

**Capitol Complex Advisory Council
Report to the 67th Montana Legislature
August 2020**

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;
- two public representatives 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

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 September 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.

Proposal

In May of 2020, Council staff received a proposal for a Montana Community Grief Monument. Helena artist Tim Holmes proposed “the construction of a simple and temporary monument provided by the State of Montana to declare our cohesion as a community, acknowledging that we are not all-powerful beings that can order the universe to our own command, but are vulnerable creatures in an uncertain world. My hope is that it is constructed in a central location on the Montana Capital campus, hopefully on the rise directly in front of the capital building, atop the Montana-shaped garden for seasonal flower planting.”

Angie Gifford, staff for the CCAC, spoke to Mr. Holmes regarding his proposal. As Mr. Holmes proposed a temporary monument, she encouraged him to have a formal event on the Capitol complex in place of working through the Council. He declined and requested his proposal be brought forward to the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Holmes’ request will be on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

Council Meetings in 2019 and 2020

The full Council did not meet in 2019. A meeting was scheduled but had to be postponed due to scheduling conflicts. At this writing, staff for the CCAC is attempting to schedule a meeting before the end of 2020.

Legislative Action

2019 - Senate Bill 275

During the 2019 session, the 66th Legislature passed Senate Bill 275, An act providing that a statue or bust of Montana’s first woman governor, Judy Martz, be placed in the Capitol or on the grounds surrounding the Capitol, requiring private funding; amending sections 2-17-807 and 2-17-808, MCA; and providing for contingent voidness. The design and location of the proposed statue or bust will be the primary agenda item for the upcoming Council meeting in 2020.

2015 - House Bill 431

During the 2015 session, the 64th Legislature passed House Bill 431, an act allowing a plaque, statue, or other item of tribute commemorating Montana's first territorial governor, Sidney Edgerton to be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the capitol complex; providing that the Montana Historical Society procure the item and administer funds for that purpose; requiring private funding; amending section 2-17-808, MCA; providing for contingent voidness; and providing an effective date.

HB 431 imposed a deadline of July 1, 2020 to install the memorial. However, funding was not secured by this date and subsequently, a memorial was not added to the

capitol or capitol complex. Therefore, based on the contingency clause in HB 431, subsection (4)(g) in 2-17-808 will be removed from the Montana Code Annotated.

A ceremony honoring Edgerton took place at Bannock State Park on July 17, 2015. The Montana Historical Society and the Montana State Parks unveiled a plaque commemorating Edgerton's speech to the first Montana's first Legislative Assembly.

Summary

Over the course of the biennium, the Council did not meet and received one proposal for temporary displays which will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

Minutes of all CCAC meetings are available at ccac.mt.gov.

Revised August 2020

APPENDIX A
CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Updated August 2018

Legislative Members

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