

GOVERNOR'S HOUSING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.

This meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee was called to order in the Len B. Jordan Building, at 650 W. State Street, Boise, ID.

Committee Members Present: Representative Phylis King
 Representative Max Black
 Director Mike Gwartney, Department of Administration

Others Present: Teresa Luna, Chief of Staff, Department of Administration
 Connie Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Administration
 Ric Johnston, Division of Public Works, Facility Services Manager
 Tim Mason, Administrator, Division of Public Works
 Jennifer Pike, Management Assistant, Department of Administration
 John Miller, Idaho Statesman

Absent: Robert Geddes, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
 Senator Les Bock

Director Mike Gwartney was acting Chair with no objection from the other members.

CALL TO ORDER by Director Mike Gwartney at 11:35 AM.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the previous two meetings, 6/25/2009 and 8/21/2009.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Rep. King moved that the minutes for the June 25th meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Rep. Black. With no discussion or objection, the minutes of the June 25th meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee meeting were approved. The motion passed.

Motion: Rep. King moved that the minutes for the August 21st meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Rep. Black. With no discussion or objection, the minutes of the August 21st meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee meeting were approved. The motion passed.

Connie Smith noted that the financial information was addressed in the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no further updates at this time.

Funding Request

Director Gwartney noted that the purpose of this meeting was to request additional funds from the Committee for completing the furnishing of the Governor's House. Director Gwartney turned the floor over to Teresa Luna for further explanation of the request.

Ms. Luna reminded the committee that at the last meeting the Committee discussed the few items that would be needed to finish the furnishing of the house to make it fully ready for use and mark the end of the renovation. Three outstanding items/areas were highlighted in this request:

1. Blinds for the house, particularly in the boardroom on the first floor. Blinds would help with maintaining the temperature inside the house despite the many oversized windows.
2. Furnishing the security office on the upper floor. This would include sleeper chairs, a desk or table, small television and linens.
3. Complete furnishing the kitchen with small appliances and service ware.

The Department has gathered basic pricing for each of these items, for a total of approximately \$10,000.00. The Department believes this would complete the basic renovations, based on what we know today. In the previous meeting, the estimated suggested was closer to \$20,000.00. The initial thought for this request was to ask the Committee for a little bit more money in the event of unforeseeable costs. After closer review of those items that were necessary and those that were more for luxury, the estimate was adjusted.

Director Gwartney stated that he was comfortable with the \$10,000 estimate based on the information he had received from the group working on the house. If the group assisting in the furnishing of the house determines there are additional items that should be purchased, the Committee could reconvene and address additional funding at that time.

Ms. Luna reminded that Committee that the funds requested would come out of the private, donated funds.

Rep. King was more comfortable with the \$10,000 figure, especially with items that are easily pilferable suggested purchasing less expensive furnishings from local stores like Bed, Bath and Beyond. She did some price comparison and found these items to be reasonable.

Rep. Black noted that he has been to a couple of states with facilities similar to this. He appreciated the thought about going with less expensive items, but is not in favor of going with extremely cheap stuff especially if we are hosting dignitaries from other states and countries. He recommended spending a little more money for quality items and addressing the security of the items even if costs a little more.

Director Gwartney commented that the group around the table has done a tremendous amount of saving wherever possible including utilizing boyfriends' and/or spouse's vehicles to minimize delivery fees, as well as finding items on sale and using coupons. The State does have really nice official State china that is stored securely at the house. These funds are more for the everyday items. If the Department finds further expenses, another meeting of the Committee can be called.

Motion: Rep. King moved that Committee authorize an additional \$10,000 of spending authority to the Department of Administration for continuing to furnish the house. The motion was seconded by Rep. Black. With no discussion or objection, the additional \$10,000 was approved. The motion passed.

Rep. Black asked about where the official State China was housed. Ms. Luna answered that China is stored and secured at the house.

Further Business

Director Gwartney asked for further business.

Rep. King noted that in regards to possibly selling the property, she had a conversation with another person who has dealt with the Simplot family, and the family has a lot of members to consider and a lot to do in order to come to decision about the first right of refusal on the house. Rep. King asked that in the next meeting we address the questions: Do we want to sell it? How do we want to sell it? Do we want to ask people if they want a Governor's residence or not? Do we continue to have a residence or not? Do we sell the Simplot House or not? Rep. King asked that this discussion be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Director Gwartney confirmed that this would be an item on the agenda. He also acknowledged that this would be an important discussion and that having all the members of the Committee present would be helpful. Whenever the next meeting is scheduled it will be a priority to have the full contingent of members present.

Rep. Black noted that before the house could be utilized to the full extent, we would need to address the parking issue. What would the cost be to add more parking? What are the safety issues?

Director Gwartney responded that the area to the West does not belong to the state. He deferred to Ric Johnston for further information.

Mr. Johnston informed the committee that there is a small piece of flat ground after the final turn heading south before the house, that the state does own, that could accommodate 20 – 25 cars if it were converted to a parking area.

Rep. Black asked that this be an item on the next agenda.

Director Gwartney confirmed that we would also add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting of the Committee

The next meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee will be held December 7, 2009, 2:30 – 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The Governor's Housing Committee was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Jennifer Pike, Management Assistant
Department of Administration