



**MINUTES
of the
THREE-HUNDRED-THIRTEENTH MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
December 17, 2007
Santa Fe**

The three-hundred-thirteenth meeting of the New Mexico Legislative Council was called to order on Monday, December 17, 2007, at 12:50 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Speaker Ben Lujan, co-chair

Present

Senator Ben D. Altamirano, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Lujan, Co-Chair
Senator Carlos R. Cisneros
Senator Kent L. Cravens
Representative Daniel R. Foley
Senator Stuart Ingle
Representative W. Ken Martinez
Representative Rick Miera
Senator Leonard Lee Rawson
Senator Michael S. Sanchez
Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton
Representative Thomas C. Taylor
Representative Jeannette O. Wallace

Special Advisory Members Present

Representative Janice E. Arnold-Jones
Representative Donald E. Bratton
Senator Mary Jane M. Garcia
Representative James Roger Madalena
Senator Cisco McSorley
Representative Al Park
Senator Lidio G. Rainaldi
Senator John Arthur Smith
Senator H. Diane Snyder
Representative Peter Wirth

Staff

Paula Tackett, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Kathy Pacheco-Dofflemeyer, Assistant Director for Administration, LCS
Raúl Burciaga, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS
Jeret Fleetwood, Locator Coordinator, LCS

Absent

Senator Pete Campos
Senator Timothy Z. Jennings
Representative Rhonda S. King

Special Advisory Members Absent

Senator Dianna J. Duran
Representative Antonio Lujan
Senator Steven P. Neville

Facilities Review Subcommittee Report

John Petronis and Susan Freed of Architectural Research Consultants (ARC) and representatives of Dekker, Perich, Sabatini, Architects provided the council with an overview of their initial study regarding Capitol space needs. They explained that \$5 million had been appropriated in 2007 to address immediate space needs, noting that the initial preferred solution was to add on to the Capitol North, and that the ARC had been contracted to validate that solution and to plan for long-term Capitol space requirements. Mr. Petronis explained that an initial space needs analysis for agencies in the Capitol and Capitol North had been conducted, which included staff interviews, assessments of the relationships between various tenant agencies occupying the Capitol and Capitol North, space needs of each agency and supply and demand factors concerning those space needs. In light of the overall space needs, they did not recommend moving forward with the renovation to Capitol North.

Mr. Petronis went on to explain that it appears that one of the greatest space needs is for increased committee room space for both the House and Senate. Other needs include space for permanent staff and for session staff. He then discussed various possibilities for addressing those space needs. A potential means of addressing the long-term space needs includes expansion of the Capitol itself or the construction of a new building somewhere near the existing ones.

Mr. Petronis indicated that the preferred means of addressing space needs would be to expand the Capitol itself. However, he did note the difficulty involved in expanding a round building, particularly one with the iconic nature of the Capitol. Mr. Petronis then explained that the west side of the Capitol had been identified as the best place for expansion and provided the council with an overview of a proposed expansion.

Mr. Petronis then provided the council with floor-by-floor diagrams of the proposed expansion, noting that the square footage of the committee rooms proposed for the third floor of the expansion is greater than that of the largest committee rooms the Capitol currently has available and that the committee room size drives the size of the overall addition. He also pointed out that the renovation could be stubbed out to allow for a future addition or that a fourth floor of the expansion could be made up of shell space, which eventually could be incorporated into the rest of the building should further expansion become necessary. Mr. Petronis noted that the initial estimated cost of such an expansion would be between \$29 million and \$33 million, depending on whether the shell space on the fourth floor is selected or not.

Mr. Petronis emphasized that the expansion would be a convex-shaped structure, to complement better the shape of the existing Capitol. He also pointed out that the proposed expansion would allow the legislature to move those House of Representatives functions currently housed in the Capitol North into the expansion, allowing the agencies occupying the Capitol North, LFC, LESC, AOC and Secretary of State, to expand, too.

Senator Altamirano noted that while expanding the Capitol may seem like a big undertaking at this time, it would address space needs for some time to come.

In response to a question from Representative Arnold-Jones, Mr. Petronis indicated that the committee rooms proposed for the addition would all feature upgraded screen, projector and laptop computer-friendly technology.

In response to comments from Senator Ingle, who pointed out that it is hard to justify spending \$30 million to expand a building that is empty most of the year, particularly when there are unfinished road projects across the state, Mr. Petronis said that the public would be the major beneficiary of a Capitol expansion. They had received information that it is members of the public who often cannot fit into the committee rooms currently available within the Capitol to hear testimony regarding legislation that is of interest to them.

In response to a question from Senator Smith, Mr. Petronis noted that a smaller legislature, with smaller space needs, had not been considered in the space needs study.

Senator McSorley indicated that both the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee would have to be relocated, since the spaces they currently occupy are completely inadequate, and he wondered where in the expansion would the offices for committee chairs be located. Speaker Lujan indicated that the proximity of chairpersons to their committee rooms had been discussed in the space needs study.

In response to a question from Senator Garcia, Ms. Tackett indicated that a means for funding the expansion of the Capitol had not been identified yet.

Speaker Lujan noted that money had been appropriated during the last legislative session for some expansion of the Capitol North. He also pointed out that many of the committee rooms within the Capitol are simply too small to accommodate the crowds drawn to hearings of some of the more controversial bills.

Ms. Tackett also noted that the Facilities Review Subcommittee had directed the ARC to do as little renovation as possible to the existing Capitol facilities.

In response to a question from Representative Miera, Ms. Tackett said that the legislature would likely not have to move out of the Capitol while an expansion is underway.

Representative Martinez indicated that he is nervous about adding to the Capitol in such a way that it would detract from the Zia symbol design that so many citizens have come to identify with the Capitol.

Senator McSorley noted that the Texas legislature, when faced with the same dilemma, simply dug down and expanded office space underground. Ms. Tackett noted that doing something similar in New Mexico would be a very costly option.

On a motion made, seconded and approved, the council adopted the report of the Facilities Review Subcommittee as a working report and directed the subcommittee to continue working on the space issues for further consideration by the council at its January 2008 meeting, with Representative Foley and Senators Rawson and Cravens voting NO.

Interim Committee Requests

The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee was authorized to meet on December 21.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the minutes of the October 29, 2007 meeting of the council were approved as submitted.

There being no further business, the council adjourned at 2:10 p.m.