

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Commission Meeting
January 19, 2007

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of the Historic State Capitol Commission, held pursuant to due notice, at the California State Capitol, Room 3191, Sacramento, California on Friday, January 19, 2007, at approximately 10:00 am PST.

Presiding: Eric Nelson, Chair

Commissioners Present

Julie Cerra
Richard Cowan
Wayne Donaldson
Gary Kurutz (attending for Susan Hildreth)
Eric Nelson
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Nancy Zimmelman

Visitors

Burnett Miller, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Kerry Wood, Mercy Foundation
Ruth Coehlo, Mercy Foundation
Phil Coehlo, Mercy Foundation
Bob Sleppy, Department of General Services (Environmental Services Chief)
Marilyn Nelson, Department of General Services
Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services
Maria Sexton, Department of General Services

Koren Benoit, Executive Director/Curator and recording secretary

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introduction of Visitors

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The recording secretary read the roll. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Cowan

2nd: Mr. Sanchez

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the October 2006 meeting minutes.

III. Old Business

A. Mercy Foundation

Kerry Wood provided an update on the Sisters of Mercy commemorative sculpture. SCR99 (Ortiz) has been chaptered. They have met with Tony Beard and Greg Schmidt to review placement options and presented two designs for review. Mr. Donaldson opined that option #1 was too "shrine" like. Members preferred option #2, but voiced several issues of concern:

1. Bury the platform rock more so it is only 1-2 inches above ground.
2. Be aware of the surrounding landscape and how it may affect the view of the sculpture over time.
3. Angle figure in cot so that rainwater does not accumulate.
4. Incorporate both the original and updated plaque in the design.
5. Final design should address small areas where children could get fingers or heads trapped.

Mr. Donaldson asked that the foundation check with DGS re: signs that would prohibit climbing. Ms. Wood stated that they had met with Asian community leaders and they did not have any issues re: cultural sensitivity concerns.

Motion: Ms. Cerra

2nd: Mr. Cowan

Approved: Yes

Action: For the Commission to send a letter to Joint Rules supporting design option #2 but to also voice the concerns listed above.

B. Department of General Services

Ms. Kaneko, Mr. Sleppy and Ms. Nelson provided an update on the following issues:

Environmental Historic Issues

Mr. Sleppy and Ms. Nelson discussed the progress on the Sisters of Mercy sculpture. They will use a truncated EIR doc. Ms. Nelson reviewed the maintenance agreement and right of entry. Mercy Foundation would like to have the sculpture in place by August.

Security Update

For the most part, the project is complete. The bollard caps still need to be installed (governor's seal prototype still to be approved).

Master Plan

DGS has requested additional funding for '07/08 in order to complete the Master Plan as originally devised.

Motion: Mr. Donaldson

2nd: Mr. Cowan

Approved: Yes

Action: For the Commission to send an updated letter of support to Joint Rules to complete the Master Plan.

Infrastructure Study

The study is complete and DGS has established a priority matrix of repairs for the Capitol. \$7.2 million has been identified for high priority issues this fiscal year (including the roof, some mechanical equipment replacement, and skylight replacement); \$8 million for future high priority items in '07/08. Mr. Donaldson requested a copy of the matrix. Mr. Cowan requested a copy of Vol. 2. The roofing project will not affect the dome; HMR Architects is the contractor. Work is slated for August – October 2007. DGS plans on having a roofing consultant on board. Ms. Taneko and Ms. Nelson discussed the problems inherent with replacing the roof on the Capitol (98,000 sq. feet, flat, multiple roofs, energy efficient, addition of mechanical equipment, etc.). Mr. Cowan requested DGS pre-qualify bidders.

Memorials

Genocide (AB1210) – approved.

Search and Rescue (AB2525) – no activity

Members discussed the proliferation of memorials in Capitol Park; Mr. Donaldson suggested the Commission play a more active role in advising offices about the moratorium.

