

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
October 10, 2019

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 Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 9:09 am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Roberta Deering
Tamara Martin (Natalia Visante attending)
Julianne Polanco (Jay Correia attending)

Commissioners Absent

Greg Lucas
Paula Peper

Visitors

Roland Alinea, Department of General Services
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Scarlett Eastman, MOCA
Kathleen Green
Matt King, MOCA
Ashwin Mani, Department of General Services
Bruce Marwick, Preservation Chair, Sacramento Art Deco Society
Kathy Park, Department of General Services
Talia Rucker, MOCA
Phil Sexton, State Parks
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:09 am. The Recording Secretary took roll. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves. Chairman Cowan announced that, on 9/13/19, Tamara Martin was appointed the new State Archivist by Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Deering
Second: Mr. Correia
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the minutes of the July quarterly meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jesse Unruh Building design/build project

As voted upon at the July Commission meeting, a subcommittee was formed, consisting of Ms. Deering and Ms. Martin, to review and comment on the Draft EIR once it was released. After meeting several times (with Ms. Benoit as well), comments were drafted and provided to the Department of General Services (DGS) on 8/30/19. Via email, Michael Meredith, DGS Project Manager, informed the Commission that both DGS and the EIR staff are reviewing the fountain issue. Dreyfuss and Blackford are the criteria architect for both the Unruh and Bateson Building projects. They are developing the RFP (design/build), and DGS will be issuing the RFQ early next year to coincide with July funding for the RFP completion phase. Mr. Cowan agreed to keep in touch with Mr. Meredith. Ms. Deering recommended that he impress upon the Commission's statutory responsibilities for review. Mr. Visnich inquired whether the windows will be operable or fixed (20 years ago, DGS wanted to seal the windows but Mr. Unruh pressed to have them operable). Mr. Cowan will follow up with Mr. Meredith.

Ms. Benoit provided information and a handout on the Native American Heritage Commission Women's Gallery. In 2002, the second floor lobby was dedicated to the Native American Women of California – the Gallery of California Indian Women. The collection consists of an information board on an easel, a framed resolution, a small welcome notice signed by Governor Davis, eight framed photographs, text panels for four of the photographs, and a photos and plaque honoring Marie Potts. The collection is slated to be removed for the renovation project.

Mr. Mani reported that the Unruh Building will be vacated the 1st quarter of 2021. They have identified the contents of the vault, historical and valuable, which are slated to be relocated during the renovation project. The vault will remain on site.

B. East Annex Project

The Joint Committee on Rules adopted the Project Overview and Sequence Report Plan (POS) at their 9/5/19 meeting. The Draft EIR was published on 9/9/19. The East Annex subcommittee agreed to meet to review and draft a response on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Benoit provided copies of Ms. Peper's comments on the Draft EIR, as well as Chairman Cowan and Ms. Deering's comments. Written comments are due to DGS by 10/24/19.

Chairman Cowan provided handouts that reflected two options for retaining the existing East Annex building. One suggests adding underground space, filling in light wells and filling the roof footprint. The second suggests sliding the existing Annex east toward the park and filling in a new space between the West Wing and the Annex.

Motion: Ms. Deering

Second: Ms. Visante

Approved: Yes; however, Mr. Correia recused himself, as SHPO will be reviewing the project under Public Resources Code (PRC) 5024 and 5024.5.

Action: The East Annex subcommittee will combine and summarize comments for the 10/15/19 public hearing. A second summarized version will be sent to all Joint Committee on Rules Members. In addition, written detailed comments will be submitted to DGS by the 10/24/19 deadline.

Mr. Cowan reported that his request to review the POS was denied. Ms. Benoit provided a handout that summarized the key points of the POS PowerPoint shown at the 9/5/19 meeting. Ms. Deering emphasized the Commission's advisory role and that the Commission should be reviewing materials before they have been approved and/or adopted.

