

**Capitol Complex Advisory Council
Report to the 61st Montana Legislature
November 2008**

Introduction

In 1997, the Montana Legislature enacted House Bill No. 123 (Chapter No. 476, Laws of 1997), an act authorizing the appointment of the Capitol Complex Advisory Council (Section 2-17-801, et al., MCA). This legislation was introduced at the request of the Department of Administration to establish a council to oversee the placement of art and memorials on the Capitol Complex and grounds.

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council consists of nine members:

- four legislators, two from each house;
- a public representative appointed by the governor; and
- the director or the director's designee of each of the following agencies:
 - the Montana Historical Society;
 - the Montana Arts Council;
 - the Department of Administration; and
 - the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

A list of the Council's current membership is contained in Appendix A.

The statutory duties and responsibilities assigned to the Council include:

- reviewing proposals for long term displays or the naming of State buildings on the Capitol Complex;
- advising the Legislature on the long term display of busts, statues, memorials, monuments, or art displays within the Capitol Complex, including the executive residence and the original governor's mansion;
- advising the Department of Administration on interior decoration of the Capitol;
- advising the Department of Administration on grounds maintenance and displays;
- advising the Department of Administration on policies governing maintenance and beautification of the Capitol, executive residence, and original governor's mansion; and
- advising the Department of Administration on establishing and maintaining a long-range master plan for the orderly development of the Capitol Complex.

In addition, the Council must report to the Legislature by November 15 of each year preceding a legislative session on requests that it has reviewed for naming buildings and for long term placement of items in the Capitol or on the Capitol Complex grounds.

The report must include a recommendation on whether reviewed requests meet certain statutory criteria. If a request meets the criteria, the Council must recommend a time frame during which the project should be authorized.

Council Meetings in 2007- 2008

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council met three times in 2007. At the first meeting on June 7, 2007 the Council:

- Elected Janet R. Kelly, Director of the Department of Administration, as the Chairperson;
- Reviewed the history and responsibilities of the Council;
- Voted to have banners placed on the exterior of the Montana Historical Society Building;
- Heard a presentation regarding the role of the council in the Capitol area long-range planning process;

At the September 12, 2007 meeting, the Council:

- Heard a presentation regarding the history, roles, and responsibilities of the Council;
- Heard a presentation that explained the background and planning process of the Capitol Complex master plan;
- Reviewed a PowerPoint presentation recounting the development of the proposed long-term master plan, including a recommendation for a site for the proposed new Montana Historical Society Museum;
- Heard public comments on the proposed long-term master plan;
- Discussed the proposed long-term master plan and the intention of the 2005 legislature when it appropriated funds for the new museum;
- Discussed parking on the Capitol Complex;
- Discussed the proposed 20-year plan and its boundaries;
- Heard an explanation of how the audience could submit comments on the proposed long-term master plan.

At the October 17, 2007 meeting, the Council:

- Heard an analysis of the public comments received on the proposed long-term master plan;
- Heard additional public comments on the proposed long-term master plan;
- Discussed the proposed cost of both museum sites, the legislative intent of the 2005 and 2007 sessions, and the State's need for additional office space;
- Voted to support the department offering \$7 million dollars for the mall property for the future site of the Montana Historical Society;
- Voted to support the concept of the proposed ten-year master plan with the condition that the museum not be at the proposed 6th and Roberts site;

- Voted to remove the houses located on Broadway Ave. from the twenty-year plan; and
- Voted to support the twenty-year plan as modified.

Note to readers concerning the Montana Historical Society Building: HB 540 of the 59th Legislature (2005 session) authorized the sale of \$7.5 million for general obligation bonds for the new museum. In addition, HB 5 of the same session provided authority to spend up to \$30 million of privately raised donations and grants to augment the bond appropriation for the same building.

In accordance with section 17-7-212, MCA, "The remaining balances on capital projects previously approved by the legislature are re-appropriated for the purposes of the original appropriation until the projects are completed." For this purpose, the funds appropriated and authorized by the 59th legislature for the Montana Historical Society Building are considered "continuing appropriations" and will remain in place until the project is either completed as authorized, or amended by a subsequent Montana Legislature.

In Summary

Over the course of the biennium, the Council did not receive any requests for placements for art or memorials on the Capitol Complex. In addition, the Council did not receive any requests for naming of buildings on the Capitol Complex. As a result, the Council will not be submitting any recommendations for action to the 61st Legislature.

APPENDIX A
CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEMBERS*
Updated October 2008

Rep. Elsie Arntzen 850 Senora Ave. Billings, MT 59105-2051	Rep. Mary Caferro PO Box 1036 Helena, MT 59624-1036
Senator Carol Juneau PO Box 55 Browning, MT 59417-0055	Senator Dave Lewis 5871 Collins Rd. Helena, MT 59602-9584
Sandi Miller 1012 Livingston Helena, MT 59601	Jim Poor Montana Arts Council 112 Humbolt Loop Helena, MT 59601
Janet R. Kelly, Director Department of Administration Mitchell Building Rm. 155 Helena, MT 59620-0101	Joe Maurier Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Parks Division PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
Richard Sims Montana Historical Society 222 North Roberts PO Box 201201 Helena, MT 59620-1201	

**Note: The legislative members of the Council are appointed every two years on a bipartisan basis. A public representative is appointed by the Governor.