DGS is reexamining the use of more energy efficient light bulbs in the Historic State Capitol. A presentation may be made at the April meeting.

C. California Capitol Historic Preservation Society (CCHPS)

Chairman Burnett Miller submitted a letter from the Society supporting the Commission in the protection of Capitol Park. Mr. Visnich referenced two Bee articles on the Genocide memorial.

Mr. Visnich revisited the Capitol View Protection Plan issue and asked the Commission to support low high rises along Capitol Mall; he also asked the Commission to examine the possibility of placing memorials along Capitol Mall. Mr. Sanchez added that the city was currently discussing the area. Mr. Cowan broached the subject of proffering these sites as part of the approval process.

Mr. Donaldson provided members with a review of the paint analysis project and the preliminary work completed by Susan Buck. Ms. Benoit distributed copies of Ms. Buck's report. \$12,000 is needed to complete a more detailed final paint analysis.

Motion: Mr. Donaldson

2nd: Mr. Cowan

Approved: Yes

Action: For the Commission to urge Joint Rules to request DGS set aside a budget of \$15,000 to complete the 2nd phase of the color analysis for the State Capitol. The Commission will also alert DGS of the request.

C. Governor's Portrait Signage

Mr. Cowan reported that the committee was moving forward with obtaining samples from vendors to create wood grain laminate signs with black lettering (non-glossy). Mr. Cowan and Ms. Benoit will review before submitting to Joint Rules for approval.

D. Subcommittee Reports

Various members reported on subcommittee activities:

Repository Committee

Ms. Zimmelman is still checking on the status of the salvaged material from the 2001 truck incident. Ms. Cerra suggested obtaining an oral history from Mr. Girvigian, but requested guidelines and a list of questions.

Mr. Cowan mentioned the 100th anniversary of the Office of the State Architect and suggested collecting information about the State Capitol from state architects still living. Mr. Cowan agreed to speak with both State Archivist Zimmelman and State Capitol Museum Curator John Mello.

Maintenance Manual Committee

Mr. Cowan reported the idea to conduct a charette discussing the importance and need of a maintenance manual. The result would be (1) a statement on why; (2) who the users are; and (3) an index. Ms. Benoit will provide a copy of the "greening" materials to Mr. Cowan. Mr. Donaldson recommended including a leed professional to satisfy the Governor's executive order. Mr. Cowan and Mr. Sanchez will schedule a meeting with DGS. Mr. Visnich agreed to contact the Department of the Interior, the National Trust, and the Capitol Architect of the US Capitol re: their maintenance manuals.

Annual Report

Ms. Benoit asked members to review 2006 goals and bring back ideas for 2007 goals at the April meeting.

Communication Committee

Mr. Nelson recounted his meeting with Mr. Sanchez and Greg and Jon on cultivating and fostering relationships. Mr. Sanchez has been asked to review the Infrastructure report. Appointees will speak with respective offices after each meeting. Ms. Benoit to check with Rules on business cards for Commission members.

Legislative Liaisons Committee

The Commission needs to fill a Senate liaison position. Mr. Nelson suggested speaking with Greg and Jon before approaching other members. There was a brief discussion on members who may have an interest in the arts. It was recommended that the Commission advise on artwork for the Capitol. It was determined that there is no limit to the number of liaisons; Mr. Donaldson will provide names of interested legislators to approach.

Communications Committee

Mr. Nelson discussed the new committee, which would help to strengthen the Commission's relationship with Joint Rules Committee. Local members (Sanchez and Cowan) agreed to debrief Greg and Jon as soon as possible after each meeting. Mr. Nelson will attend when possible.

IV. New Business

Ms. Benoit will speak with Rules about business cards for Commission members. Ms. Benoit will schedule an agenda item for the April meeting that would educate the Commission on which different budget processes affect the Capitol.

C. Next meeting scheduled for 4/13/07, 10am

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.