



# STATE CAPITOL & EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE BOARD

State Capitol 225 NW

December 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes

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## 1. Call to Order

The meeting of the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board was called to order by the Legislative Chairperson, Representative Lisa Subeck, at 2:32pm. The meeting was held in the State Capitol.

## 2. Roll Call

SCERB Recording Secretary, Jillian Vessely, called the roll.

Members Present: Senator Kelda Roys, Senator André Jacque, Senator Van Wanggaard, Representative Amy Binsfeld; Representative Cindi Duchow; Representative Lisa Subeck, Ms. Melissa Destree, Mr. Arlan Kay, Mr. Christian Overland, Senator Janis Ringhand (retired), Ms. Lesley Sager, Mr. Ron Siggelkow, Ms. Marcel Maul, Mr. Tom List, and Ms. Megan Wolf.

Members Absent: Mr. Rafeeq Asad.

Guests Present: Darrin Smith, DOA-DFTS; Matt Siller, DOA-DFTS; Mike Bath, DOA-DFTS; Sanjay Olson, DOA-DFTS; Jeanine Schneider, Office of Representative Subeck; Lieutenant Mickael Price, State Capitol Police; Amy Hasselman, Kontext Architecture.

Representative Subeck took a moment to thank Representative Binsfeld for her service on SCERB as she will no longer be on the board at the start of the new year.

## 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (April 12, 2024)

Motion #1: Ms. Maul moved to approve the minutes from April 12, 2024. Seconded by Senator Ringhand.

Motion #1 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 4. Subcommittee Reports

### **Furniture, Finishes & Art | Ms. Marcel Maul**

#### State Capitol North Hearing Room Chair Replacement:

The Wisconsin State Assembly requested a chair replacement for seated committee members. The North Hearing Room has become a more commonly used room in recent years. The current chairs do not provide acceptable comfort or convenience for long sessions. They do not have casters, but plastic carpet glides, and chairs are affixed with an antiquated adjustment mechanism. The current chairs are original Assembly and Senator floor chairs for legislators. They are believed to have been replaced and restored around 1965, minus casters. They are not historic to the North Hearing Room itself. If replacement is approved, the current historic chairs would be kept and reassimilated to areas throughout the Capitol, including the anti-chamber to the Hearing Room.

The requested replacement is a leather Steelcase Siento contemporary high back boardroom chair, to be purchased in a mahogany color with black accents for placement at the dais. The proposed model is inspired by

the Supreme Court Hearing Room chairs the Justices use. These chairs have a 300-pound weight load and seat width of 21 inches. Regarding ergonomics, the height is adjustable, but the seat base and arms are not.

Senator Jacque raised some concern about the modern style of the desired chairs as opposed to finding a more historic model that would better fit the aesthetic of the Capitol, similar to the existing chairs with natural wood, but acknowledged that ergonomics might not be suitable in such an alternative. Ms. Maul noted that options were reviewed based on comfort and functional need. The current chairs, due to the lack of casters and heavy weight, rip up the carpet. Mr. Smith also noted the desired model presented best represents what is currently being used in the Supreme Court. The current Supreme Court chairs are close to 25 years old and likely will need replacement in the future. Transitioning to this desired model may provide a consistent replacement option for those in the future. The North Hearing Room chairs will be kept and utilized through the Capitol and if desired, Senator Jacque can work with the Sergeant's office to obtain one for his legislative office.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Overland moved to approve the North Hearing Room Chair replacements with the model as proposed. Seconded by Ms. Destree.

**Motion #2 was approved by majority voice vote (13-1-1).**

*Senator Jaque opposed.*

State Capitol Assembly Chamber Speaker Cover:

The Assembly is currently undergoing a major audio upgrade. Speakers were added up inside the bottom of the Assembly Chamber voting boards to address long-standing sound amplification gaps on the floor. However, the existing bottom brass plate on the voting boards hinders the sound's performance and amplification from the hidden speakers. To correct this issue, it is recommended that this brass plate be removed and replaced with a one-piece, magnetically held cover made of black, acoustically transparent fabric. If replacement is approved, the existing brass bottoms will be removed and stored in the brass room.

Mr. Kay inquired about the voting boards and if they were original. Mr. Smith confirmed the brass frame is original and was installed in 1927; however, the interior video display was upgraded more recently. Mr. Smith also showed an in-person example of the frame and fabric for board members to see.