Motion: Ms. Deering

Second: Ms. Visante

Approved: Yes

Action: Chairman Cowan will wait 10 days before contacting Mr. Cooley's office concerning the POS to allow him to respond to the latest request. Chairman Cowan will then draft a letter voicing concerns about the Commission's advisory role and address the mis-characterization that the current East Annex is not a good example of Mid Century Modernism.

Ms. Benoit reported on meeting with Talia Rucker, project coordinator with MOCA, to discuss the protection of artistic elements and objects during construction. Ms. Benoit provided Ms. Rucker a floor-by-floor inventory. Discussions are ongoing regarding key artworks, including the Governor's bear, the Lucile Lloyd murals in Room 4203, and various memorials on the first floor, as well as storage options and timelines.

C. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Ms. Benoit distributed a handout on proposed alterations to specific windows in the West Wing. The pro Tem is interesting in noise reduction modifications. Similar modifications were done around 2012 and 2014 in the Speaker's office, Conference Room 223, and the third floor leadership office suite. The work would also entail new molding, painting and the removal and vacuuming of drapes (and repairs if needed). Facilities is working with the same vendor that did the Assembly windows (Soundproof Windows in Reno). Mr. Correia raised the concern of potential rot with moisture build-up.

Ms. Benoit distributed a handout relating to door security hardware. The Senate Sergeants are researching additional security measures for the doors leading into the 3 leadership offices, specifically hardware that would allow staff to quickly secure the doors from the inside in case of an emergency. Ideally, similar hardware for the Senate Chamber, gallery doors and first floor committee rooms would also be considered. Mr. Cowan and Ms. Benoit had met with the Sergeants in September and determined that the existing hardware could be modified. The scope of work will include adding deadbolts to all doors leading to the public hallways. The finish will match the existing hardware (either antique bronze or black).

D. Department of General Services (DGS)

Ms. Benoit updated members on SCR 31, the Willie L. Brown Circle and Plaza, and the Mervyn Dymally bust. SCR 31 is currently in the Assembly. The Dymally bust was unveiled during an 8/12/19 ceremony, and installed in the first floor Annex, directly opposite the entrance to the Lt. Governor's office.

Ms. Benoit reported that the California Firefighter Foundation has a new director, who is working on the memorial modification proposal and is interested in names of preferred architects. Mr. Tsuruoka recommended they use the original architect. Mr. Tsuruoka and Ms. Benoit agreed to look into the original construction.

Motion: Ms. Deering
Second: Ms. Visante
Approved: Yes
Action: Ms. Benoit will resend the 4/26/16 letter to the new California Fire Foundation director and include language advising them to hold off on their modifications until the East Annex project is complete.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that drawings are complete for the Central Plant reclaimed water project and they are going out to bid. Construction is slated for 2020. They are postponing the scope of piping reclaimed water into the park due to the East Annex project. Members discussed the use of reclaimed water after Ms. Deering raised the issue for the Unruh Building fountain.

Motion: Ms. Deering
Second: Mr. Correia
Approved: Yes
Action: Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to Mr. Meredith requesting DGS look into the possibility of utilizing the reclaimed water program for the Unruh Building fountain.

Mr. Tsuruoka introduced Roland Alinea, a new member of the DGS PMDB Capitol Infrastructure Program Team. They, along with Melisa Gaudreau of Page and Turnbull, provided materials and an update on the water intrusion problem at the West Wing porticos. They have opted against drains due to the complex slopes, which would have required cutting tiles. Joint Rules was not happy with the look. Surface water will shed off the outer edges and steps. The visible appearance will match the existing appearance. Tiles are Belgium Black and Vermont White (the tiles were replaced during the restoration project with Belgium Black and Alabama Cream). Giampolini are the restoration contractors/masons. They will also be doing general cleaning and spot cleaning of the granite.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that the CHP Academy is storing 161 pieces of granite, formerly in the DGS grow yard, for Joint Rules.

E. Capitol Park

Ms. Park reported that some of the leftover permeable pavers might be used in the Rose Garden instead of decomposed granite. This would result in less labor, maintenance and materials.

