

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Commission Meeting  
February 11, 2010

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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 Thursday, February 11, 2010, at approximately 10:00 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Stacey Aldrich  
Wayne Donaldson  
Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins  
Melodie Andersen (for Nancy Lenoil)  
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Visitors

Dan Visnich, CA Capitol Historic Preservation Society  
Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services  
Donna Durham, Department of General Services  
Marilyn Nelson, Department of General Services  
Robert Ruiz, Chair, California Mexican-American Veterans' Memorial Committee  
John Ochoa, Executive Officer, California Mexican-American Veterans' Memorial Committee  
William Burg, Office of Historic Preservation

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

Mr. Cowan called the meeting to order at 10:00am and read the roll. Mr. Cowan asked visitors to introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mr. Sanchez  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Aldrich  
Approved: Yes  
Action: To approve the November 2009 meeting minutes

**III. Special Presentations**

A. California Mexican-American Veterans' Memorial

Mr. Ruiz provided written materials, a brief overview and an update on the beautification and enhancement of the existing memorial. The Committee and CDVA are currently negotiating for architectural and engineering design services. Funds have been set aside to pay for the initial phase of the project. The schematics will be made available for review by the general public, both on the website and through possible

Teleconferencing with various communities. This should be in about 3-4 months. The committee is working with veterans' organizations for donations (they anticipate \$1.3 million must be raised). The memorial's webpage is being reworked to enhance the marketing and fundraising capabilities. CDVA is collaborating with Vet Fund Foundation to promote and facilitate charitable donations. The memorial will also honor Latino veterans. The target date for the rededication is February 2011. Mr. Ruiz took a moment to thank Marilyn Nelson and John Ochoa for their assistance with the project.

#### B. Capitol Mall History

William Burg, an historian with the Office of Historic Preservation, provided a presentation on the history of Capitol Mall (previously called M Street), starting with the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the present day.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. John Feliz/Assembly Chamber Lighting**

Mr. Feliz provided an update on the re-lamping of the Assembly Chamber from incandescent to fluorescent (one-on-one lamp replacement). They have re-lamped with a 4-watt equivalent that puts out 25 watts, and are currently showing a decrease in wattage from 7,320 to 480. They plan to expand into staff areas in the West Wing on the Assembly side. Mr. Donaldson raised the issue of conferring with SHPO (Public Resources Code 1524 and 1524.5). Members discussed other 'greening' light options for the museum rooms. Mr. Feliz offered members a tour of the chamber. Mr. Cowan commented on the different color lamps in the West Wing corridors; Mr. Feliz explained it was due to mix-ups with different manufacturers, etc. DGS maintenance is correcting the problem.

#### **B. Goals/Subcommittee Reports**

1. Maintenance Manual

2. Communications

3. Capitol View Protection Plan

4. Capitol Park Memorials

## C. Department of General Services

### 1. PMB (Project Management Branch)

- a. Capitol Park Master Plan - Ms. Kaneko provided a brief update. DGS is working with UC Davis to complete initial CEQA work (public responses, feedback, etc.). The RFP for the principal firm is still pending. The schedule is being kept fluid. SHPO will work with consultants on the architectural plan.
- b. Infrastructure Study - Ms. Durham provided a brief overview on the project, and handouts on the replacement of the east-entry doors. They have become a security hazard (difficult to keep them locked). DGS will reuse the frames and hardware, but will replace the damaged snap-on facing piece, doors, and glass. The doors will be similar to the originals. Mr. Donaldson expressed concern over unnecessarily replacing original fabric. SHPO will review the working drawings. Once the drawings have been approved, DGS will work with JRC on a MOU, and contract the job out. DGS is completing the emergency electrical system surveys for the West Wing and East Annex. Mr. Cowan inquired whether it was a "State Capitol Building Improvement Plan" in place. Ms. Kaneko explained that the original binders identified priority projects; it is a fluid project, however, that requires constant modification and confirmation of funding.
- c. Memorials - There is no further action on any memorials. Mr. Visnich inquired into the decision to place the Thomas Starr King statue in Capitol Park. Members discussed the moratorium on memorials in Capitol Park and possibly utilizing Capitol Mall.
- d. East Annex - Mr. Cowan raised the issue of a MOA on how projects are handled in the East Annex. The annex does not have a complete Historic Structures Report. Of main concern are the corridors, elevators, etc. (general public areas). A report could cost up to \$30,000. Mr. Donaldson provided a template that Mr. Cowan will forward disseminate. Mr. Cowan and Mr. Donaldson will schedule a walkthrough to identify areas.