**Motion #3:** Senator Jacque moved to approve the subcommittee's recommendation. Seconded by Representative Duchow.

**Motion #3 was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

State Capitol Rotunda Sound System Speaker Mounting Update:

In May 2023, the Board approved a Rotunda Sound System improvement project that includes the replacement of four existing speakers with stacks of three 37" speakers (total height of 111") on the marble, and eight compact loudspeakers on the column capitals. Installation includes zero penetration into the marble or column capitals, and marbled or gold matched painting to blend in with the building's finishes. The project commenced in Summer 2024. While at one point the mounting method was proposed to be friction fit, the stacked speakers will now be outfitted with a crossmember at the top spanning the architectural details and a metal stand with a support base to help support their weight (upwards of 100 pounds) and eliminate potential cracking of the marble. A stabilizer bracket will also be used and hooked into the grout joint. All features will still be marbled to blend into the marble. The mounting method is similar to the speaker installation in the Senate Chamber. The project is expected to be completed by Spring 2025.

## 5. State Capitol Updates | Mr. Darrin Smith

- Drapery, Roller Shades & Window Film – This project is currently in progress. The project scope includes removal of all Capitol window blinds, draperies and drapery accessories and replaces them with new draperies, drapery accessories, and roller shades. UV resistant film was installed on all window glass. Film

installation was completed in October 2024. Drapes and shades installation is ongoing with completion expected in early January 2025. Representative Subeck commented that her office was just completed, and that she and her staff absolutely love the change and the huge difference it makes.

- North/West Wing Carpet Replacement – This project currently in design. The project scope includes removal and replacement of all existing carpet tile in the North Wing legislator and staff offices, corridors, northwest round rooms and the removal and replacement of the existing sheet carpet and pad in the GAR Room. The North Hearing Room is currently being re-evaluated as part of the project. Construction is expected to commence in summer 2025.
- Ground Floor Plaster Ceiling & Decorative Painting Repairs – This project was completed in May. The project provided for the cleaning, restoration, and preservation of decoratively painted plaster ceiling panels (64 panels of various sizes) in the three rings surrounding the ground floor Rotunda project.
- Exterior Masonry Cleaning & Bird Netting – This project was completed in September. The project provided for the removal and replacement of existing bird-netting; and the cleaning of the exterior building while the bird-netting is removed from the observation deck level up to the cornice above the rotunda colonnade. A budget surplus should allow for the addition of the ceiling areas above the four porticos to be added to the initial project phase in spring of 2025. The ceiling and pediments of the four wing ends will be addressed in future projects.
- Exterior Door Locks – This project will include the replacement, refurbishment, and upgrade of existing, historic door hardware at the Capitol wing end entrances. Capital Budget funding was requested for the 2025-27 Biennium. The goal is to replace with a modern interior mechanism without changing the exterior appearance.
- Skylight Replacements – This project includes the replacement of 210 existing and failing insulated glazing units with new insulated glazing units for all roof top Capitol skylight assemblies. It is expected to go out for bid this winter, with the project expected to commence in Summer/Fall 2025.
- Lighting Controller Replacements – This project includes the conversion of approximately 56 relay cabinets with new interior components, upgrades cabinets power supply, and daisy chained control signal cable from each controller in the basement to lighting control panels in each wing. The contracted work will be completed by 2025. The remaining project scope to be performed by DOA Controls is expected to be complete in 2026.
- Vel Phillips Statue Installation - The Department of Administration worked with the artist's gallery and a team of structural engineers, stone suppliers, general contractors and fine art installers to complete the statue foundation and statue installation. The Vel Phillips statue was unveiled to the public on July 27, 2024, with stakeholders and media in attendance. Mr. Overland noted that he has received quite a bit of positive feedback from the Task Force and how they felt it was a well-planned and robust process and that they're so appreciative of all SCERB's work.
- Balustrade Cherry Grit & Storm Sewer Piping Replacement – This project will replace the State Capitol balustrade "Cherry Grit" sidewalk and underground storm water piping system. Project work also includes the replacement of concrete paving at the King Street and South Hamilton wing approaches. The project is estimated to start and be completed in 2026.
- Communications Cabling Upgrades - 2025-27 Capital Budget funding is being requested to remove the existing data cable systems at the Capitol and construct a new Fiber and CAT 6 data cable network throughout the building. It also includes installation of a Neutral Host Wireless Carrier DAS Cell Phone System. Upon approval, construction is anticipated to begin in Summer of 2026 and be completed in Fall of 2028.
- Exterior Masonry Repairs Phases 3-6 – This project includes the replacement of sealants and repointing of masonry joints at various Capitol site masonry assemblies and surfaces. Phases 1-3 are complete. Phase 4 will begin construction in Spring 2025 (South Hamilton approach and Martin Luther King Jr. driveway). Phase

5 Observation is requested in the 2025-27 biennium. Funding for Phase 6 will be requested for the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia.

