

**STATE CAPITOL COMMITTEE
Hybrid/Remote Meeting**

**Thursday, June 27, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

Minutes

SCC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Bolerjack (Vice Chair & Designee for Secretary of State Steve Hobbs)
Pat Sullivan, Governor Inslee's Designee (Alternate)
Katy Taylor, (Designee for Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz)

SCC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Bannister, Legislature (Senate)
Cynthia Barrett, Department of Enterprise Services
Brent Chapman, Department of Enterprise Services
Chris Ferguson, Department of Enterprise Services
Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Greg Griffith, Olympia Historical Society
Linda Kent, Department of Enterprise Services
Wesley Kirkman, Department of Enterprise Services

Nouk Leap, Department of Enterprise Services
John Lyons, Department of Enterprise Services
Jeff MacDonald, Department of Enterprise Services
Patrick McDonald, Office of the Secretary of State
Kyle Overmiller, Washington State Legislature
Colleen Pehar, Legislature (Senate)
Maurice Perigo, Department of Enterprise Services
Ginny Streeter, Department of Enterprise Services
Sarah Swift-Haggerty, Lieutenant Governor's Office

Call Meeting to Order - Action

Vice Chair Randy Bolerjack called the State Capitol Committee (SCC) hybrid/remote meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed members, staff, and guests to the meeting.

Members and staff provided self-introduction.

Vice Chair Randy Bolerjack reviewed the agenda to approve the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes; receive public comments; and receive an informational update on the Statue/Memorial Removal Process.

Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2024 Meeting – Action

Pat Sullivan moved, seconded by Katy Taylor, to approve the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes as published. A voice vote unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment – Information

Department of Enterprise Services (DES) External Affairs Coordinator Chris Ferguson described the process for attendees to sign up and provide public comment. Each person's testimony is limited to two minutes.

Mr. Ferguson noted that DES received one written public comment during the advance public comment period. The comment was from an individual who is a member of a union currently in contract negotiations with the state to achieve more equity and pay. The individual works as a grounds and nursery specialist for DES and submitted comments as a representative of the union.

There were no other public comments.

Statue/Memorial Removal Process – Information

Linda Kent, Chief External Affairs Officer, DES, reported the proposal is to develop a process to utilize when direction is received from the Legislature to remove a statue or work of art from the campus. The intent is to create a clear process for the removal of items through decisions rendered by recommendations from the Capitol Campus Design Review Committee (CCDAC) and decisions by the SCC. Staff identified a lack of process when the Whitman Statue was designated for removal from the Legislative Building. Since then, staff received notification that the statue would remain in the building, as the Legislature does not direct the removal of the statue when DES receives the Billy Frank Jr. statue. Statues in the Legislative Building second floor mirror those in the U.S. Capitol Building Statutory Hall in Washington, D.C. As the Whitman statue will remain in the Legislative Building, the proposed process would not be used to address the disposition of the Whitman statue. Instead, in this particular circumstance, the focus will be on logistics and site considerations. Staff engaged a consultant for an analysis of opportunity sites for the Whitman statue within the building. A recommendation will be presented to the committee at its next meeting.

Staff is however, recommending creation of a process for future use to eliminate any gaps that were identified surrounding the Whitman statue because a process is lacking for items removed from the campus. The RCWs and WACs do not address removal and disposition of statues and works of art from the campus and no formal process exists.

Actions to date by staff to develop a process included engagement with Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA), Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) to vet a draft proposed process. The first step of the proposed process is convening a core group (ArtsWA, WSHS, and DAHP), the original artist (if available), and other key stakeholders recommended by core members to identify and prioritize relocation sites for items removed from the campus. The group would establish objectives and criteria potential sites should meet, identify potential relocation sites, measure the sites against the objectives and criteria, and develop a prioritized list of options for review and decision by CCDAC and SCC. Prior to the SCC rendering a decision, DES would publish a broad public notice advising the public about the prioritized list, criteria and objectives, and the comment deadline.

The proposed process aligns with existing SCC and CCDAC processes and includes a public comment period so there is public awareness of the proposal and an opportunity to submit comments as CCDAC and SCC consider a decision.

Ms. Taylor commented that storage as a last option might not be the last option but rather the preferred option dependent on circumstances. She questioned the phrasing of the option and suggested rephrasing the option as storage as a possible option rather than as the last resort as it might be a preferred option based on the objectives and criteria. Ms. Kent acknowledged the suggestion reflects less prescriptive language and provides more flexibility. Staff will revise the proposal and incorporate the recommendation when the proposal is presented to CCDAC for its recommendation to SCC.

Vice Chair Randy Bolerjack asked about the durability of the SCC's decision with respect to any statues or works of art when a recommendation is forwarded to the Legislature. Ms. Kent explained that the proposed process is essentially confined to the boundaries of informing CCDAC and SCC decisions. The SCC's decision to the Legislature is another step in the process with the Legislature rendering the final decision.

Mr. Ferguson advised that no member of the public has signed up to provide public comment at this time.

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Future Announcements and Adjournment of Meeting – Action

Vice Chair Randy Bolerjack reported information on upcoming meetings for the SCC and the CCDAC are located on the DES website for each committee. The website includes up-to-date meeting information including meeting dates and times. DES publishes meeting agendas, minutes, and meeting packets on the website for each committee as they become available. The next CCDAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 10 a.m. and the next SCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 10 a.m. Future meetings will be remote/hybrid meetings.

With there being no further business, Vice Chair Randy Bolerjack adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
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