

State Capitol and Executive Residence Board
Virtual Meeting
January 25, 2021 Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board was called to order by Legislative Chairperson, Representative Loudenbeck, at 1:00pm via conference call. The meeting was broadcast via WisconsinEye.

2. Roll Call

SCERB Recording Secretary, Jillian Vessely, called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Senator Agard, Senator Kooyenga, Senator Roth, Representative Duchow, Representative Loudenbeck, Representative Subeck, Mr. Asad, Mr. Fernholz, Mr. Kay, Ms. Neitzel, Mr. Overland, Ms. Reed, Ms. Sager, Mr. Siggelkow, Ms. Torstveit and Ms. Veltum.

Guests Present: Mr. Jason Rittel, DOA-DFTS; Mr. Ted Crawford, DOA-DFTS; Mr. Dave Endres, Chair of the Vel Phillips Community Advisory Committee and American Family Insurance; Mr. Michael Phillips, son of Vel Phillips; Lieutenant Chris Litzkow, State Capitol Police.; Kelly Thompson, Kontext Architects.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (July 20, 2020)

Motion #1: Mr. Kay moved to approve the minutes from July 20, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fernholz.

Motion #1 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Subcommittee Reports

There were no updates to report from the Furniture and Finishes Subcommittee according to Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Torstveit. While there were no official reports for the Garden Master Planning & Capitol Park Subcommittee, Mr. Fernholz, the Subcommittee Chair, provided a few quick notes to the board.

The Shoreline Restoration project proposal is currently being reviewed and Mr. Fernholz wanted to ensure that before the final proposal is presented to the board for consideration that there is caution regarding the safety equipment used and where it is placed within the proposed project area. He also noted that there should be consideration for the five-foot buffer above the stone area and the ten-foot-wide turf walk that will require some excavation. Minimal disturbance should remain at the existing grade and mature oak trees. Representative Duchow inquired as to whether an arborist has reviewed the

proposal and Mr. Fernholz noted that while there has not yet, it would be a good idea for Dr. Allison to review and provide a second opinion. Mr. Fernholz also noted that the existing concrete light bollards need to be noted in the proposed plan or considered for different placement. Lastly, he noted that the commemorative stones currently under the oak trees on the lake side of the property should be moved and placed to coincide with the proper species that are noted on the stones themselves. Ms. Reed inquired as to when the final plan would be viewable, and it is the hope of the subcommittee to present at the next SCERB meeting. Mr. Kay also asked about the native plantings along the shoreline and Mr. Rittel explained that the organization that is in charge of the project is working to finalize those plans and the fundraising efforts to grow and procure those plants. The earliest Mr. Rittel anticipates any of the plantings to be done is this fall.

5. State Capitol Updates

Mr. Ted and Mr. Rittel provided the following updates to the Board regarding projects at the State Capitol.

- **Dome Tuckpointing:** This project was completed in November and under budget. The Bureau of Building Management (BBM) received photo/drone documentation for future projects. Future projects include Lantern Window Replacement and Wisconsin Statue Gold Leafing, both of which will be earmarked for the 2023-25 capital budget.
- **Roof Replacements:** This project was completed in November and stayed within budget. There were additional parapet wall repairs necessary to all wings.
- **Assembly Chambers Ceiling Restoration:** This project was completed in October 2020, one month ahead of schedule, and within budget. The painting was completed by BBM in-house staff.
- **North Hamilton Steps Repair:** This project was completed in September 2020. The stairs needed to be set after the drainage leaks from the interior roof drains. A small area of cherry grit also needed to be replaced within this project.
- **Promenade Masonry Repairs:** This project is under design for construction to start in summer 2021 and will take approximately three summers to complete. This project is a test fit to make sure what is needed for the entire scope of the project. The test fit area will consist of East Washington Avenue towards the Wisconsin Avenue entrance.
- **Fire Panel System Upgrades:** This project will be completed in early February 2021. The project has stayed within the revised budget after rebidding took place in February 2020.
- **Window Repairs:** A test fit on one window was completed in fall of 2020 to replace the sash, paint and caulk. The Division of Facilities and Transportation Services (DFTS) will bid replacement of 108 sashes around the Capitol exterior. The work is anticipated to be completed in summer 2021 with painting and caulking to be completed by BBM in-house staff.
- **Clocks:** This project will replace the hands on 513 clocks and minor interior mechanics of clocks to increase reliability. Total clock counts are 200 Brass 12”

