to the current budget as well, rather than to encumbered funds. This has also been rectified. Subsequently, there is a remaining balance of \$7,200 in FY99 encumbrances, which has been obligated for architect fees.

Finally, the Legislature approved the Commission's FY00 supplemental request for \$20,000 for communications expenses. The funding will become available upon signature of the bill by the Governor. Chairman Eiguren noted these funds will be utilized by the Communications Committee to create a video, and newsletter, and hire a photographer to capture photos of the progress of the project. He said he will circulate the communications plan, as soon as it is in draft form, to the Commission members for their input.

Including the \$20,000 supplemental, Mr. Thompson concluded, the Commission has an available balance of about \$68,000 for the remainder of FY00. The current cash balance in the Endowment Income Fund is \$1,978,162. This is the Fund that is subject to appropriation for Commission use, he concluded.

At 12:00 p.m., the Commission moved to Room #416 of the Statehouse to continue its meeting during the lunch hour.

Fundraising

Polling Services

Mr. Greg Smith, of Greg Smith and Associates, presented to the Commission results of a small marketing project he conducted for the Capitol Commission. In his last quarterly polling efforts of Idaho citizens, he added three questions in relationship to the Commission.

Specifically, he explained, the sample was presented to 408 randomly selected Idahoans over the age of 18, which leaves an error rate of 4.9%, and a 95% confidence level. He noted that results of all the sampled individuals were fairly homogeneous.

The first question was presented as follows: "The Idaho State Capitol Building was constructed from 1905 to 1920. There has never been a comprehensive restoration of the Capitol. Were you aware of this?"

He reported 71% of polled Idahoans statewide were unaware of this fact. In Ada County, 45% stated they were unaware.

The second question: "The Governor and Idaho's Legislature have created a new Capitol Commission to develop a restoration plan that will address these building issues. Do you support the creation of a renovation plan?"

80% of the polled individuals statewide are in favor of the renovation plan.

Question number 3: The preliminary restoration plan suggests that full restoration may cost as much as \$50 million. If the Commission is successful in raising a substantial portion of these funds from private contributions, financing the remaining portion through the sale of long term bonds issued by the state, and there is no increase in the state taxes you pay, do you support the restoration of our Capitol?"

The results describe 85% of polled Idahoans statewide in favor of restoration. In conclusion, he summarized, the concept of renovation is an extremely popular one and will likely be looked upon quite favorably by a vast majority of the electorate. The challenge for the Idaho Capitol Commission, in his opinion, is to make the public aware of the current infrastructure condition, and the proposed methods of funding.

Fundraising Consultant Overview

Mr. Jim Glass, from First Counsel Inc., addressed the Commission for the first time in his capacity of Capitol Commission fundraiser and explained that he has initiated his research on major fundraising prospects and strategies for the feasibility study.

One of his first tasks, he said, is to develop a short statement to use to begin the study process itself. Once it is determined who is to be interviewed, a letter will be drafted from Chairman Eiguren to those individuals. He said he hopes to begin the face-to-face interviews in March, and he plans to be involved with all of the interviewing himself. He added he would like to have an electronic 3 to 4-minute presentation on a lap top computer to provide a holistic and exciting review of the project.

To begin the process, he said, he will send a letter to each of the Commission members asking for suggestions of potential individuals to contact. A master list will then be

compiled and sent back to the Commission members to categorize and prioritize those to be interviewed. Also to be distributed will be a proposed \$10 million fund raising campaign with a wider public dimension to include all ranges of donations.

Recognition is also something that will need to be folded into the fundraising process, he continued. Donors and school children statewide need to have a stake in the effort and feel a part of the project.

Director Ahrens stressed the Commission's fundraising efforts should not involve any state employees due to the appearance of conflict. The private sector participants of the Commission should take the fundraising lead.

Town Hall Meetings

Chairman Eiguren explained the town meetings, anticipated for late April, will provide the opportunity for the Commission to get out and brief citizens in various areas of the state about the Capitol Master Plan. Legislators of each area will be contacted ahead of time to participate.

At 1:35 p.m., the Commission returned to the Attorney General's Conference Room.

Report by Capitol Master Planners

Exterior Recommendations

Test cleaning of the exterior masonry will be accomplished this upcoming weekend, Mr. Shneider anticipated, using low-pressure vortex. A critical factor is determining the best cleaning method should the Commission decided to clean the exterior from top to bottom. In reading historical literature, he said, the stone work shows some variation of stone color.

Mr. Lowe pointed out an analysis of the exterior stone work reported that it is in good condition, mainly due to Boise's dry climate. There are some spalling and cracked areas of the exterior, however, which have been illustrated in the Master Plan.

Other exterior work, Mr. Shneider added, includes tuckpointing, and removing objects such as antennas/wires and then determining how they will be replaced. Lighting of the exterior is yet another component. At the Governor's request, he said, lights that are added to the domes and columns for the Christmas season will stay up year around. As part of the Master Plan, investigation will be done on how to tie all exterior lighting aspects together.

Building Code and Mechanical/Electrical Systems

The code elements to be addressed are contained in the draft Master Plan along with a series of significant areas that will have to be dealt with on a case by case basis, Mr. Shneider explained. Once modifications are made to the existing structure, we must see it through to completion in regard to safety. The master plan will take a common sense approach with safety code issues.

An initial review has been done on the electrical and mechanical systems, he added. The electrical system is in much better condition than first anticipated, but the mechanical system is fragmented.

Master Plan Timeline

Mr. Lowe distributed a listing of milestones for the Master Plan approval process. With the distribution of the draft Master Plan to the Commissioners on this date, he said, the next milestone will be for Commission comments to be returned by March 10th. On March 14th Commission members will conduct a work session to finalize the plan.

The Plan will then be distributed to the Citizen Committees by the 20th with their comments due back April 7th. Town hall meetings are then scheduled for the week of April 24th, with the official completion of the Master Plan on April 28th. The Commission will then be able to approve the plan at its May 2nd meeting, and present it in final form to the Legislative Council when it meets tentatively on May 3rd. Director Bianchi suggested a presentation also be made to JFAC during its spring meeting.

Report by the Capitol Architect

Ms. Hartmans distributed an updated project schedule to the Commission delineating meetings and actions that have, and will occur with regard to the Master Plan.

In December, she pointed-out a meeting was held regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) application to the Capitol. She, along with Mr. Lowe, Ken Hartell (past employee of the Division of Building Safety); Roger Howard (Idaho Task Force--an advocacy group for ADA issues); and Kelly Buckland (a wheelchair-bound state employee), walked through the Capitol and brought up possible concerns in regard to ADA issues. Some of the things Mr. Buckland mentioned included heavy doors, restroom access and a lack of areas of refuge in case of fire. Some of the items reviewed in regard to ADA have been included in the Master Plan, she concluded.

Response to Jim Zamzow's Questions Regarding the Capitol Mall Grounds

Mr. Despot reported he met with Mr. Zamzow and agreed that the condition of the water used on the Capitol Building grounds is high in salt content due to the geothermal source. Plans are to lower a camera into the well to see if the water quality can be improved and the temperature cooled. If unsuccessful, City water will be utilized for the Capitol grounds.

The Harrison trees now has a fence surrounding its base as well as a sign that explains revitalization efforts being done on the tree. Mr. Zamzow expects the tree to have new growth by this spring, he said.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Commission will be scheduled for May 2nd. Subsequent meetings will be held the first week in September, 2000 and the second week in December, 2000.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:20 p.m.

Roy Lewis Eiguren, Chairman

Idaho State Capitol Commission

Diane K. Garcia, Management Assistant

Department of Administration