

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security

Date: 01/23/2024

Time: 10:07am - 10:49am

Location: Minnesota State Capitol, Room G15

Chairperson: Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

Committee Members:

- Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan (attended in-person)
- Chief Justice Natalie Hudson (attended in-person)
- State of MN Representative Kelly Moller (attended virtually)
- State of MN Senator Bonnie Westlin (attended virtually)
- State of MN Senator Warren Limmer (attended virtually)
- State of MN Representative Jim Nash (not in attendance)

Advisors Present:

- Eric Roeske, Captain, MN State Patrol (attended in-person)
 - Matt Langer, Colonel, MN State Patrol (attended in-person)
 - Erik Dahl, Executive Director of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (attended in-person)
 - David Kelliher, Vice President of Public Policy and Government Relations for MN Historical Society (attended in-person)
 - Sven Lindquist, Sergeant at Arms of the Minnesota Senate (attended in-person)
 - Lori Hodapp, Sergeant at Arms of Minnesota House of Representatives (attended virtually)
 - Tamar Gronvall, Commissioner of Department of Administration (attended in-person)
 - Chris Guevin, Director of Department of Administration Facilities Management Division (attended in-person)
 - Long Xiong, Lieutenant, University of MN Police Department (attended in-person)
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Call to Order

Chair Flanagan called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

Welcome and Introduction for New Member

Members introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes: August 3, 2023

Chair Flanagan moved to approve the minutes. She asked if anyone had comments or edits to the minutes as presented. No comments or edits were brought up. Chair Flanagan requested that someone move the minutes to vote. Limmer moved to approve the minutes, and Westlin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented with a unanimous vote. (Nash did not vote as he was not present at the meeting.)

Review and Approve Annual Report

Chair Flanagan commented that the Annual Report was distributed to all members, posted on the Legislative Coordination Commission and ACCAS webpages, and physical copies were available for anyone attending in person. Captain Roeske presented the Department of Public Safety (DPS) portion of the report, and Department of Administration (ADM) Facilities Management Director Chris Guevin presented the Department of Administration portion to the committee.

Captain Roeske asked if the committee had any questions on the DPS portion of the report. There were no questions. Director Guevin presented the ADM portion of the report and asked if any committee members had questions. Limmer asked about page 4 of the report regarding security enhancements and the \$24 million in the bonding proposal to complete these and he wanted to know what they were. Guevin responded that it includes the installation of bollards, protective film on certain windows, additional ID badge readers, cameras, and security kiosks. Also, putting up fences or barricades around certain buildings to control traffic and prevent vehicles from accidentally entering those areas.

Limmer responded that cameras and card readers aren't brick-and-mortar type items and questioned their qualification for a bonding bill. Guevin responded that Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) agreed that those types of items could be included in the bonding request as overall enhancements to the structures on the Capitol Complex. Moller commented that the report lacks weapons detection systems and noted that 30 states have such systems. Westlin added that a new plan/report should include weapons detection systems.

Col. Langer commented that there has been planning and investment related to mitigating and preventing active shooter and/or mass casualty events. Guevin commented that metal detectors have been installed within the Judicial building and plans are in place for other areas on the Capitol Complex. Chair Flanagan requested a member of the committee move the approval of the report as presented. Westlin moved to approve the report, and Limmer seconded the motion. The Annual Report was approved as presented with a unanimous vote. (Nash did not vote as he was not present at the meeting.)

Sergeants at Arms Capitol Security and Preparedness Overview

Sergeants at Arms Lindquist and Hodapp presented the Capitol Security and Preparedness Overview, including the creation of a safety and security training video and a legislative emergency procedure guide. No questions were asked. Chair Flanagan appreciated the update and information provided.

State Patrol and Capitol Staffing General Update

Captain Roeske provided an update on staffing numbers from the annual report and current and upcoming onboarding efforts. He noted challenges in the hiring environment and improvements in staff turnover. Col. Langer added comments on hiring, the need for a second explosive-detecting canine, and future swatting attempts. Chair Flanagan appreciated the update and the work done by the State Patrol and Capitol Security.

Public Comment Period

Chair Flanagan noted no public comment requests were received and asked if anyone attending wanted to comment. No response.

Member Questions

Chair Flanagan called for any member questions or comments. None were brought up.

Adjournment: The open session was adjourned at 10:49am to move to the closed session agenda item. Chair Flanagan stated the session would be closed under Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3D to discuss security at the Office of the State Auditor at 525 Park in St. Paul, MN. All individuals who are not committee members, advisors, or support staff were asked to exit.