

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Commission Meeting
April 8, 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 113, Sacramento, California on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at approximately 9:00 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

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

Visitors

Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Bob Bowen, Department of General Services
Donna Durham, Department of General Services
Marilyn Nelson, Department of General Services
John Feliz, Assembly Rules Facilities

Koren Benoit, Executive Director/Curator and recording secretary

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

Mr. Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. The recording secretary read the roll. Mr. Cowan asked visitors to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

The February 2010 meeting minutes were incomplete; rolled over to July meeting.

III. Old Business

A. Budget Briefing

Rolled over to July meeting.

B. Subcommittee Reports

1. Maintenance Manual

No movement. Mr. Cowan and Mr. Sanchez are committee members.

2. Communications

Nothing to report.

3. Capitol View Protection Plan

Mr. Cowan reported that he and Mr. Sanchez have attended improvement workshops chaired by the City's Economic Development Department. The Transportation Department is currently maintaining Capitol Mall as a "street median". If its use changed, it would transfer to the Parks Department. Mr. Sanchez will check on the next meeting.

4. Capitol Park Memorials

Ms. LeFalle-Collins brought up the issue of the preponderance of memorials and the need for a moratorium. Mr. Visnich suggested writing a letter to JRC. Ms. Nelson suggested addressing the issue of sun setting those memorials that exist only in legislation, and perhaps making it part of the Master Plan. Commission members stressed the need to keep the North, South and West sides of the Capitol as 'green space'. Mr. Bowen will research whether the Capitol Park Master Plan was put forth by a bill or a budget item. Ms. Benoit provided a final update on the Thomas Starr King statue.

C. Department of General Services

1. Capitol Park Master Plan

Mr. Bowen provided a brief update. Due to budget concerns, DGS is not hiring an architectural firm at this time. There is funding (@ \$100,000) for UC Davis to complete an inventory of park assets. It is hoped they will begin this summer and complete by end of the calendar year. There is no schedule at this time, except for the UC Davis portion. Mr. Bowen agreed to provide the project budget amount and a copy of the schedule.

2. Infrastructure Study

Ms. Durham provided a brief update. Carey & Company are the architects for the repair project. Funding was cut for the next fiscal year. She is currently putting together a plan for what can and can't be accomplished. There is \$6 million left for the project; \$23 million is needed over the course of 2 years to complete the priority projects (critical to fire, life, safety). The emergency generator system, the electrical panels and transformers all need to be replaced. If money was available, the windows would be replaced; as it is, they will only be doing caulking, etc. Many of the projects can be completed without disrupting offices. For the East doors, DGS is looking to do an IA with either the Senate or Assembly. They are ready to move forward.

3. Memorials

Ms. Nelson informed members that the California Mexican-American Veterans Memorial committee is negotiating a contract with the landscape company Quadriga (their 1st fee proposal came in very high). They are working on obtaining donations; construction costs will be about \$800,000. There was discussion on other

pending memorials, including AB2670 (Perez, Sustainability Task Force), and the Purple Heart, International Genocide and Search and Rescue memorials.

4. Amend 9149 to Include East annex and park

Commission members Cowan and Donaldson began a survey of East Annex historical items. According to Mr. Bowen, funding and authority comes from JRC, so a MOA would have to be with them. The Commission will compile a list of those areas (or items) that need to be preserved, with the recommendation that the Commission be consulted on any projects that might impinge upon those areas. Mr. Cowan will send Mr. Bowen a draft list of items with recommendations.

D. State Parks/State Capitol Museum

No one in attendance to report.

E. Capitol Art Program

Ms. Benoit provided a report on a recent donation to the Capitol Art Program (a painting of the Governor's Mansion by Oakland artist Lowell Antoine Hecking). There was discussion about the process of acquiring artwork for the permanent collection and where it is hung. Ms. Benoit will forward written criteria on the art program to all members. Ms. Benoit also informed members about a collection of photographic negatives at Caltrans, which documents major state events from the 1930's on, and the ongoing project with Archives to release some of the CRP files. There was a follow-up discussion concerning the collection practices/missions of the State Library and the Archives. Ms. Benoit indicated that she is still working on the larger issue of re-examining the CRP materials at the Archives and possibly removing some of the restrictions.

Ms. LeFalle-Collins brought up the issue of an 'online gallery' for the Capitol Art Program and furniture, which could make the collection available to the public. It would be nice to have in place before the 35th anniversary celebration. Ms. Aldrich recommended looking into Microsoft Tag and SimSoft programs. Ms. Saunders recommended the Parks' E-museum web portal.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Members opted to send a letter to Senator Carol Liu requesting her to be a liaison. It was decided to wait until the elections to send to other members.
2. Ms. Benoit will check with the Assembly on the status of the two resumes submitted to fill the Assembly vacancy.
3. Mr. Cowan confirmed with DGS that the Infrastructure contract with Carey & Company is open-ended. Approval is needed from JRC to request funds for the exterior paint study.

4. Mr. Cowan reported that the City of Folsom plans on reusing the historic Capitol corner pillars in their Old Folsom redevelopment plans. He will contact the other owners.

G. Assembly Chamber Lighting

Deputy Facilities Manager John Feliz reported that the Assembly Chamber has been 100% converted to CFLs (a warm 4-watt CFL). They chose the warmest CFL with the lowest wattage and cost. The new bulbs are not dimmable. They reduced their wattage usage from 11,820 to 788. The Assembly is currently looking at expanding into the West Wing staff areas, specifically the chandeliers in Room 219 and 319. Mr. Cowan asked that the Commission be involved when samples are installed.

IV. New Business

A. The Budget briefing will be rescheduled for the July meeting, and the Parks Foundation presentation for the October meeting. The Museum consortium will present at the January meeting.

B. Mr. Cowan and Mr. Sanchez will speak with Greg concerning the Senate vacancy on the Capitol Area Committee.

C. Mr. Cowan discussed the 35th anniversary of the decision to restore the Capitol (AB2170). Greg and Jon suggested a wine and cheese reception and invite key legislators and executive branch folks. Mr. Cowan will draft the program. Members agreed to hold it in January.

D. Members reviewed the draft annual report and chose a cover style. Members are asked to provide a brief professional background to Ms. Benoit by June 24th.

Members updated the "to do list", Ms. Benoit will send updated list out within 2 weeks of meeting. Ms. Benoit will also send out copies of the Kehoe letter.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.