- Promenade Tree Replacements – Two remaining phases and 21 total trees remain. The plan is to plant 11 trees this coming spring and 10 trees in the spring of 2026.
- Capitol Architectural & Park Lighting Upgrades – This project will start construction this month. Project work includes upgrading the existing exterior light fixtures to LED fixtures in the Capitol Park, at the first floor columns, upper columns, 9th level, third floor entry, and roof top. Construction is expected to be completed by Spring 2025.
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Upgrades - The cooling coils in seven air handling units are scheduled to be replaced in Spring 2025. Electrical main breaker and electrical cleaning projects are intended to move forward, with the main breaker project scheduled for State Building Commission review in early 2025.
- Elevator Modernization - An architecture firm is contracted to evaluate the current state of the eight primary Capitol elevators. The study will provide detailed recommendations for the upgrades, refurbishments and replacements of the elevator systems, cabs, and structures. Senator Wanggaard inquired if there are replacement elevators that will match the existing or if they would need to be specially built. Mr. Darrin noted the replacement would be for all the mechanicals and controllers and not necessarily the shaft, box, etc. If anything is changed, it'll be made to look the same as the current elevators. The goal is also to find a company that can provide long-range service.

#### **6. Executive Residence Updates | Mr. Matthew Siller**

- Window Sash Replacements - The five remaining sashes were installed by DOA carpenters this spring.
- Native Shoreline Planting Phase 2 - On September 22, Phase 2 plantings were completed by stakeholders from Clean Lakes Alliance, Rock River Coalition, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Extension Lakes Program, Resource Environmental Solutions LLC, and the Executive Residence grounds team in conjunction with over 40 volunteers.
- Pier Replacement and Boat Lift - Installation of the new pier and boat lift were completed in May.
- Shoreline Fence Installation - Installation of the new shoreline fence was completed in December 2023, with realignment completed in the fall of this year.

#### **7. Executive Residence Items for Consideration | Mr. Tom List**

##### Emergency Lighting Fixture:

A federal review of the security measures in place at the Executive Residence determined it was advisable to add an emergency lighting capability in the immediate areas around the residence perimeter to assist State Capitol Police officers in locating and apprehending individuals who trespass onto the Executive Residence site at night. In May and June 2023, SCERB approved all preliminary design details of the security upgrade recommendations presented, with the caveat that final design come back to the board for review and approval. This project intends to install eight emergency light fixtures high on the exterior building walls on all four sides of the Residence. These lights would have the capability to be controlled from both the main security office within the Residence and from the proposed guardhouse structure at the North side of the existing North entrance. These light fixtures will solely be used for emergencies only, never as event lighting. The fixtures will also be painted to match the exterior of the residence to be as inconspicuous as possible.

The Board had a robust discussion with several concerns about adding additional, and potentially obtrusive, fixtures as there are several sets of dual lights currently mounted around the building for events. The proposed fixtures measure about 17" wide by 12" high and project light near the property lines, with minimal intrusion on the neighboring properties. They would be surface mounted on the exterior cornice, but wiring would be run through the interior wall cavities and attic so that they are connected and powered from the inside the building. Several members inquired about alternatives such as stanchion lights on the grounds (to be camouflaged by

landscaping), compact LED lights, or the possibility of tying this function into the existing event fixtures. Lieutenant Price, while understanding the board's concerns, reiterated that these fixtures would be used only when absolutely necessary and that their power to light the whole perimeter of the Residence, as well as act as an immediate deterrent for trespassers, is the primary goal that Capitol Police believes these fixtures have the capacity to do. The proposed timeline of this project targets final installation by summer 2025.

**Motion #4:** Senator Roys moved to defer the emergency lighting fixture design until additional options can be explored. Seconded by Mr. Siggelkow.

