I. Welcome and Introductions
Catherine Fritz opened the meeting at 2pm by requesting that call-in participants open www.alaskacapitol.org for visual reference. Role call was taken and is available on the web site.

City and Borough of Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho gave the welcome address by speaking about the Capitol Building as a “rite of passage” for the State of Alaska, and thanked the audience for their interest in this special project.

II. Project Overview
Competition Advisor Don Stastny, of StastnyBrun, handed out the “Design Competition Flow Chart” (listed on web site as “Schedule Diagram” under “Project Overview”) while giving a brief history of his firm’s involvement in the project. StastnyBrun has worked over 50 national and international design competitions with around 80-85% seeing construction completion. Stastny explained that the need to proceed expeditiously stemmed from the need to present the project to the 2005 Alaska Legislative session.

Stastny explained that the competition is based on a layering of the General Services Administration’s “Design Excellence Protocols” used to develop federal building nationally and internationally and many of the criteria of the “Juneau Protocols”. This will ensure that this is a project representative of Alaska and not only Juneau.

Stastny introduced the 3-Stage Competition:

Stage I: Portfolio
This step looks for design firms’ qualifications and how they might approach the overall process. Preciseness is required in this stage to ensure that all individual portfolios have a parallel structure so jurors can view each equally.

Stage II:
This step is an opportunity for each team to build a technical group that could assist in bringing this project to fruition. This could mean engineers (structural, mechanical, electrical, civil, plumbing, fire) or other consultants (acoustics, lighting, or other areas deemed appropriate by each design team). Each team is required to present 3 deliverables: a completed a standard form 330, an interview with the jury, and no more than 2 boards at the interview. The subjects for the boards shall be the design team’s evaluation of the site and what the opportunities for the site, and graphical illustrations of the design intent. Design intent does not mean a design of the building but an approach that the team might wish to explore during the Stage III process. The Jury will then select up to 4 design teams to develop an initial concept for the Capitol Building.

Stage III:
All selected teams will be required to be present for a site visit. Each team shall create a design concept that will be delivered to the jury on February 16, 2005. The intent is that a level playing ground exists for the four finalists in Stage III, so than that final decision is not made by an accumulation of the program to date, but rather by the quality of the final design. Prior to the start of Stage III, the final requirements for deliverables will be set out. It likely could be 4 boards and very similar to the GSA process with a certain number of required drawings to enable an evaluation of space. There will be an opportunity for creativity as to how each team uses the boards to portray a particular concept.
The deliverables of Stages II & III (the boards but not the 330’s) will be posted on the web site. There will also be 3 exhibits of the Stage III boards traveling throughout the State for public viewing.

III. The Context for Design
This portion is available on the web site under “Symbol for Democracy”, “Project Overview”.

Don Stastny reviewed the history of previous capitol construction efforts and expressed the overall hope that this would be the final effort. The existing building that houses the Legislature and assorted offices is the former Territorial Government Building that was not designed with public participation of government in mind. The building itself is too cramped and does not have adequate space for public hearings or more than a few people at a time to view the Legislature.

The Capitol Planning Commission (CPC) led the development of the current program. This group has hosted a number of speakers to help create discussion of the Capitol process, such as the author of The American State House, Charles Goodsell. His book speaks of a capitol's intent to make government accessible. The CPC’s goal was to create a vision and to craft a mission statement (see web site). Pay close attention to the actual statement. A number of program options were considered by the CPC; the current space program listed in competition guidelines is reasonably reflects where the project is today.

Financing options for the project are under consideration. One possible option is that the City & Borough of Juneau would issue bonds and construct the building, and would lease to the State with ultimately the State owning the building.

Be assured that the official competition schedule will be maintained. There is no flexibility in the dates.

Public Outreach: The outreach effort is three-pronged. There will be a 9 member jury with 7 Alaskans and 2 non-Alaskans. Of the 7 Alaskans, at least 2 will be design professionals. Don will facilitate jury; there will not be a jury chair. This is in the interests of letting all jury members speak equally.

Stage III teams will get a “citizen notebook” of public ideas. Each team will be asked to consider input from citizens as designs are created.

Finally, there will also be a public exhibition of Stage III materials in at least 3 locations around the State and on the web. This will not be a vote, but a call for more public opinion. The information gathered will be given to the jury.

As we move toward Alaska’s 50th anniversary of Statehood, we are projecting a January 2009 dedication of the new Capitol. Everyone involved is helping to make a statement about the citizens, the environment, and the state of Alaska.

IV. Presentation: the Context for Design
A visual presentation was given by Sarah Lewis, an architect with the City & Borough of Juneau for purposes of introducing people to Juneau who are unfamiliar with the area. The visuals for this portion are available on the web site under “Design influences for Alaska”. Lewis said it is important to understand the context in designing to ensure that the building fits Juneau as well as the State’s needs. The general concept is that the state is the main focus, but Juneau’s character is inherent.

