

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson  
Rep. Ed Mahern  
Rep. Robert Behning  
Rep. Michael Young  
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. Lawrence Borst  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Sen. Glenn Howard



## CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: P.L. 102-1998

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 19, 2000  
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 156-C  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 3

**Members Present:** Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson; Rep. Ed Mahern; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Glenn Howard.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Billie Breaux.

#### Call to order

Representative Vanessa Summers, Chairperson of the Central State Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. She announced that she recently had spoken to Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson who indicated that his administration was interested in working with the Committee on developing a productive use for the Central State property. She then asked Danny White from the city's Department of Metropolitan Development to discuss a proposal<sup>2</sup> from the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD).

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

<sup>2</sup>See Exhibit 1.

### **IFD Proposal for a Fire Training Academy**

Mr. White informed the Committee that the IFD is interested in using the Evans Building and the surrounding land for a proposed fire training academy. Mr. White explained that while the IFD would initially use the facility to train its own firefighters, the facility could eventually become a centralized training academy for firefighters across the state. However, until problems with the roof and with the HVAC system at the Evans Building are corrected, the IFD would be able to occupy only a portion of the building.

Mr. White pointed out that the Wayne Township fire tower and training grounds are in close proximity to Central State and could be used to conduct live burns and tower training. Conducting live burns at the Wayne Township facility would eliminate any danger to the neighborhoods surrounding Central State.

Representative Young questioned whether it was necessary to have two training facilities so close to one another. Mr. White responded that the proposed facility would eventually serve as a statewide academy that would train more firefighters than the Wayne Township facility does. Representative Summers stated that she was in favor of exploring the proposal.

Representative Behning noted that parking spaces are limited at the Central State property. He wondered whether any green space would have to be paved to provide parking and whether the area would be able to accommodate the increased traffic that a statewide facility would bring. Mr. White suggested that the property could handle any increased traffic.

Senator Miller then asked whether the IFD would ultimately want to use all of the Central State property. Mr. White replied that the IFD needs only the Evans Building and the surrounding land. He noted that various types of training, besides live burns, could be conducted on the surrounding land. For example, search and rescue training could be conducted in the area surrounding the building.

### **Proposed Housing Complex for Veterans**

Representative Summers then called on Don Moreau of the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation to update the Committee on a proposal to use the property as a housing complex for veterans. Mr. Moreau noted that at the Committee's last meeting he was asked to hold a public hearing on the proposal and to work with the Department of Administration (DOA) in devising a plan of action. Mr. Moreau reported that he was continuing to work with the DOA and that a public meeting was held on October 17.

According to Mr. Moreau, the meeting had a very positive tone and lasted for over two hours. Area churches, neighborhood associations, and homeowners participated in the meeting. Those attending the meeting were assured that no decisions had been made and that the proposal was still in the planning stages.

Representative Young asked whether the housing complex would need to use the Evans Building. Mr. Moreau stated that under preliminary plans, the Evans Building would be the first building to be occupied.

Jay McQueen, Deputy Commissioner for the DOA, then addressed the Committee and indicated that the DOA was willing to continue studying the feasibility of the proposal. He also stated that the five houses along Warman Avenue could be made ready for occupancy fairly quickly.

Senator Miller asked Mr. McQueen how quickly a plan could be prepared for the Governor's review. Mr. McQueen estimated that a plan could be submitted to the Governor by the end of the year.

Representative Mahern expressed frustration that the five houses along Warman Avenue had not yet been put to use. He asked whether those houses could be prepared for occupancy within 60 to 90 days. He also inquired as to the length of the lease that would be granted for the veterans' complex.

Mr. McQueen stated that the houses along Warman Avenue could be ready for occupancy within 60 to 90 days. He guessed that a ten-year lease would be granted for the veterans' complex.

#### **Discussion of Subsequent Committee Action**

Representative Summers noted that the Committee must conclude its regular business before November 1. Mr. Moreau indicated that he would not be able to present a detailed plan to the Governor before that time. After some discussion by Committee members and staff, it was determined that the Committee would meet again only if it received a report on the property from the Governor. Representative Summers adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.