

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Commission Meeting
July 11, 2008

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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 2040, Sacramento, California on Friday, July 11, 2008, at approximately 10:00 am PST.

Presiding: Julie Cerra, Chair

Commissioners Present

Dick Cowan
Wayne Donaldson
Gary Kurutz (representing Susan Hildreth)
Melodi Anderson (representing Nancy Lenoil)
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Visitors

Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society

Koren Benoit, Executive Director/Curator and recording secretary

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

Ms. Cerra called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. The recording secretary read the roll. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Cowan
2nd: Mr. Donaldson
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the April 2008 meeting minutes.

III. Old Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Capitol Repository

Ms. Benoit reported that old Commission tapes had been sent to the Archives for storage. Members discussed records management policies. Ms. Benoit provided an update on the CRP file project, which includes scanning a large collection of slides.

2. Maintenance Manual

Mr. Cowan provided an update. He's talking with various people to get a more cohesive idea of what a maintenance manual means to all involved. DGS is working on the custodial portion, which includes meeting state guidelines for sustainable and green/certified green products. Mr. Cowan hopes to have something to present at the October meeting.

3. Annual Report

Members discussed draft goals for 2008. Mr. Donaldson recommended removing the greening component, but to continue efforts with the mission statement and outreach. Members agreed on a new goal: increase communication with the city on issues relating to the State Capitol (for instance, the Capitol View Protection Plan), and to explore an MOA. Mr. Sanchez will research the protocol for using the city-owned Capitol Mall. Mr. Donaldson will look to outside funding sources for the paint history. He will explore grant funding, such as Save America's Treasures and Preserve America.

Motion: Mr. Donaldson

2nd: Mr. Sanchez

Approved: Yes

Motion: Upon approval of revised 2008 goals and changing font to be consistent throughout, go to print on 2007 report.

Mr. Cowan and Mr. Sanchez will explore the inclusion of the Commission's annual report as a five-minute agenda item for both Rules committees. Ms. Cerra suggested giving our liaisons a heads up when the annual report is distributed.

4. Communications

Mr. Cowan distributed notes from meeting with Greg and Jon – he and Mr. Sanchez discussed the Capitol Park Master Plan (formal adoption of the plan), liaison visits (suggested broadening talks to local legislators), the Capitol Corridor, monuments (members suggested strong language in the Master Plan and how to accommodate 'living memorials'), the Maintenance plan (both were in agreement to the need for a standard of maintenance), paint history (no objection with using outside funding) and the old Insectory Building.

5. Capitol View Protection Plan

Mr. Kurutz raised the issue of overgrown trees in front of the Library and Courts and State Treasurer's buildings that are obstructing the facades and the view of the Capitol. Members discussed responsibility of trimming trees, city or state? Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to the city's urban forest department, suggesting they follow Roma Design report recommendations regarding tree trimming.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the city will attempt completing the design guidelines this year and height restrictions next year. CADA (Capital Area Development Authority) and the city are opting for taller buildings. Mr. Sanchez will arrange for CADA president, Paul Schmidt, to give a presentation at the October meeting, and Mr. Donaldson will assist in determining the focus of the presentation.

6. Park Memorials

Members discussed ways for the Commission to get more involved in the prescreening process. The subcommittee will draft a letter to Anne Cavanagh concerning the process and asking how the Commission can be involved at an earlier stage.

7. Legislative Liaisons

Mr. Cowan will schedule a meeting with Senator Wyland.

B. Department of General Services

No one in attendance; rolled over to October meeting.

IV. Special Presentation

Mr. Donaldson sits on the National Conference of SHPOs executive board, and is also part of the coalition that works with the U.S. Green Building Council on older and historic buildings. He provided a presentation on "Sustainability and Historic Preservation", beginning with a short background on the LEED program (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a governor's order, requiring all state buildings attempt the LEED certificate in silver (there are 4 levels of LEED: LEED certified, silver, gold and platinum). He then discussed a statewide survey they conducted of all SHPOs regarding the LEED program. LEED version 3 will be launched in 2009 and will focus on existing buildings that are recognized sites of architectural, cultural and social significance, and will have a life-cycle assessment aspect. Mr. Sanchez added that the city passed a resolution to try to make all city buildings minimum LEED silver. *(Note: sustainability means to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.)*

V. New Business

Ms. Benoit discussed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) letter and the request for the Commission to donate funds toward a statue for Capitol Park. After discussion, it was decided that Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to the CCC thanking them and

indicating that the issue was discussed at the meeting and the letter forwarded to each Commission member.

Ms. Benoit requested members review the standard letterhead and make any changes, corrections, etc.

Mr. Visnich provided an update on the Piazzoni murals. They will not be going in the State Treasurer's or Library and Courts buildings. The Crocker was interested for their new building, but FAMSF wouldn't give them up completely (could only do a 12-year loan with renewal of 12 years). In the meantime, the murals will be loaned to the Monterey Museum for their fall Piazzoni exhibit. FAMSF is discussing a 12-year loan with Monterey.

Mr. Sgromo updated the members on the Hiram Johnson Memorial Highway marker. A 1986 resolution allows for the parkway in Capitol Park between 12th and 15th streets to be renamed "Governor Hiram Johnson Memorial Parkway". Working with the city, a design was agreed upon to reproduce historic signage, similar to what would have been used in the park around 1900-1910. The final design is a compromise between historic samples and current guidelines for signage. The signs will be placed at each entry, mounted on galvanized poles. Members suggested altering the white border to reflect the design of the historic signs.

Motion: Mr. Sanchez

2nd: Mr. Donaldson

Approved: Yes

Motion: To support the project with the exploration of the border treatment to match the historic signs (at the edge and squared off).

Members discussed further the issue of tree trimming. Mr. Sgromo suggested that a letter to DGS, with a cc: to the city would be appropriate.

VI. Adjournment

The October meeting is scheduled for Friday, the 24th. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.