Ms. Benoit will contact Mike Nielsen for an update on when to expect the next arborist report and to get a status on the battlefield trees (a past suggestion from Mr. Cooley). She will also follow up with Ms. Martin concerning the former park superintendent cassette tapes.

IV. California Capitol Historic Preservation Society

Mr. Visnich read from prepared comments that focused on the Capitol View Protection plan and requested that the Commission check with the Joint Committee on Rules and the Governor to stop any height increases along Capitol Mall.

Motion: Mr. Correia
Second: Ms. Visante
Approved: Yes
Action: Ms. Benoit will send a letter to the new CalPERS CEO and provide copies of the 10/30/14 and 2/12/16 CalPERS letters.

Members also discussed contacting Retired Chair Emeritus Ray Girvigian regarding any Capitol Restoration Project materials he may have to be donated to the State Archives.

V. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Phil Sexton reported on operational changes due to the portico project, including the basement theatre being lost to the bookstore, which had to relocate. Relocation construction of Assembly TV next to the tour office has resulted in moving some staff to the first floor. Ms. Deering suggested that an exhibit on Native American Women be added to the exhibit plan for the museum. Mr. Sexton reported that the new California Indian Heritage Center, at the confluence of the American River, is slated to open in 2025. The Indian Museum at Sutter's Fort will become an office and visitor center.

VI. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

Bob Dreyer reported that eight new docents have graduated. They took a field trip to Sonoma and visited Petaluma State Historic Park and General Vallejo's adobe. A living history event is scheduled for 11/23 called "Governor's Day." They will hold their annual meeting in January and elect new officers. They have had a busy school season. Mr. Dreyer mentioned that private tour agencies bring in large numbers of both student and adult tours.

VII. 2019 Goals

GOAL AREA: Adoption by the Joint Committee on Rules of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park.

2019 Goal: Continue to develop and execute a Capitol Park Tree removal and replacement plan for day-to-day tree management for DGS. **Membership:** Commissioners Peper and Martin

GOAL AREA: Adoption by the Joint Committee on Rules of a Master Plan for Capitol Park. **2019 Goal:** Ensure inclusion of a Capitol Park Master Plan within the scope of the East Annex Project.

Membership: Commissioners Cowan and Martin.

GOAL AREA: Assist and advise on the East Annex Project. **2019 Goal:** Attend, offer testimony, and respond in writing to East Annex hearings, meet East Annex stakeholders, and respond in writing to published East Annex documents. **Membership:** Commissioners Deering and Martin.

GOAL AREA: Creation of a Monument District near the Capitol. **2019 Goal:** Develop in 2019 the structure of the District and format of an MOU among agencies that would support such a District.

Membership: Commissioners Deering, Lucas and Martin.

VIII. Curator's Report

The Commission website has been updated to include "In Memoriams" on Mike Heller, Charles Kurtz and Robert Middagh. Ms. Benoit will add one on Robert Mathews.

IX. Miscellaneous

Ms. Benoit will follow up with Ms. Martin regarding the status of the historic flag collection and the restoration project materials from the Robert Mathews auction.

X. New Business

Members discussed meeting dates for 2020. Ms. Benoit reported that the Commission's statute does not require a specific number of meetings, but the bylaws require at least four times a year. Members agreed to stay with quarterly meeting and schedule additional ones as needed.

The following 2020 meeting dates were agreed upon: 1/9, 4/9, 7/9, and 10/8.

Ms. Benoit assembled a synopsis of the previous Maintenance Manual subcommittee meetings and created a timeline based on Commission minutes. Mr. Cowan would like to meet with DGS and State Parks later in the year to discuss. Ms. Deering asked whether we should revisit the Historic Structure Report for the Annex.

Ms. Benoit reported that the 2020 California Preservation Conference is slated to be held in Sacramento, May 17-20. Ms. Benoit received a request from an ICF Senior Historic Preservation Specialist for her and Ms. Deering to sit on a panel that would discuss preservation issues related to controversial/offensive public art and monuments. The request was denied; Ms. Deering felt that it was not within the responsibility of the Commission and Ms. Benoit, as a Senate employee, does not have the authority to do so.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41.