Face and 313 Bronze 15” Face. The contractor has finished approximately 25% of the clocks and the project should be completed by end of the summer 2021.

- COVID-19 Related Facility Enhancements: The following enhancements were made within the State Capitol related to COVID:
 - Touch-free water faucets in public restrooms. Senator Roth noted that there currently are holes where the previous valves were at the sink and asked what the plan was to fill these. Mr. Rittel explained that the hole covers are special ordered and were just received last week. DFTS will be working over the next two weeks to cover these holes with stainless steel covers.
 - Touch-free paper towel dispensers in public restrooms.
 - Increased ventilation and filtration within HVAC systems.
 - Increased signage.
 - Increased daily cleaning efforts and hand sanitizer stations throughout the Capitol.
- Civil Unrest Restoration: Since our last SCERB meeting, there was additional civil unrest in August 2020 with additional damage occurring at the WI Law Enforcement Memorial. DFTS staff are working with vendors to determine the final costs for necessary repairs. The Forward and Hans Christian Heg statues are in Michigan undergoing restoration efforts. The missing pieces of the statues have had molds created and casting processes are underway. The Heg head mold was completed utilizing a replica statue in Racine County by the restoration vendor Venus Bronze Works. This work was completed prior to the end of 2020. Project completion of the statues is projected to wrap up by July of this year.

The board had several questions relating to the civil unrest and restoration processes. Senator Kooyenga inquired as to whether any of the damage to the statues was deemed “unrepairable.” According to Ms. Veltum the answer to that is no; the statues will be able to be fully restored to their prior condition and appearance. There were also several questions relating to the costs of these repairs. Per Ms. Veltum, the total cost to repair both statues is approximately \$81,600; however, the State has been awarded \$60,000 in Grant funds to put towards their restoration. The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) also has received over \$13,000 in donations from the public to help cover the remaining costs. Per Mr. Overland and Ms. Veltum, these donated funds have been put into a WHS account, which will be transferred to the Department of Administration (DOA) Restoration Fund. Any remaining costs that are not covered from the grants or donations will be taken out of the DOA Restoration Fund.

Representative Duchow also had questions regarding any restitution efforts being made from those who caused the damage. Lieutenant Chris Litzkow from the State Capitol Police Department was on hand to note that an active investigation is currently ongoing and that there are some identified individuals whose court

hearings are already underway. Capitol Police will continue these investigative efforts to the full extent possible. Representative Loudenbeck had concerns about future unrest and further damage to the Capitol. Lt. Litzkow explained that Capitol Police is attuned to these concerns and is constantly monitoring the situation, however they do not anticipate any future unrest; therefore, according to Ms. Veltum, DFTS will be working this week to remove the wood boards from the Capitol.

Ms. Neitzel noted during discussion that there were security cameras and other items such as doors and windows that were also damaged during the civil unrest and inquired about the cost to repair those. Mr. Rittel explained that the current cost is just under \$30,000. Per Ms. Veltum most of the repair and replacement efforts for this damaged equipment has been completed. Ms. Neitzel also inquired as to whether all costs have been submitted to an insurance claim and Ms. Veltum confirmed that they have.

- **Badger and Shield Statue:** The Badger and Shield Statue that is located outside of the Governor's Office has been requested by the US Naval Academy Museum to be returned. A copy of the letter from the WHS to the US Naval Academy was provided to the Board for review. The letter requested that the statue remain onsite, but Mr. Rittel reported that the State has not yet received a response.

