Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 10, 2017  
Veterans Service Building

Members present:  
Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith  
Chief Justice Lorie Gildea  
Representative Debra Hilstrom  
Senator Scott Dibble

Advisors present:  
Shelly Schrofer, Lt. Col., State Patrol  
Bruce Brynell, Major, State Patrol  
Eric Roeske, Captain, State Patrol  
Chris Guevin, Plant Management Director, DOA  
Bob Meyerson, Sergeant-at-Arms, MN House  
Sven Lindquist, Sergeant-at-Arms, MN Senate  
Paul Mandell, CAAPB  
Brian Pease, MN Historical Society  
Troy Buhta, University of MN Police Department  
David Metusalem, Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office

Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Smith at 1:10 p.m. Members and advisors introduced themselves. Representative Debra Hilstrom is a new member of the committee and David Metusalem will serve as the committee’s new court security advisor.

Approval of Minutes  
Chief Justice Gildea moved approval of the September 20, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Dibble and the minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Review and Approval of Committee’s Draft Report  
The committee’s annual report was reviewed and discussed. Lt. Colonel Schrofer outlined areas of the report that were updated and discussed recent improvements in security. She noted the State Patrol has purchased a mass notification system called Everbridge and recently tested it with Department of Public Safety personnel who work on the Capitol Complex. The system has not yet been made available to all agencies on the Capitol Complex.

Director Guevin pointed out the report contains information about the committee’s initiative to move forward with security upgrades to the Capitol Complex. The estimated cost for these upgrades is $26.2M, comprised of $18.5M in bondable and $7.7M in General Fund initiatives. Attached to the report as Appendix C is Department of Administration Commissioner Massman’s letter describing monetary impacts based on inflation for each year projects are delayed.

The report does not contain proposed legislation this year. The recommendation section of the report states: *The Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security recommends the legislature fully fund the upgrade initiatives that were submitted as part of the 2016 bonding bill. These security initiatives are outlined in the Miller Dunwiddie Physical Security Study.* Lt. Colonel Schrofer acknowledged that Representative Hilstrom has not yet seen the Miller Dunwiddie Study and stated it is available for her review.

Lieutenant Governor Smith noted that the proposed bonding bill put forth by Governor Dayton last week includes $18.5M for Capitol Complex security upgrades. Chief Justice Gildea requested
recommendation section of the report include the $7.7M in General Fund initiatives and asked that reference to the 2016 bonding bill be removed. Senator Dibble suggested language be added to accommodate the inflationary increase as enumerated by Commissioner Massman’s letter in Appendix C. Representative Hilstrom requested language be added to recommend the funding remain available until projects are complete. Members agreed to amend the recommendation section of the report to remove reference to the 2016 bonding bill, and to include bondable and non-bondable costs, inflationary adjustments per Appendix C, and language stating the funding should remain available until all projects are complete.

Chief Justice Gildea requested the first sentence in Paragraph 3 on Page 5 be amended to read: The Capitol Building has reopened for the public and Legislature. This change was approved without objection.

Lieutenant Governor Smith stated last year committee members from the Senate and the House worked to keep this at the forefront of the appropriate committees and to introduce bill language. She suggested the legislative members of this committee do the same this year and stated she will take responsibility for the executive branch.

Senator Dibble moved approval and submission of the report as amended. Representative Hilstrom seconded the motion. Representative Hilstrom questioned whether the public comment portion of the agenda was specifically related to the report. Lieutenant Governor Smith clarified the agenda includes a general public comment period at each meeting, not specifically related to the report. It was agreed that the motion to approve and submit the report could be revisited if necessary after the public comment period. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Public comment
Lieutenant Governor Smith opened the meeting for public comment. Mark Scipioni stepped forward. Mr. Scipioni renewed his request to the committee to influence the legislature to disallow guns in the State Capitol, with the exception of those authorized and related to Capitol Security. Mr. Scipioni stated he understands there are 850 to 900 persons who can lawfully carry handguns in the Capitol under Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 624.714. This includes average citizens, nonresidents from 15 other states, and law enforcement officers.

The state Capitol hosts tens of thousands of school children, as well as families. Mr. Scipioni stated the fact that this location is a huge nonstop schoolhouse for people of all ages should be enough of a rationale to disallow guns in the Capitol, and emphasized that children might be terrified seeing someone who is not a uniformed law enforcement officer with a gun in the Capitol. Mr. Scipioni asked that Capitol Security be allowed do its job efficiently and effectively without throwing in the unpredictable wildcard of handguns. He urged legislative members to change Minnesota Statutes, section 609.66, subdivision 1g.(a)(2), by adding the words and the State Capitol Building at the end of the sentence. Mr. Scipioni stated this idea goes to the essence of Capitol Security.

Adjournment
Senator Dibble made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Representative Hilstrom and approved by a vote of 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.