### 2. BPM (Building and Property Management)

- a. Tree Maintenance - Mr. Strike provided an update on trees in Capitol Park. Since the last meeting, DGS has removed two elms in direct line of the Capitol viewshed, trimmed a third elm and trimmed back all podocarpus trees along the North and South sides of the West entrance. The camphor trees will be tipped back later this year.

#### **D. State Parks/State Capitol Museum**

Mr. Stiny introduced himself. He is a Curator 3, heads up the district-wide exhibition program in Sacramento and is the acting director of the State Capitol Museum. Mr. Stiny updated members on new exhibits opening in June: California's Role in the Spanish American War and the History of California State Parks. In addition, the museum is partnering with the Latino Caucus for an exhibit on contemporary California migrant workers at the Railroad Museum. Mr. Stiny also provided an update on the kiosks. The equipment has been purchased, but they are rethinking the original idea of installing them in the old telephone booths with possibly using them in the public corridors outside the museum rooms.

Ms. LeFalle-Collins asked about a guide to the paintings in the Capitol. Mr. Cowan will email Ms. Benoit.

#### **E. Capitol Art Program**

Ms. Benoit not in attendance; rolled over to April meeting.

#### **F. Other**

Mr. Cowan is rethinking handing out the annual report at the Senate and Assembly Rules Committee meetings.

Two applicants have expressed interest in the vacant Assembly slot. Ms. Benoit will forward their applications to the new Speaker. Mr. Visnich suggested Gray Brechin, a geography professor at UC Berkeley.

Mr. Cowan reported on the lack of response concerning new liaisons. Commissioners have a meeting with Senator Kehoe on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Visnich responded to the Commission's request for paint study funding. The Society declined the request, citing a bad precedent for involvement in repairs/maintenance that is the responsibility of the State. The request is not a part of the Society's cultural and educational mandate. Mr. Visnich requested information on the alternative non-profit being formed by Linda Ackerman. Mr. Donaldson reported that there is no funding for Save America's Treasures or Preserve America. Perhaps approach DGS when it's time to repaint?

Mr. Cowan reported on the historic corner pillars. The City of Folsom has not responded as to their plans for their pillars. Mr. Visnich provided information on the whereabouts of the remaining pillars. He was able to verify the existence of 10 of the 12 pillars.

#### **V. New Business**

Mr. Cowan wants to request that a Commission member fill the Senate vacancy on the Capitol Area Committee, which deals with Capitol Mall and development on State property.

Mr. Cowan asked for agreement to sponsor a series of events to memorialize the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision to restore the Historic State Capitol. One would be a cocktail party. He has discussed this with Sheron Violini, Rules Deputy Secretary of Operations.

Mr. Cowan reviewed the report on the workshop co-sponsored with the city, DGS and other entities concerning the Capitol View Protection Plan. The Commission is now on the attendee list for these meeting; the city's Economic Development Department is the nucleus. Mr. Visnich asked if the city was seeking stimulus funds.

Mr. Visnich raised the issue of amending the Commission legislation to include the grounds, including the green area between the Library and Courts and Treasurer's Buildings. Mr. Cowan indicated that Greg and Jon felt the effort would be unsuccessful, but to focus on the MOU for the East Annex. Members agreed to discuss the amendment with Senator Kehoe.

It was decided to start the next meeting at 9am rather than 10am.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.