

**Capitol Complex Advisory Council
Report to the 62nd Montana Legislature
November 2010**

Introduction

In 1997, the Montana Legislature enacted House Bill No. 123 (Chapter No. 476, Laws of 1997), an act creating the Capitol Complex Advisory Council (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, appointed every two years on a bipartisan basis;
- 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 2009 - 2010

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council met once in 2009 and twice in 2010.

At the first meeting held February 19, 2009, the Council:

- Elected Janet R. Kelly, Director of the Department of Administration, as its Chairperson;
- Adopted Operating Procedures for the Council;
- Received an orientation on the history and responsibilities of the Council;
- Voted to place two plaques outside the Senate chambers door facing the Rotunda—one honoring the Centennial Celebration of Women Serving in the Legislature (1895-1995) and one honoring the delegates to the 1972 Constitutional Convention; and
- Heard a discussion on proposed amendments to 2-17-808(6), MCA, (SB 252) allowing the naming of a building at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and the placing of two plaques to honor the late Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs. Voted to delegate the responsibility of determining the location of the plaques and building name to the Ohs family, the Department of Justice, and the building architect, but retain the final authority on the exact wording on the plaques.

At the April 29, 2010, meeting, the Council:

- Discussed the wording proposed by the Ohs family for the plaques honoring Karl Ohs at the new classroom building at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Following minor revisions, the Council voted to approve the wording and design; and
- Was introduced to the new staff person for the Council, Gretchen Bingman.

On November 3, 2010, the Council met to hear proposals from Senator David Wanzenried and Senator Lynda Moss. During the meeting:

- The Council received a presentation on the role of the Capitol Complex Advisory Council, which included information regarding the process for moving forward with the two proposals;
- Senator Wanzenried proposed naming the ground floor of the east wing of the Capitol Building after the late Representative Francis Bardanouve;
- Senator Moss proposed creation of a mural honoring women in Montana to be placed in the Capitol building;
- Public comments on the two proposals were heard;
- The Council voted to encourage Senator Wanzenried to submit a bill drafting request as a placeholder for potential legislation regarding his proposal; and
- A meeting was scheduled on November 17 to take action on the two proposals.

Summary

Over the course of the biennium, the Council received two proposals for placement of art or memorials: one from Senator Moss and one from Senator Wanzenried. The Council is scheduled to take action on these proposals on November 17. Following that meeting, a revised report will be prepared to capture the results of the meeting.

**APPENDIX A
CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Updated October 2010

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