



MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER CONSERVANCY

Marin County Executive Office, Suite 325
3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California 94903

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2024 DRAFT MINUTES

Held at Marin County Civic Center, Suite 329
San Rafael, California

Present: Steve Petterle, Mark Hulbert, Jonathan Bernstein, Lynn Downey, Annette Rose, Joan Brown, Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters

Absent: Suki Sennett, Cheryl Lentini, June Miller

Staff: Jeff Wong, Erica Hellmold, David Speer (absent), County Executive Office; Libby Garrison, Cultural Services

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Mark Hulbert called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM
- 2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None
- 3. CIVIC CENTER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) AND PLANNING COMMISSION CHAMBERS LECTERN UPGRADE; PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:** Jeff Wong, Senior Capital Projects Manager presentation that provided the background of the existing fixed-height simple lectern and another side lectern lower in height for person in a wheelchair used by the public during BOS and Planning Commission meetings which is aged, not ADA compliant, and not suitable for those of short stature. Due to recent furniture advancements, a new ADA-compliant motorized sit-stand lectern is being proposed and has been approved by the County's Disability Access Manager and accessibility code requirements as outlined in the California Building Code. Photos of the proposed lectern design included a visual with masking tape indicating the location and size of the new lectern on casters and can be moved, a list of the features, and proposed design options. The design options offer wood laminate finish options to best match the dark wood color and Cherokee red color as seen throughout the Chambers. This lectern can be adjusted to people of varying heights. The current set up allows only two fixed heights.

During the discussion, the group expressed some general concerns and questions about the proposed ADA-compliant lectern features and design as follows:

- The wheelchair is too far away from the microphone and it appears the wheelchair would not be able to fit underneath the desk board. Why the board would be needed with the button that moves the lectern up and down and the sensitivity of the microphone would need to be researched.
- The lectern appears to be heavy and bulky. It is uncertain if it will fit in the space or constrain the space and/or if the wheels can be moved easily. It could be problematic if the motor goes out. One solution is there may be other custom options like using plastic/veneer wood with a different lamenent.

- As for the button that moves the lectern up and down, the solution should be seamless and should not have to be accommodated or make someone stand out as needing an accommodation. It could be time-consuming and noisy and call out a disability when people need to push a button and wait for the lectern to move up and down which could draw attention to someone and make them feel embarrassed. The goal is to help make it feel everyone is equal. Is there a wireless option to make it more elegant for the public to move it up and down.

The group also discussed other options if we were to keep the current lectern set up until such time there were new ADA-compliant technologies available to choose from.

- We can purchase another lectern add-on to match the current one we have to accommodate other fixed-heights. It would be nice to have material and wood to match the BOS chambers.
- The openness of the current setup is desirable.
- Most members thought the high and low lecterns seem more preferable and may help people feel equal vs. feeling less than.
- Some members suggested that resources be spent for a full custom design be done.
- A suggestion was made that the lower lectern be placed on the opposite side closer to the staff table so it is easier for BOS members to see the person using the lower lectern.
- Some thought there was a potential that the up/down feature would be too noisy and take too long for the adjustment.

Other concerns and questions the group discussed for areas to consider are aesthetics to the color match and the materials to best match or blend in at the BOS chambers. Colors to blend in that may be different yet complementary are black or Cherokee red.

There was a motion formed that the committee supports the concept of assessability. However this proposed solution may not be appropriate based on the reasons stated above. All members agreed with motion except Jonathan Berstien. Jonathan motioned Aye and felt there were some things we were overlooking with the newly proposed lectern solution such as the state's mandatory ADA requirements. He believed this lectern could be a good solution to continue to explore including looking into the cost with or without customization of around apx. \$8,500 - \$10,000.

The committee did not reject the concept but rather asked to come back to this topic with a better solution and in the interim approve an add-on pair to the current lectern we have of different fixed-heights. It was also recommended to ask the County Disability Access Manager to come and present the newly proposed lectern solution to provide additional information.

Before a final motion or conclusion could be met, the building alarm at the Civic Center was activated and we had to vacate the building. The meeting was considered adjourned.

4. MEMBER ITEMS FOR UPDATES: None.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM