Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2017
Minnesota State Capitol

Members present:
Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith
Senator Warren Limmer
Representative Debra Hilstrom
Senator Scott Dibble

Advisors present:
Shelly Schrofer, Lt. Col., State Patrol
Bruce Brynell, Major, State Patrol
Eric Roeske, Captain, State Patrol
Matt Massman, Commissioner, DOA
Chris Guevin, Facilities 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

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Smith at 2:06 p.m.

Review and approval of the September 19, 2017 meeting minutes was tabled until a quorum was present.

History of Capitol Security Staffing
Captain Eric Roeske provided an overview on the history of Capitol Security staffing:
- Troopers – Prior to 2002, the only full-time licensed peace officer assigned to the Capitol Complex was the Captain of Capitol Security. A Lieutenant position was added in 2002. In 2013, ten permanent State Trooper positions were funded to meet the new statutory requirement of Minnesota State Statute 299E.01. In August of 2017, a Trooper position was added to the Minnesota Judicial Center.
- Legislative Security Officers – In 2005, ten retired State Troopers were hired as part-time, seasonal Legislative Security Officers. These officers were civilian employees who provided an armed presence in the Capitol during the legislative session. This program ended in 2012 with the intention to increase the number of State Troopers assigned to the Capitol Complex.
- Capitol Security Officers – Capitol Security Officer staffing has changed over time due to a number of factors. Presently, there are 59 Capitol Security Officers, including five supervisors.

Senator Limmer stated he hears discussion, including amongst Capitol Security personnel, regarding whether Capitol Security is adequately staffed. He wants to make certain that they are in the event an incident occurs. He pointed out the committee discussed secondary protest groups disrupting rallies at the Capitol. The first group holding a rally is here legally and in most cases they have a permit. They are trying to exercise their freedom of speech rights, but are being interrupted by others. Senator Limmer questioned whether it is the role of staff and law enforcement here to preserve their rights. He acknowledged discussion at the last meeting revealed that Capitol Security works to keep the groups separate, but does not expel secondary groups unless safety issues are presented because they are also exercising freedom of speech rights. He raised concern that if this is allowed to continue, violent acts could occur.

Lieutenant Governor Smith asked that the minutes reflect Senator Dibble was now present, and the committee thereby had a quorum.
Commissioner Massman stated that aside from the secondary groups, most groups do utilize the permitting process. The permitting process has worked well and the Department of Administration would like to continue to urge people to use it. Senator Limmer pointed out that sometimes discussion is idealistic when we talk about freedom of speech. Not all messages are protected by freedom of speech. People cannot incite a riot, or cross the line into illegal activity such as disturbing the peace or assault.

**Approval of Minutes**

Senator Limmer moved approval of the September 19, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Dibble and the minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

**Capitol Complex Security Upgrade Predesign Report**

Director Chris Guevin and Miller Dunwiddie Executive Vice President John Mecum presented the public portion of the Capitol Complex Security Upgrade Predesign Report. Predesign is an assessment of the physical security of the building exteriors, surrounding grounds, adjacent parking and public lobby entries at 13 structures, and the tunnel system on the Capitol Complex. It does not include the Capitol Building or the Minnesota Senate Building, as those projects were handled independently.

Analysis included observation of vulnerabilities to buildings and occupants, examination of the level of disruption to the State’s ability to function if operations of the building were compromised, and past documented threats and vulnerabilities. The State Patrol, Real Estate and Construction Services, Facilities Management, and security personnel from each of the buildings were consulted. Buildings were ranked relative to their potential risks in a hierarchy of high, medium and low. Priority levels were assigned and costs totaling approximately $33.5M are outlined in the report. This dollar amount includes costs for construction as well as soft costs. Primary protection measures to be addressed in most of the buildings include control of access, concealment areas, control and protection of lobby areas, utility protection, uniform emergency call stations, CCTV coverage, and light rail transit adjacency. The timeline for completion is approximately 30 months from the time funding is in place. This includes 16 to 18 months of design time and 12 months for construction if all buildings/locations proceed as a single project. Contractor selection may be a qualification based selection process in order to minimize exposure of risks and vulnerabilities to the Capitol Complex in a public forum.

Representative Hilstrom questioned whether the purposes of buildings and the public’s need for access were considered during the predesign process. Vice President Mecum stated the need to strike a balance between security and the public purpose for each building was part of the design approach.

Lieutenant Governor Smith requested the Department of Administration provide an overview for the committee and public on how this will ultimately become a bonding request. Director Guevin stated the Department of Administration has taken this on as a bonding request and he envisions the committee will include it as a recommendation in its January report. It is virtually the same request put forth in the past; now more refined and closer to execution. Commissioner Massman reiterated that it is helpful to have the support of this committee as part of the legislative conversation.

Senator Dibble asked for more information about the idea of hiring one entity to carry out all elements of the project. Director Guevin stated they foresee bringing on a construction manager at risk, which was done for the renovation of the Capitol Building and the construction of the Minnesota Senate Building. This approach is cost effective and allows projects to be completed faster. Commissioner Massman stated that security work would be integrated into other project work. For example, if the Centennial Office...
Building was renovated, all security work, including the lower priority work, would be completed at that time because it would be cost effective to do so.

**Discussion on Items to Include in Committee Report**
Lieutenant Governor Smith stated that a component of the committee’s report will include recommendations to fund the security upgrades in the predesign report, and asked for committee input regarding other items to include in the report. No other items were raised.

**Public comment**
Lieutenant Governor Smith opened the meeting for public comment. No members of the public stepped forward.

**Meeting Closure**
Lieutenant Governor Smith asked for a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05 to discuss security deficiencies to the Minnesota State Capitol. Representative Hilstrom made a motion to close the meeting, the motion was seconded and the meeting was closed to the public at 2:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Angela Geraghty