

**BUSINESS MEETING ON H.R. 4009, SMITHSONIAN
NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK CENTRAL PARK-
ING FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT, AND A
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

DECEMBER 13, 2017

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BUSINESS MEETING ON H.R. 4009, SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK CENTRAL PARKING FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT, AND A COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 11:40 a.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Gregg Harper [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Harper, Davis, Walker, Smith, Brady, and Raskin.

Staff Present: Sean Moran, Staff Director; Bob Sensenbrenner, General Counsel; Cole Felder, Deputy General Counsel; Dan Jarrell, Legislative Clerk; Max Engling, Staff Director of the Franking Commission; Mary Sue Englund, Director of Administration and Operations; Erin McCracken, Communications Director; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; Khalil Abboud, Minority Deputy Staff Director; and Eddie Flaherty, Minority Chief Clerk.

The CHAIRMAN. I call to order the Committee on House Administration for today's Committee markup. A quorum is present, so we may proceed. The meeting record will remain open for 5 legislative days so Members may submit any materials they wish to be included therein.

We are here today to formally approve a Committee resolution to update the advertisement regulations found in the Members' Congressional Handbook and to markup H.R. 4009, the Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act.

Our first agenda item deals with creating an advertisement with official resources. Representatives of the House are required to follow the regulations found in the Members' Congressional Handbook and submit the advertisement to the Franking Commission for an advisory opinion.

The Committee resolution before us updates the regulations to allow advertisements that link directly to a Federal dot-gov or House of Representatives hosted website. This update will offer additional flexibility to Members when communicating with their constituents, while ensuring that the Franking Commission has clear direction on how to review advertisements.

Our second agenda item, H.R. 4009, authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to plan, design, and construct a centralized park-

ing facility at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., using non-appropriated funds. Currently, parking at the zoo includes several paved surface lots spread across the campus. The proposed new facility, included in the zoo's 2008 master plan, consolidates public parking into a garage located at the mid-point of the zoo. Benefits of the project include increasing onsite visitor parking to better meet demand, expanding animal habitat by repurposing some surface lots, improving security through consolidating access points, and enhancing pedestrian safety.

The Smithsonian intends to enter into a public-private partnership for the project. The developer would be responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operations of the facility for a fixed term, with the zoo receiving an annual payment based on revenues. No appropriated funds will be expended for the project. The developer will assume sole responsibility for financing.

I would now like to recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Brady, for the purpose of providing an opening statement, if he wishes.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no opening statement.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any other Member wish to be recognized for the purpose of an opening statement?

The Chair recognizes the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for holding this markup, and I look forward to discussing the proposed and much needed changes to the Members' Congressional Handbook. As Chair of the Franking Commission, I think these are long overdue.

I want to say I appreciate my counterpart on the Franking Commission, which many of you know is an equally divided commission that oversees the franking rules that Members have to follow for offering communications from our offices. My colleague and counterpart, Susan Davis, brought this issue to our attention. And I am glad we could find a solution that will benefit all of our Members on both sides in being able to communicate directly with our constituents the important work we are doing on their behalf.

And as I communicated with Congresswoman Davis, it has never been our intention to prevent Members from communicating about websites like healthcare.gov with their constituents. But unfortunately, during these discussions, longstanding rules within the Members' Congressional Handbook have strictly prohibited directly linking to any website, other than the Member's official website, when it comes to paid advertisements. We all know government's not the best in keeping up with technology, and something this Committee has been focused on changing in many aspects of the House. And these changes that we are proposing today are long overdue.

As more and more information is available to our constituents online, it only makes sense that we are able to link to these dot-gov and House-hosted sites in paid advertisements just as we are in regular communications through our offices. I hope this change today spurs interest in what I have been hoping to do, which is to review and update rules regarding Member communications to ensure that we have rules and transparency in place that better help

our Members directly communicate with the people that they represent.

So I look forward to this change, and I look forward to working with all of the Members of this Committee in a bipartisan way to ensure more transparency as we move into the future.

And I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair would certainly like to acknowledge the great work and the hard work that Mr. Davis has done, and we thank you for that effort.

Any other Member wish to make an opening?

Seeing none, I now call up and lay before the Committee the resolution to approve the update to the Members' Congressional Handbook. Without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with, and the resolution is considered read and open for amendment at any point.

[The resolution follows:]

Committee Resolution 115-~~5~~

Resolved, the Committee on House Administration adopts the following regulations amending and superseding prior regulations known collectively as the Members' Congressional Handbook:

After "How to subscribe to the Member's e-communications program(s)." strike the first paragraph and insert:

Advertisements, along with the embedded links and landing pages associated with them, will be subject to review by the Franking Commission for an Advisory Opinion. The FCC disclaimer is not required for online advertisements and relevant photos are permissible.

Online advertisements may link directly to any "dot-gov" or "House of Representatives hosted" website, so long as the content of the landing page is compliant with both the website content regulations (Members' Congressional Handbook) and the person or party criticism regulations (Franking Manual). This includes issue specific pages and other non-advertisement category landing pages. The content of the advertisement itself must comply with the advertisement categories listed above.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any debate?

Seeing none, are there any Members who want to offer an amendment to the resolution?

If not, I move the Committee to adopt the resolution. The question is on the motion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All opposed, say nay.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The CHAIRMAN. And I now call up and lay before the Committee H.R. 4009, Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with, and the bill is considered read and open for amendment at any point.

[The bill follows:]

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4009

To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2017

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. COLE, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a central parking facility on National Zoological Park property in the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Smithsonian National
5 Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FACILITY FOR IMPROVED VISITOR EXPERIENCE**
2 **AND ACCESS AT THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL**
3 **PARK.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to improve visitor experi-
5 ence and multi-modal access to the Smithsonian National
6 Zoological Park, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian
7 Institution is authorized to plan, design, and construct a
8 central parking facility on National Zoological Park prop-
9 erty in the District of Columbia.

10 (b) **CENTRAL PARKING FACILITY.**—The facility au-
11 thorized under this section may include parking, transpor-
12 tation improvements, visitor amenities including rest-
13 rooms, a pedestrian bridge to a midpoint entry of the Na-
14 tional Zoological Park, and ancillary works to accommo-
15 date alternative uses of the facility.

16 (c) **FUNDING.**—Construction of the facility described
17 in this section shall be conducted with funds from non-
18 appropriated sources.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any debate?
Are there any Members who want to offer an amendment to the bill?

If not, I move the Committee favorably report the bill. The question is on the motion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, say nay.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to. Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Without objection, the markup is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:47 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]