

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Commission Meeting
October 24, 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, October 24, 2008, at approximately 10:00 am PST.

Presiding: Julie Cerra, Chair

Commissioners Present

Mark Huck (for Wayne Donaldson)
Mimi Morris (for Susan Hildreth)
Melodi Anderson (for Nancy Lenoil)
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Dick Cowan

Visitors

Anne Cavanagh, Department of General Services
Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services
Donna Magine, Department of General Services

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 10:04 am. The recording secretary read the roll.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Sanchez

2nd: Mr. Huck

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the July 2008 meeting minutes.

III. Old Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Capitol Repository

Ms. Benoit provided a brief review of the material to date. Senate staffer assigned to this project has completed all but a few boxes, is working on a keywords spread sheet, is creating a glossary and is maintaining a vendor/subcontractor list. She is also scanning approximately 8,000 restoration slides.

2. Maintenance Manual

Mr. Cowan not present, so discussion rolled over to January meeting.

3. Annual Report

Ms. Benoit reported that the 2007 report was distributed in August. Work on the 2008 report will begin in January/February.

4. Communications

Ms. Benoit provided information on her meeting with Senator Kehoe earlier that month. They discussed the annual report, the Capitol Park Master Plan, and hot topics (maintenance manual, height restrictions, strengthening communications, memorials and the Master Plan). Senator Kehoe is especially concerned about the memorials issue and suggested raising the bar to make them more difficult to get approved. She is also interested in furthering a maintenance plan and offered to assist. Mr. Cowan still to meet with Senator Wyland. Members discussed arranging meetings with local legislators other than the liaisons. Mr. Sanchez offered to contact legislators; Ms. Cerra suggested an agenda. Ms. Benoit, Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Cowan will meet to further develop.

5. Capitol View Protection Plan

To be discussed during special CADA presentation. Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Benoit still to draft letter re: tree pruning.

6. Park Memorials

At Mr. Donaldson's and Ms. Cerra's request, Ms. Cavanagh recommended that they approach Joint Rules concerning the Commission playing a role in controlling memorials. The Commission would like to be involved at an earlier stage.

7. Legislative Liaisons

Mr. Cowan still to schedule a meeting with Senator Wyland.

B. Department of General Services

1. Infrastructure Study

Ms. Cavanagh introduced Ms. Magine, who is managing the second part of the study, which includes mechanical, electrical, plumbing, elevators and windows. The architect for the project is Carey & Company. DGS is identifying the scope, cost and priority list, and will return to the Commission with a presentation. Funding is available for the preliminary schematics, and the production of a construction document. DGS should have a better idea of the true scope by spring 2009.

2. Roof Replacement

Ms. Nelson provided an update. The project is 95% complete, with completion slated for end of November. In addition, DGS is doing some ceiling replacements where fireproofing was dislodged, as well as in the governor's office. Part of this project also included installation of a new window-washing system.

3. Capitol Park Master Plan

Ms. Cavanagh reported that the initial scope was reduced by Rules and DGS is currently reviewing it. A new landscape architect has been hired. \$2 million is available. Once the revised scope is approved, DGS will call the advisory committee to meet. Ms. Cavanagh reviewed the initial plan:

1st year – investigative work

2nd year – CEQA documents (would include controls on future growth)

3rd year – begin work

The Master Plan will examine the entire irrigation system and make recommendations. In the meantime, the main waterline has already been replaced, and DGS is working on other short-term solutions. Long-term solutions will be addressed in the Master Plan. DGS is also considering adding another waterline in a storage tank where stored water could be used to irrigate the park, rather than paying for city water.

4. Memorials

Ms. Cavanagh reviewed DGS's limited involvement with new memorials. There are currently three approved but not built memorials (the Mexican-American Memorial, Search and Rescue, and Genocide). The Department of Veterans Affairs is now in charge of the Mexican-American memorial. Ms. Cavanagh added a 4th: the Purple Heart Memorial, which will be part of the existing Veterans Memorial. DGS offers alternatives: purchasing a bench, donating a tree, or sponsoring flowerbed replanting. Members discussed various options on limiting memorials. Ms. Cavanagh offered to send a legislative language template used by them for memorials.

5. New Projects

Ms. Cavanagh informed members that DGS is looking at replacing the line of cypress trees in the park. Most are in bad shape, and many are starting to lean. The project at Library and Courts is going to bid in spring 2009. Staff will be moved out to two different locations for approximately 18 months. Construction may start in summer 2009. DGS five-year plan includes the renovation of the State Treasurer's building.

Ms. Cavanagh asked if the State Architect's office had returned Ray Girvigian's files that he gave them after the truck incident. Ms. Benoit will investigate.

IV. Special Presentation

Paul Schmidt (and Todd Leon) from CADA (Capitol Area Development Authority) provided a special presentation to members. CADA is a joint powers authority of the city and state, created 30 years ago to develop housing and residential/commercial portions of the Capitol Area Plan. The state develops the office portion of the plan. CADA reports to a board of directors and the Capitol Area Committee, which is under DGS.

Mr. Schmidt explained the genesis of the Capitol View Protection Act (Government code 8162.6 – 8162.9; a plan that would guide future development downtown in a way that would preserve and enhance a visual prominence of the State Capitol and the character and scale of Capitol Park). The problem was how to accommodate the need to bring more people downtown but protect the vision of the Capitol; the solution was to design growth as a bowl, with heights increasing farther away from the Capitol. Mr. Schmidt discussed the design competition for Capitol Mall. Mr. Sanchez will arrange for a special presentation by the city's building official and architect at the January meeting.

Mr. Schmidt also discussed the proliferation of memorials in Capitol Park and the need to accommodate future monuments. He discussed several options (unauthorized), including pulling the monuments out of the park and putting them into the streets, as is done in European cities, by expanding the park on the north, south and O streets. Other ideas included a "walk of fame", and utilizing open space in the East End Project.

It was suggested that the Capitol View Protection subcommittee also coordinate with CADA on issues of mutual interest. Mr. Sanchez recommended the subcommittee meet and report back at the January meeting.

V. New Business

Ms. Benoit reported that the Senate has opted to replace the 'snowflake' carpet in the pro Tem's office suite with a blue pin dot, the same the Assembly used in 2003 for the Speaker's office suite. The 'snowflake' pattern is non-historic.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.