



**STATE OF MONTANA
CAPITOL COMPLEX ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Location: Capitol Building, Room 455 or Zoom
1301 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601**

**MINUTES
August 6, 2026
1:30 pm**

1. OPEN MEETING

Misty Ann Giles, Chair

- a. Meeting called to order at 1:31pm
- b. Roll Call taken/quorum established. Following members present:
 - i. Council Members Present
 - 1. Director Misty Ann Giles, Chair
 - 2. Senator Ken Bogner
 - 3. Krys Holmes, MT Arts Council
 - 4. Dave Galt, Public Member
 - 5. Molly Kruckenberg, MT Historical Society
 - ii. Council Members Present via Zoom:
 - 1. Representative Scott Rosenzweig
 - 2. Representative Mike Vinton
 - 3. Ralph Kuney, Public Member
 - iii. Council Members Absent:
 - 1. Senator Derek Harvey
- c. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Upon a motion by Senator Rosenzweig, seconded by Member Galt, the council unanimously approved the minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting as distributed.

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION / VOTE

- a. General Services Division Update - 1:33 pm **Steve Baiamonte**
 - i. Steve Baiamonte, Division Administrator of the General Services Division, provided a General Services Division update, reviewing the information on pages 2-3 of the distributed PowerPoint (see Appendix A: Capitol Complex Advisory Council PowerPoint).
 - 1. During Administrator Baiamonte's presentation, the meeting was briefly paused for MPAN technical issues at 1:34pm. Once resolved, Administrator Baiamonte resumed his presentation at 1:37pm.
 - ii. Gannon Campbell, Space Management Services Project Manager of the General Services Division, provided updates on building renovations, including the Metcalf, Walt Sullivan and Mitchell Building renovations as seen on page 4 of the distributed PowerPoint (see Appendix A).
 - iii. Questions or comments from council: Following the presentations, the Chair offered the council an opportunity for inquiries; no questions were raised.
- b. Architecture & Engineering Division – 1:40pm **Russ Katherman**

- i. Russ Katherman, Architecture/Engineering Administrator for the A & E Division provided an update for the Capitol Complex Master Plan, reviewing information on pages 5-10 of the distributed PowerPoint (see Appendix A).
 - ii. Questions or comments from council: Following the presentation, the Chair offered the council an opportunity for inquiries. The inclusion of the Legislative Long-Range Plan and the availability of this information on the Department of Administration website was discussed.
 - 1. During this discussion, the meeting was briefly paused for microphone technical issues from 1:48pm – 1:49pm.
- c. Proposal – Bust of Chief Earl Old Person – 1:50pm **Senator Webber**
 - i. Prior to the proposal presentation by Senator Webber, Administrator Baiamonte provided an overview of the process and Montana statute (2-17-804, MCA) that regulates how displays or additions are made to the Capitol Complex.
 - ii. Senator Webber appeared before the council on behalf of the State-Tribal Relations Committee to request authorization to place a bust of Chief Earl Old Person in the Montana State Capitol Rotunda. A letter from Representative Tyson Running Wolf, Chair of the State-Tribal Relations Committee, was distributed to the council along with the draft bill for the upcoming Legislative Session (see Appendix B: State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee Letter & Appendix C: Draft Bill). Senator Webber also provided a handout detailing information on Chief Earl Old Person to the council (see Appendix D: Chief Earl Old Person Information).
 - iii. Questions or comments from council: Following the presentations, the Chair offered the council an opportunity for inquiries; The council discussed the requirement that an individual be deceased for 10 years prior to the placement of a bust on the Capitol Complex and that because that requirement has not been met, this proposal would need to be passed by Legislature prior to approval or action by this council. The council confirmed the item's artist as Lyle Schwabauer. Inquiries were raised regarding potential project conflicts with a previously approved bust; the council noted its final placement approval authority and committed to researching the matter and reporting back at a future meeting.
- d. Proposal – Liberty Tree Marker – 2:01pm **Janice Hand**
 - i. Janice Hand, State Regent of the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution appeared before the council to present a proposal for Installing a Liberty Tree Marker on the Capitol Grounds, Helena Montana by Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. This marker would include a marker and a ring around the tree, which is already planted on State grounds. A handout was provided to the council with information on the Liberty Tree and the proposal (see Appendix E: A Proposal for Installing a Liberty Tree Marker).
 - ii. Questions or comments from council: Administrator Baiamonte provided an overview of the requirements needed per statute for this proposal to move forward. The council recommended that the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution create a final plan and final design, including funding. The Chair offered the council an opportunity for additional inquiries; no other questions were raised.
- e. 720 Madison Update – 2:09 pm **Don Harris**
 - i. Don Harris, Attorney for the Department of Administration, presented an update on the transition and gift agreement for the 720 Madison property, reviewing information on pages 11-12 of the distributed PowerPoint (see Appendix A).
 - ii. Questions or comments from council: Following the presentation, the Chair offered the council an opportunity for inquiries; no questions were raised.
- f. 2 Carson Street – 2:13pm **Misty Ann Giles, Chair**

- i. Chair Giles provided an overview of the 2 Carson Street property, reviewing information on pages 13-24 of the distributed PowerPoint presentation (see Appendix A).
- ii. Questions or comments from council: Following the presentation, the Chair offered the council an opportunity for inquiries; The council discussed the possibility of renovating this property or turning it into green space. Infrastructure and utilities under this site were discussed, as well as the timeline of when a decision needed to be made on this property.
- iii. Public Comment: Following the presentation, the Chair offered the public an opportunity for comment.
 1. Nikki Simon, Chief of Operations of the General Services Division, appearing as a member of the public and not as a representative of the General Services Division read a statement for herself and two other statements from neighbors to the 2 Carson Property – the Carpenter Household at 1516 E Broadway and Katie Loveland, at 1507 E Broadway. These letters were in support of turning the 2 Carson property into green space and are provided as attachments to these minutes (see Appendix F: Public Comments on 2 Carson Street Property).
- iv. Following Public Comment, the council discussed potential for art placement in the potential green space and the wording of the survey sent out to the public.
- v. Action
 1. Representative Rosenzweig made a motion to approve and authorize the State of Montana to proceed with the demolition of the former Executive Residence located at 2 Carson Street and the subsequent conversion of the property dedicated to green space.
 2. Senator Bogner then made a substitute motion to delay action on 2 Carson until September 2026.
 3. Upon a roll call, the substitute motion passed by a vote of 5 to 3. The voting record was as follows:
 - a. Council Members Voting:
 - i. Senator Bogner: Yes
 - ii. Representative Rosenzweig: No
 - iii. Representative Vinton: Yes
 - iv. Member Galt – No
 - v. Member Kuney – Yes
 - vi. Member Holmes – Yes
 - vii. Member Kruckenberg – Yes
 - viii. Chair Giles: No
 - b. Council Members Absent:
 - i. Senator Harvey: Excused
 4. Approval of the substitute motion successfully substituted and disposed of the original main motion.
- g. Election of a Chair/Leadership Transition – 2:49pm **Misty Ann Giles, Chair**
 1. Chair Giles announced her upcoming resignation from the Department of Administration and nominated Mark Blasdel, incoming Director of the Department of Administration, to serve as the new Chair of the Capitol Complex Advisory Council. Member Galt made a motion to appoint Director Blasdel as the new Chair, and the motion was seconded by Senator Bogner. Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:50pm

Misty Ann Giles, Chair

- a. The Chair offered the public an opportunity to comment; there were no public questions or comments.

4. CLOSING MEETING

Misty Ann Giles, Chair

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.