This presentation was built off the concept of “edges” being important to design in Southeast Alaska, a concept originally developed by Juneau architect James Bibb. Juneau is built on three “natural edges”: mountain, ocean, and forest. (Slide 2, “Natural Environment”).
V. Review of the Competition Space Program
Presented by Mic Steinman of the StastnyBrun/SGS consulting team. For a visual, this is a review of pages 10 & 11 of the Alaska Design Competition Packet.

There have been a number of efforts to develop a new Capitol Building. Steinman’s firm was involved in the 1984 design competition effort that was incomplete. The design packet from 1984 has been updated to serve as a base for the current packet. It has been updated several times, most recently in 2004. AK Committee has been involved in updates a number of times.

One of the earliest questions from the process was if this was a Capitol Bldg or a Legislative Hall. It is a Capitol Building, a focal point for the Executive Branch (represented by the office of the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and the Attorney General) and the Legislative Branch (represented by the House, the Senate, and some administrative support components such as the Legislative Affairs Agency).

The building will include general building support spaces (maintenance, loading dock, etc.). Critically important, the building is for the public and the public spaces are for the people of the State.

The program so far (pgs. 10 & 11 of competition packet) has been evolving over the last 20 years and will continue to evolve through the rest of the competition. What is currently issued is not expected to be the final program; it is a competition program that may change with increased interface between the Governor’s Office and the Legislature once the full project is funded. However, the document illustrates a realistic vision of what this building can and should be with all of the details available at this time. Stage III will include more specifics (private vs. public uses and more exact uses overall).

There needs to be flexibility in the spaces in the building that takes into consideration what happens during the 8 months that the Legislature is not in session. The building needs to be available to the public so that it continues to have a life and vitality beyond the legislative session. That type of vitality relates also to the integration of the indoors and outdoors.

Touring the current Capitol spaces, one will find that many of the Legislators’ offices, public spaces, and other spaces are very small & cramped.

Openness of the building and its accessibility is an issue. It should not be a fortress. It should have very free and open access, probably to most areas of the building. Security is a concern, but flashing gates and armed guards are not desirable.

VI. Guided Site Tour
Reference the drawing in “Capitol Site Information” under “Design Competition” (the second document listed).

The site tour, led by Mayor Botelho and Mr. Stastny proceeded up a set of stairs off of Main Street to a view point on the parking area in the residential district of Telephone Hill. The participants stopped to take in a view overlooking Gastineau Channel. Mayor Botelho explained that the name “Telephone Hill” was derived from the site’s former use as the telegraph office. It was also previously the location the Naval Office and Juneau’s first courthouse. In answer to a participant’s question, Botelho said that the tunnel undercutting the hill will continue its utilities usage and will not be affected by the Capitol Building project.

Participants were led up Dixon Street towards the State Office Building. The area is being considered part of a future complete government campus that may include adjacent office buildings and the future Capitol Building.
The group walked through the State Office Building lobby, currently used during the summer as a civic space for concerts and other types of presentations. The lobby is located on the 8th level of the building, but near ground level on the building’s uphill side near the Main Street & Calhoun intersection. Immediately adjacent to the lobby is an outdoor plaza that overlooks Willoughby Avenue. From this vantage point, the Capitol site can be easily seen, as well as a view south along Gastineau Channel.

Stastny took this opportunity to ask design teams to consider the linkage between various buildings and look to the view of the overall campus. Any connection will probably occur at the 8th floor or higher. Teams also should consider weather protection for moving among the campus buildings.

There was significant excavation of the hill during the construction of the State Office Building in the early 1970’s. This will likely also be an issue for the construction of the Capitol Building, but budget figures and geological factors have yet to be determined.

The group then moved into the current Capitol Building to view the Legislative Chambers as an example of current conditions. The entire group, approximately 35 people, could not fit inside to view it at one time. Maria Gladziszewski discussed the need for the design teams to take into consideration for future chambers and hearing rooms the live television coverage continuously provided on “Gavel to Gavel” of Senate and House activities as well as a number of other hearings. While inside the House Finance Committee room, Gladziszewski said the legislature already had in place an extensive statewide teleconference network that enables Alaskans from across the state to participate in hearings. Any new capitol must be designed with the latest technology, always with an eye towards increasing citizen access to legislative hearings and deliberations. As it is now, cameras and teleconference equipment have been an afterthought and a new capitol should be designed with those things in mind.

The tour continued exploring the current Capitol Building for another 15 minutes before returning to the City & Borough Assembly Chambers for a question and answer session with Stastny, Fritz, Steinman, and Gladziszewski. Ms. Fritz again thanked all participants for attending and for their interest in the project. The web site will continue to be used extensively to provide information about the project.