

State of Iowa

# CAPITOL PLANNING COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2006



*Concept drawing of the West Capitol Terrace, courtesy of Brian Clark + Associates*



April 2007

**The Capitol Planning Commission is authorized under  
Chapter 18A of the Code of Iowa.**

*"It shall be the duty of the commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments and the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds as now encompassed or as subsequently enlarged, and repairs and restoration thereof, and it shall be the duty of the officers, commissions, and councils charged by law with the duty of determining such questions to call upon the commission for such advice.*

*"The commission shall, in cooperation with the director of the department of administrative services, develop and implement within the limits of its appropriation, a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.*

*"The commission shall annually report to the general assembly its recommendations relating to its duties under this section. The report shall be submitted to the chief clerk of the house and the secretary of the senate during the month of January."*

—Code of Iowa, Chapter 18A.3

Date: April 18, 2007

To: Mr. Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Mark Brandsgard, Chief Clerk of the House

I am pleased to submit the Capitol Planning Commission's Annual Report for 2006 to the Legislature. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Carlson, Secretary of the Capitol Planning Commission and Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise.

Sincerely,

  
Karen Polking, Chair  
Capitol Planning Commission

## Vision

**The vision set forth in the Capitol Complex Master Plan is for a Capitol Complex that exemplifies in setting and function the dignity it embodies in spirit and purpose.**

### Members of the Capitol Planning Commission

Karen Polking, Chair

Catherine Brown  
Scott Brown  
Ronald Feilmeyer  
Elizabeth Isaacson  
Carl Voss

Senator Jack Hatch  
Senator Mary Lundby  
Senator James Seymour  
Representative Mark Davitt  
Representative Ralph Watts.

Paul Carlson, Secretary

Department of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

The Capitol Planning Commission holds regular meetings four times per year and more if required. In January, the Commission meets jointly with the Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee. In April, July and October, the Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For further information, contact staff members Nancy Williams, 515-281-7259, or Dean Ibsen, 515-281-6051, of the Department of Administrative Services.

Senator Mary Lundby served on the Commission through April 2006. Senator James Seymour joined the Commission in May 2006.



## **Building Renovation, Restoration and Placement**

*“ ... the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds ... and repairs and restoration thereof ... ”*

### **New State Office Buildings**

The Commission has held considerable discussions relating to the proposed construction of two new office buildings—the Wallace replacement building and an energy efficient building for the Iowa Utilities Board and Office of Consumer Advocate (IUB/OCA building)—and supports both proposals. Several options for building locations have been discussed and the Commission supports the staff recommendation for locating the IUB/OCA building at the southeast corner of the complex, directly west of Southeast 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The Commission also supports the staff recommendation for locating the 350,000 square foot building on the site of the gravel parking lots north of 1000 E. Grand. In particular, the Commission is interested in further exploration of a concept that would integrate the new state office building with a new parking structure and with the Mercy Capitol properties to the east. The Commission has also discussed other options and is open to considering alternatives as necessary once design work begins.

### **West Capitol Terrace**

The Commission supports the West Capitol Terrace project and has reviewed the concepts and materials recommended for the project. This has included a discussion of the privately owned properties at the west end of the project and various options associated with property acquisition, including discussions on renovation of the buildings or demolition. The Commission recommends amenities for subsequent phases of the project including bike racks, drinking fountains and an enhanced water feature. Specifically, the Commission has recommended that consideration be given for spending up to \$1 million dollars for development of a fountain.

### **Property Acquisition and Visitor Center Options**

The Commission has been advised of procurement opportunities and options for properties adjacent to the Capitol, including those at the west end of the West Capitol Terrace and the Mercy Capitol properties on the north side of the complex. Discussions have included the possibility of trading land, such as the open space west of the Judicial Building for properties of similar value. These discussions have also included options for developing a visitors' center somewhere on the complex. While the Commission previously endorsed the concept of a visitor center north of the Capitol in the old Carriage House, further discussion has suggested locating the visitor center at the foot of the West Capitol Terrace, possibly within the existing historic structures at 709-711 E. Locust, where its activities may relate directly to activities in the State Historical Building. The Commission is interested in following this discussion and providing further input.

