

BRICE OAKLEY, CHAIR OF THE CAPITOL PLANNING COMMISSION

Remarks to the Joint Legislative Budget Sub-Committee on Administration and Regulation

Concerning the 2010 Master Plan for the State Capitol Complex

February 17, 2010

I am Brice Oakley and since 2007 I have served as chair of the Capitol Planning Commission (CPC). I want to express the Commission's appreciation to Rep. Hunter, a previous member of the Commission, and Senator Danielson for this opportunity.

I will make brief remarks to set the context for the actual presentation of the 2010 Capitol Master Plan by the leaders of the consulting team that did the research and writing under the direction of the Commission and the staff at the Department of Administrative Services.

First, the CPC is an advisory commission. The governor, legislature, the Judicial Branch and state agencies located on the capitol grounds are required by law to consult with the CPC concerning the location and nature of any structures, buildings, monuments and memorials placed on the campus. Over the years a number of Master Plans have been developed to guide that advice.

The CPC consists of five voting citizen members and the director of DAS who serves as secretary. With me today are members of a Master Planning Committee I appointed to help steer the work of our consultants and keep the CPC advised of

the progress being made. Scott Brown chairs that committee. Molly Clause and Liz Izaacson are also on that committee.

As evidence of its special interest in the capitol, the legislature has four ex-officio members representing the four caucuses in the General Assembly. Those include Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad, Rep. Ralph Watts, Sen. Ron Wieck, and Sen. Matt McCoy. We meet from four to six times a year.

It is important to first bear in mind that the Capitol and its grounds are easily the most recognizable and valued cultural artifact in our state. It is called upon daily to serve a wide variety of roles in the life of our state. It deserves the best of care and planning and to do so that planning must look far into the future. Each decision made today, whether seemingly small or recognizably fundamental, will have an impact far into the future. That will be evident from the presentation you are about to hear. Having worked in and around this building from time to time for parts of the past five decades I think I have come to appreciate the impact of the decisions and advice we give month in and month out as well as the importance of the legislature to that work.

Secondly, I would be remiss if I didn't add one foot note to that observation. This 125 year old building has probably had no greater friend than a legislator with whom a number of you have worked. I speak, of course, of the gentleman from Plainfield, former Senator John Jensen. Since the early 1980s the legislature has every year dedicated significant resources to the upkeep and restoration of this building. It was during the lean budget years that Sen. Jensen worked to maintain that commitment. We are in his debt.

I am pleased at this time to introduce the leaders of the consulting team that produced this Plan. Brian Clark and Matt Carlile are landscapes architects with Confluence. Many of you will remember that firm's work on the West Capitol Terrace. Chosen by competitive bidding process they and the other members they will mention, will give us a very slimmed down version of a one hour presentation.

There are several things to keep in mind. This plan is directed at a number of goals. Three of these are especially important. First, the buildings you will see are replacement structures, intended to replace buildings currently in use that over the coming years will be uneconomical to maintain. They will be demolished and likely replaced anyway. Plan proposes where to put them, not exactly when they should be replaced. Second, if parts of this Plan never come to fruition, for whatever reason, the remaining parts will still make sense. Finally, the CPC asked that there be a major effort to reach out to the communities that are adjacent to these grounds. I think you will be impressed with that effort as well.