**Motion #4 was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

*14-0-2: Representative Duchow left prior to motion and vote.*

#### Guard House Design:

A federal review of the security measures in place at the Executive Residence determined it was advisable to construct a guardhouse at or near the primary vehicle entrance to help control access to the Executive Residence site. In May and June 2023, SCERB approved all preliminary design details of the security upgrade recommendations presented, with the caveat that final designs come back to the board for review and approval. The proposed guardhouse contains a 14' wide by 16' deep structure with a hipped roof, faux stucco wall finish, round or square fluted doric style columns (to be determined by the Board), matching paint color, and shingle type, all to resemble as closely as possible to the Residence. To address security needs, the wall structure will be solid grouted concrete masonry, and the structure will provide redundancy of electronic measures and controls found in the security office within the Residence. The South side of the structure will feature a large roof overhang shielding a 4' ADA pedestrian access to the site and providing space for Capitol Police to screen guests arriving to special events. The North side of the structure will provide space for heating/cooling equipment and a small backup generator.

Lieutenant Price noted the proposed structure meets the specific needs of Capitol Police in terms of size and functionality, especially given the limited space at this site. It is not within SCERB's purview however, due to security reasons, to review or dictate the interior workings of the guardhouse. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding its need to resemble the Residence, the ADA accessibility of the pedestrian walkway/access under the overhang, and, most notably, the use of windows on the east side of the structure (viewable from the street on the outside of the perimeter fence). Currently, the design includes one window on the right side of the east wall that would be spandrel glass with a solid surface behind it. Several board members inquired why a window is even needed if it is not going to function as an operable window, either visually or mechanically. Argument arose regarding symmetry and the general inability for passersby to distinguish between the left operable window and the right spandrel glass window as the tinting and reflection on both will be nearly the same. Deferring this item was also discussed but would impact the construction schedule by a whole year.

**Motion #5:** Mr. Overland moved to approve the design of the guardhouse as presented, with square columns. Seconded by Ms. Maul.

**Amendment** – Ms. Destree moved that windows need to be authentically visually operable or not exist (either remove altogether or replace with a visually operable window). Seconded by Mr. Kay.

**The Amendment was approved by 7-5-3 roll call vote.**

*Ayes (7): Senator Roys, Senator Jacque, Senator Wanggaard, Ms. Destree, Mr. Kay, Ms. Sager, Mr. Siggelkow.*

*Nays (5): Representative Binsfeld, Representative Subeck, Mr. Overland, Ms. Maul, Mr. List.*

*Absent (3): Mr. Asad, Representative Duchow, Senator Ringhand (who departed before the motion and vote).*

**Motion #5 as Amended was approved by majority voice vote (11-1-3).**

*Mr. Kay opposed.*

**Front Fence & Gate:**

A Federal review of the security measures in place at the Executive Residence determined it was advisable to replace the existing 4'-0" fence on the east (Cambridge Road) property line with a taller 7'-0" fence, along with the gate system, to help prevent unauthorized access to the Executive Residence site. In May and June 2023, as well as April 2024, SCERB approved all preliminary design details of the security upgrade recommendations presented, including the front fence, with the caveat that final design of the gate come back to the board for review and approval. The 7' replacement fence is designed to match the appearance of the existing north and south fence lines, with 4" intermediate posts, and stone piers added to flank the south gate and at three intermediate spaces between the gate entrances. The existing curved portion of fence will need to be squared off to accommodate a new one-piece sliding crash rated gate which will replace the existing bi-parting swing gate. The replacement gates will be one piece sliding style designed to match the adjacent fences as closely as possible, and to resist vehicular intrusion.

Mr. Overland commented that the proposed design of the gate works well. Ms. Destree asked that the vertical black members that sit right next to the stone piers be shortened to sit directly under the pier cap (with no gap) to draw better attention to the piers and not the fence posts. The board agreed with this minor adjustment.

**Motion #6:** Ms. Destree moved to approve the final gate design as proposed, with the landscape to be brought back for review. Seconded by Mr. List.

**Motion #6 was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

*11-0-4: Ms. Sager left prior to the motion and vote.*

**8. Other Business**

No other business was addressed at this time.

**9. Adjournment**

Mr. Overland moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:28pm. Seconded by Ms. Maul.