## Modernization Program for the Complex

*“ ... develop and implement ... a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.”*

Throughout the 2006 legislative session the Commission was kept apprised of proposals for funding and code changes relative to the Capitol Complex. In particular, the Commission supported the following:

- the proposed \$77 million appropriation for the new state office building to replace the Wallace Building;
- proposed funding for Phase 1 of the West Capitol Terrace project as well as efforts to complete the project in time for the 2007 HyVee Triathlon;
- proposed funding for routine maintenance;
- continued funding for the electrical distribution system upgrades for the Capitol Complex;
- proposed funding for Capitol Complex parking lot repairs;
- funding for Capitol interior and exterior restoration; and,
- proposed language establishing a process for property acquisition with approval through the Executive Council and the ability to solicit and accept gifts for development of properties in and around the Capitol Complex through the Executive Council.

During the year, the Commission considered presentations on a variety of planning related issues.

- Along with the Governor’s Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Capitol Planning Commission has been briefed on green building design concepts based on the US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and how those concepts have been incorporated into the planning for construction of the Iowa Laboratories Facility at Ankeny and for the renovation of the Records and Property Building on the Capitol Complex.
- The Commission recognizes bicycle routes and bicycle parking facilities as important amenities for the Capitol Complex and they recommend including these features into upcoming projects on the complex.
- The Commission also recognizes that it plays an important role in providing input into the Capitol Complex design process and appreciates the opportunity for input.

## Monuments

*“ ... advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments ... ”*

### **Iowa Workers’ Monument**

The Commission reaffirmed the revised location of the proposed Iowa Workers’ Monument at the southwest corner of the Iowa Workforce Development Building. The Commission awaits concepts from the artist.

### **Cancer Survivors’ Park**

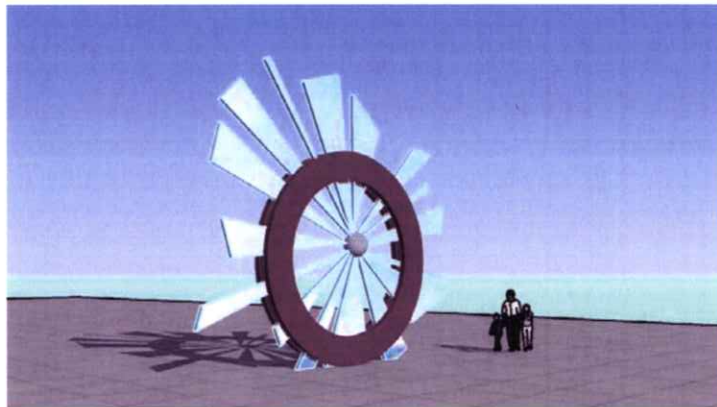
The Commission has been briefed on the proposed gift of a Cancer Survivors’ Park by the R.A. Bloch family for a site to be determined in the vicinity of the Capitol Complex. Several locations are under consideration, in cooperation with the City of Des Moines, and the Commission awaits further details.

### **World War II Submarine Memorial**

The United States Submarine Veterans, Iowa Base, Placoderm Base, proposed construction of a monument on the Capitol Complex as part of a nationwide effort to establish memorials for each of the 52 submarines lost during World War II. The submarine assigned to the Iowa committee for this effort is the S-36. The Commission endorsed the concept of such a monument, on the monument grounds south of the Capitol, subject to final review of the design concepts by staff.

### **Shattering Silence Sculpture**

James Ellwanger presented a proposal for a sculpture entitled “Shattering Silence” to be presented to the State as a gift. He has requested a location on the west side of the Capitol grounds. The 26-foot high steel and limestone outdoor sculpture would be the first in a series of identical sculptures planned for various locations throughout the United States in tribute to various causes embracing and protecting freedom and First Amendment rights. The Commission has endorsed the concept and has asked that the State work with Mr. Ellwanger to identify potential sites for further review.



*Proposed Sculpture “Shattering Silence” by artist James Ellwanger*