6. Executive Residence Updates

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Rittel provided updates to the Board regarding the following projects at the Executive Residence.

- **Window Repairs:** This project will replace 11 clear mahogany sills mainly on the lake side of the Residence. The project has been bid and the work is scheduled for Spring 2021. Painting will be completed by BBM in-house staff.
- **Front Drainage Project:** This project will fix the drainage problem in the front area of the Residence. The project was bid in August 2020 and did not receive bids; therefore, it will be rebid in early March for construction in early or late summer.
- **Fiber Connectivity Upgrade:** Conduit was installed in December and new fiber pulled earlier this month. Connections are scheduled for late January to complete the upgrades.

7. 21-23 Capital Budget

Mr. Crawford provided a summary of the proposed projects at the Capitol for the 2021-2023 Capital Budget.

- **Window Drapery & Film:** This project will repair or replace draperies due to age and sun damage. Drapery hardware is currently residential grade and needs to be upgraded to commercial grade. The installation of 3M thinsulate UV film will provide thermal savings and stop damaging UV radiation. There are approximately 408 units that will be part of this project. Senator Agard noted her

excitement for this project as the draperies from outside the Capitol look incredibly worn. Mr. Kay and Ms. Torstveit also noted that this project was previously approved by the Furniture and Finishes Subcommittee as well as by the full board in a majority vote.

- **Mechanical Upgrades:** This project will evaluate, repair and/or replace primary electrical distribution and secondary panels. This project will also investigate the variable frequency drives serving the building. The second part of the mechanical project is to upgrade or replace parts of the 10 air handling units which include modular coils for heating system, shut off valves and fittings. Mr. Siggelkow asked if this project will have any physical impact on visible areas of the building and Mr. Crawford clarified that it will not as this work will be done within all interior mechanical areas.
- **North & West Wing Carpet Replacements:** This project will replace the carpet in the North and West wings of the State Capitol. The carpet is over 20 years old. A few of the hearing rooms carpeting is pulling away from the pad and is worn down to the pad in some corners. The colors of the carpeting throughout the North & West Wings have faded and attic stock carpeting is no longer available for patch repairs. Mr. Overland asked that if we are able, could the carpets be replaced in kind and if this cannot be done will the samples come back to SCERB for approval? Mr. Crawford explained that right now this project is simply in preliminary stages and that the Design Team and Building Management staff are just beginning to look at all possible options for this project.

Ms. Torstveit and Mr. Kay both had questions regarding future capital budgets past 2021-23. Preferably moving forward, they would like DOA to provide a six-year plan that includes future capital budgets and the proposed projects that will fall under those timelines. Mr. Crawford will work on putting together such report and will distribute to the board once completed.

8. State Capitol Items for Consideration

Ms. Veltum introduced two guest speakers for the Vel Phillips Statue Proposal – Mr. Dave Endres, Chair of the Vel Phillips Community Advisory Committee, and an attorney at American Family Insurance, as well as Mr. Michael Phillips, son of the honorable Vel Phillips.

Throughout the entirety of Mr. Endres' presentation, it was noted that the intent of this proposal is to fully work with the statutory requirements of SCERB. He noted a special thanks to DOA for all their work to support this proposal, as well as to Michael Johnson, the CEO of Boys and Girls Club, who kicked off this effort shortly after the civil unrest in the summer of 2020.

SCERB currently has a longstanding policy in place that does not allow for the addition of any plaques or memorials without the removal of an existing plaque or memorial. This

proposal therefore is asking for one-time exception to this policy. The Vel Phillips Statue proposal represents the scarcity of representation of African American culture within the State Capitol. Vel Phillips championed equality for all races and proposing this statue not only addresses African American representation, but representation for all races and ethnicities. The proposed statue provides an opportunity, educationally and culturally, to show Wisconsin children the importance of diversity and that someone “like them” is honored for their contributions to civil rights and the State of Wisconsin. This proposal also presents an opportunity to show our communities that the State is moving forward from recent civil unrest and that we are reaching out to communities that are feeling marginalized.

