

**MINUTES OF THE
PRISON RELOCATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, September 3, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Brad R. Wilson, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Director Rollin Cook
Director Ron Gordon

Members Absent:

Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Assistant Director
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Sara J. Thomas, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Rep. Hutchings and Rep. Wheatley were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Stevenson moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Hughes was absent for the vote.

2. Consultant Updates

Mr. Brad Sassatelli, MGT of America Inc., introduced Mr. Robert Nardi, Senior Vice President, Louis Berger Group, and Mr. George Camp, Criminal Justice Institute, to the commission. Together, Mr. Sassatelli, Mr. Nardi, and Mr. Camp presented "Correctional Facility Siting Criteria."

Mr. Nardi discussed the progress of the site identification process, noting that his team has a current inventory of about 25 potential sites distributed across Box Elder, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Utah counties. He explained that once the commission approves formal siting criteria, he anticipates that the number of potential sites will increase. Mr. Nardi discussed the site screening process; he highlighted the factors considered when screening a site, including location, total land area, and topographic conditions. He described his team's outreach effort to date and reviewed the next steps in the siting process. In response to a question from Chair Wilson, Mr. Nardi explained that his team is on track to present multiple sites to the commission for its consideration by the end of the year.

Mr. Camp discussed the operational and architectural programming of a new correctional facility. He illustrated how the operational and architectural programming of the new correctional facility will provide its eventual architect with a roadmap to ensure that the new facility's design enables it to meet its operational needs. Mr. Camp explained that the operational program will be developed through an interactive process with the Department of Corrections. He responded to questions from the commission regarding the potential for flexibility and innovation in the design process.

3. Site Selection Criteria

Mr. Bean presented "Site Selection Criteria" to the commission. He briefly reviewed the criteria adopted by the Legislature in 2014 General Session H.C.R. 8, "Concurrent Resolution Regarding Moving the State Prison" and 2014 General Session S.B. 268, "Prison Relocation Commission." Mr. Bean examined six proposed categories of weighted criteria for the commission to consider: proximity, land and environment, infrastructure, community services/other, development costs, and community acceptance. He provided a suggested point value out of a possible 100 points for each proposed category.

The commission discussed the importance of community acceptance, including how it is defined and how it can be stimulated. The commission went on to discuss how land and environmental features can create natural barriers to the encroachment of the surrounding population on the new correctional facility.

MOTION: Sen. Stevenson moved that the commission adopt the following weighted criteria:

- Proximity: 35 points
- Land and Environment: 15 points
- Infrastructure: 15 points
- Community Acceptance: 15 points
- Community Services/Other: 10 points
- Development Costs: 10 points

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Work Group Reports

Sen. Mayne reported on the recent meeting of the Criminal Justice System Reform and Programming Work Group. She noted that the work group discussed drug courts, short-stay facilities and other housing options, as well as different ways to serve probationers and parolees in more remote parts of the state. She discussed the need to better prepare the prison population for sustainable employment upon their release from custody.

Ms. Zoe Towns, Pew Charitable Trusts, presented "Improving Public Safety and Controlling Corrections Costs in Utah: Key Findings." She explained that Pew Charitable Trusts was invited by the three branches of Utah's state government to collaborate with the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to examine corrections and sentencing policies in the state. She discussed how the state compares with national trends in prison and jail population over the last several decades. She illustrated how Utah's prison population grew amid recent national decline and responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Gordon commented that the work of the Pew Charitable Trusts has been invaluable to the state. He reviewed the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's principles for policy reform, including controlling corrections growth, holding offenders accountable, establishing cost-effective processes, and reinvesting in public safety. He reviewed the membership of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's policy development subgroups and provided a timeframe for when to expect its final report and policy and recommendations. He responded to questions from the commission.

Sen. Stevenson noted that the work of the Site Selection Work Group will be able to move ahead quickly now that the commission has adopted official siting criteria.

Chair Wilson briefly reported on the recent discussions of the Finance Work Group. He explained that the work group is studying whether a new facility can be built all at once or in phases. He stated that they are in the process of gathering data and will have information to present to the commission in the next 60 to 90 days.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

Chair Wilson stated that the next commission meeting will be October 20, 2014.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.