
Idaho State Capitol Commission

Official Minutes

July 2, 2020

A meeting of the Idaho State Capitol Commission was held on this date in Room WW17 of the Idaho Capitol Building, Boise, Idaho, and via teleconference. Chairman Erstad called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees

Members Present:

Andy Erstad, Chairman

Keith Reynolds, Director, Dept. of Administration (IDOA), Ex-Officio Member, Commission Secretary

Eric Milstead, Director, Legislative Services Office (LSO) and Ex-Officio Member

Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, State Historical Society (ISHS), and Ex-Officio Member (via teleconference)

Marilyn Whitney, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction (via teleconference)

Mary Symms-Pollot (via teleconference)

Senator Chuck Winder (via teleconference)

Nancy Sue Wallace (via teleconference)

Members Absent and Excused:

Representative Jason Monks

Others/Staff Present:

Pat Donaldson, Administrator, Division of Public Works (DPW)

Barry Miller, Deputy Administrator, DPW

Lindsay Erb, Project Manager, DPW

Teri Kondeff, Deputy Director, Legislative Services Office, LSO

Soren Jacobsen, IT Network Support Specialist Senior, LSO

Glenn Harris, Manager, LSO

Jeff Tucker, Director of Programming, Idaho Public Television (IDPTV) (via teleconference)

Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager, IDPTV (via teleconference)

Lincoln Smyser, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer (via teleconference)

Nicole Inghilterra, Capitol Curator, ISHS (via teleconference)

Michelle O'Brien, Special Projects Coordinator, LSO (via teleconference)

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Milstead moved and it was seconded by Commissioner Wallace that the minutes of the May 8, 2020 Idaho State Capitol Commission meeting be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Design and Construction Committee

Prepare for Legislative Activities Following COVID-19 Safety Recommendations

Approval is being requested of the Commission for audio/visual upgrades in the Statehouse, and to provide related upgrades for Idaho Public Television in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Committee Chairman Milstead explained. Work will address how the Legislature conducts its business this Fall and during the upcoming 2021 session. No Commission funds are being requested at this time.

Ms. Erb pointed out this work is an addition to a project currently underway, Technology Upgrade Review. The technology upgrade project began in 2019 with a Request For Qualifications for a master plan and The Greenbusch Group from Seattle was hired. The company worked with staff from LSO and IDPTV to complete a roadmap of needed upgrades. With remaining dollars from master plan funding, an upgrade to the fire-suppression system was completed as was installation of new projectors in the Caucus Rooms.

On June 12th an Emergency Authorization Request was issued for a design-build contract with Audio Solutions, the contractor involved in the original renovation work. The Authorization is to prepare the Statehouse by October 1st for the 2020 interim committee work, new legislator orientation, organizational session, and for use should the pandemic extend into the 2021 session. Per Idaho Code, the Administrator of Public Works approved the emergency request.

She explained the project will address COVID-19 social distancing recommendations including splitting chambers and meeting rooms that will:

- Allow legislators to social distance and participate from remote locations via online meeting platforms;
- Create a way to display and hear remote participants;
- Make it possible to broadcast an image and audio of the meeting to remote participants;
- Relocate desks and microphones to accommodate social distancing.

Behind-the-scenes updates, that will require very little change to building finishes, include:

- Acoustic Echo Cancellation for optimum audio experience in chambers and online for remote participants;

- Upgraded audio system platform to allow for improved reliability for audio signals and video switching control;
- Upgraded TV monitor and installation of a second monitor for the House.

The other component of this project involves “Idaho in Session” which is operated by IDPTV. Because IDPTV provides a lot of the behind-the-scenes support to complement LSO improvements, additional hardware and technology upgrades will be needed. Extra server room space will also be created to house more equipment. It’s anticipated that the pilot rooms will be complete next month to test connectivity.

Funding for the work, about \$1.2 million, will be requested through the CARES Act. Application for the funding will be submitted to the Coronavirus Finance Advisory Committee within a week or two, Chairman Milstead noted. Commissioner Reynolds added that if CARES Act funds are not granted, use of Commission funds will be requested to complete this work.

Ms. Erb concluded that the described work is part of The Greenbusch Group’s master plan including cost saving elements. The number one goal, she said, is to ensure participants in the legislative process remain safe during continuing threats posed by COVID-19.

MOTION: Commissioner Winder moved, and it was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds that the Commission approve the project and encourage funding through Cares Act monies. The motion passed unanimously after a roll-call vote.

Other Business

Update on Graffiti Removal

The front entry way of the Capitol was tagged with graffiti two nights in a row, Mr. Miller explained. Since, staff has been working with TMC Masonry and Gerhardt Borbonus, who owns the quarry where the Capitol sandstone originated. Mr. Borbonus provided sample pieces manufactured with the same texture as that at the Capitol. These pieces were used to discover how to remove paint without damaging the stone.

A method to successfully remove the paint without damage, and involving multiple days, was identified. Workers will begin this process on the building itself during the week of July 13th. The cleaning process, however, will also remove dust and oxidation that has occurred over 100 years since the Capitol was constructed. Because of the variation of color that will be caused from the cleaning, larger areas of the stone will be cleaned to minimize the visual impact. The total cost is estimated at about \$8,000. The state is seeking restitution from the individual arrested for creating the graffiti.

Commissioner Symms-Pollot inquired about future security of the Capitol and Mr. Miller explained since this incident, a security officer has been posted at the top of the stairs 24/7 until the work is done. Commissioner Reynolds added that the graffiti occurred during the time of the Black Lives Matter protests at the Capitol when security was already at a heightened stance. It’s quite a balance to provide

citizens with their first amendment right to assemble at the Capitol while keeping everyone safe and preventing property damage, he said.

Next Meeting Date

Chairman Erstad noted the next meeting of the Capitol Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12.

Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Milstead moved and it was seconded by Commissioner Symms-Pollot that the July 2, 2020 meeting of the Idaho Capitol Commission be adjourned at 2:08 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Diane K. Blume, Program Specialist
Department of Administration