The Vel Phillips Statue proposal has received support from around the state, some of which was shared with the board. This project has seen a fair amount of publicity and minimal, if hardly any, opposition. Vel Phillip’s record and achievements are incomparable. She is recognized by City of Milwaukee and University of Wisconsin-Madison, but now is the time for her to be recognized by the State. The State Capitol Park is an important reflection of symmetry within the Capitol, except at the South Hamilton corner where there is no statue. This proposal offers to fill this vacancy with a statue of Vel Phillips that will be designed and installed within same context/design as other statues around the capitol park grounds. Mr. Endres noted that while the Advisory Committee and Taskforce do not oversee the casting/design/etc. of the statue, they will work closely alongside DOA to complete these steps if approved. The Advisory Committee is hoping for an opportunity to obtain Grant funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for this statue as it is estimated to cost approximately \$241,000, but if not, they are confident they will be able to raise the appropriate funds through community contributions and commitments. A fundraising campaign would not begin until this project is approved.

Mr. Mike Phillips was also on hand to provide a brief history of his mother’s work and impact on her communities and the State as a whole. In 1951, Vel Phillips was the first African American woman to graduate from University of Wisconsin Law School in Milwaukee; in 1956 she was the first woman and African American elected to the Milwaukee Common Council; in 1960 she was the first African American to be elected to the National Committee of either political party; in 1971 she was appointed to the Milwaukee County Judiciary; and in 1978 she made national history by becoming the first woman and first African American to be elected to Secretary of State in Wisconsin. Vel Phillips has had immense and undeniable state-wide impact.

After Mr. Endres’ and Phillips’ presentations concluded, the board had nothing but praise for Vel Phillips and noted great encouragement for this proposal as well. Several questions were raised regarding the statue and the proposal. Senator Agard inquired whether a contract would be created for the mold and statue and if the mold would be able to be used by other people or destroyed. Mr. Endres noted that the State would own

the mold and likely the mold would be retained in case damage were to happen in the future. If the mold were ever to be requested for use by others, DOA Legal Team would have to review and provide that authority. Mr. Kay brought up a few concerns regarding the final design and height of the statue. The Advisory Committee and Task Force would work with DOA throughout the entire process to ensure the best mold for the statue is obtained and that the statue's structure itself is comparable to the other statues on the Capitol Grounds, including the base measurements and height. Mr. Endres noted that the height of Vel Phillips' herself would likely be shorter in comparison to the other statues as she was a petite woman, and a larger scale statue would be a misrepresentation. Representative Loudenbeck asked if the Advisory Committee has optioned the idea of designing a memorial for Vel Phillips inside the Capitol. While Mr. Endres and Mr. Phillips noted the Committee's original intent has always been to have this statue outside on the Capitol grounds, they would not dismiss the idea if that ends up being the only other potential option.

Motion #2: Ms. Torstveit moved to create a new SCERB subcommittee to work with the DOA and the Vel Phillips Statue Advisory Committee and Taskforce to finalize design details of the proposal, as well as final review the proposed location in order to provide a recommendation to the board for consideration at a future meeting. Mr. Asad seconded the motion.

Motion #2 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Motion #3: Representative Loudenbeck moved to nominate Cindy Torstveit as Chair of the new Vel Phillips Statue Proposal Subcommittee. No other nominations were made. Seconded by Representative Subeck.

Motion #3 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

9. Other Business

Representative Loudenbeck took the last few moments of the meeting to bring up a few Other Business items. Moving forward, one of the goals of the Chair is to potentially form another subcommittee to review, update and compile a new SCERB History Booklet. If any members are interested in this potential project, they should plan to reach out to Representative Loudenbeck's office.

The board plans to hold the Legislate and Public Vice Chair Elections at the next SCERB meeting.

Ms. Veltum provided an update on the Restoration Account Balance of \$195,072.16.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:47pm.