

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 12, 2017

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 12, 2017 at 9:00 am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair  
Roberta Deering  
Nancy Lenoil  
Greg Lucas (Narinder Sufi attending)  
Paula Peper  
Julianne Polanco (Jay Correia attending)

Commissioners Absent

Cathy Garrett

Visitors

John Allen, State Capitol Museum  
Marilyn Thompson, State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services  
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services  
Kathy Park, Department of General Services  
Karen Lott, Department of General Services  
Lindsay Sin, Department of Veterans Affairs  
Bob Ruffner, Senate Rules Committee  
Mukhtar Ali, Assembly Rules Committee  
Tim Price, Senate Facilities  
Luis Salinas, Assembly Facilities  
Barbara Hubbard, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore  
Trish Fontana, Office of Senator Richard Roth  
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society  
Ruth Welland, member of the public

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Peper  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Deering  
Approved: Yes  
Action: Approval of July 2017 meeting minutes.

**III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update**

Lindsay Sin with the Department of Veterans Affairs updated members on the memorial's beautification project. The dedication ceremony was held on October 11, 2017. The oversight committee will sunset soon; maintenance and other responsibilities will be transferred to the Department. Although there are no more funds available, the Department is open to future phases for the memorial.

### **B. Unveiling of new Commission website**

Mukhtar Ali with Assembly Rules introduced the Commission's new website. There was a lengthy discussion and members made numerous suggestions for other materials to be added to the website. Ms. Benoit will forward the website link to members so that they can review and comment at length.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Senate and Assembly Facilities**

Tim Price with Senate Facilities reported on the Senate Chamber recarpeting project, which is scheduled to be completed by December 1. Old fiber optic wires are being replaced with copper. Smaller electrical mounts will be installed under the press desks and each member's desk to contain wires, etc. for a cleaner look.

Luis Salinas with Assembly Facilities reported that the basement dining room kitchen is still undergoing construction. It is scheduled to open in December. The Assembly has also completed various housecleaning projects, including window cleaning and miscellaneous member office upgrades.

Ms. Benoit reported on the informational plaque scheduled to be installed on one of the historic Capitol pillars at the West entrance and provided a photo of the plaque.

### **B. Department of General Services (DGS)**

#### 1. Project Management Development Branch (PMDB)

##### a. Memorials

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that they are replacing a few of the large pavers at the American Portuguese Veterans Memorial. DGS is still waiting to hear back on weight concerns regarding the Mervyn Dymally bust intended for the foyer of the Lieutenant Governor's office.

##### b. Pending Projects

Ms. Park reported that those Capitol Park tree tags that had previously been reported to be too tight have been adjusted and screws replaced (the new screws are not vandal-proof, however). The Commission sent a letter to the California Foundation of Women's Clubs, recommending maintenance and regular adjustment. The Club informed DGS that they will not be raising additional funds for maintenance of the tags. ECORP provided a \$6,300 estimate for yearly maintenance. Ms. Park also informed members that DGS is removing sections of lawn under the yew trees, relocating the sprinklers and adding decomposed granite to keep the areas clean. Lawn reduction projects are also being done at other state-owned buildings.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that 95% construction documents are being reviewed for the central plant re-use water project. The project involves reusing cooling tower blow down water for irrigation at Capitol Park. The treatment will occur at the central plant, and then blended at the park. Their consultants have conducted studies with acceptable results. They expect to go live in late summer. The insectary restrooms are undergoing construction. Access walkways will be poured next week.

Ms. Benoit distributed photos of the Capitol Registered Historical Landmark bronze plaque, located at the end of the lawn at the West entrance. The plaque area is not ADA compliant; DGS has suggested several solutions, including recessing the plaque into the granite base, constructing a rail around the plaque or constructing a new platform. Members recommended recessing the plaque and cleaning the existing granite base. If the base is damaged during the project, DGS will look into replacing it (the base is not historic).

Mr. Cowan inquired about any upcoming projects that DGS knew about that the Commission might review earlier in their cycle. Mr. Tsuruoka indicated that he knew of none. Mr. Cowan stated that he hoped that DGS agreed that the Commission's opportunity to advise on the insectary restroom project had come too late to influence the project scope, and should serve as a model of how not to time the Commission's involvement.

### **c. New Projects**

Ms. Sakai-Nesley reported that she is working on barrier removal for the 'path of travel' to the new basement dining room. Some of the changes include adjusting the heights of the north and south handicap ramp handrails, upgrading the basement restrooms, adjusting the West Wing elevator controls and possibly adding more signage, which will require Joint Rules approval. Commission members recommended matching materials to the existing as best as possible.

Ms. Lott reported on the kitchen and food service areas, relocating controls in the Legislative Chambers to address temperature issues, and water intrusion problems at the West Wing porticos (water under the marble floors has nowhere to go and has discolored the marble and granite columns). She is obtaining a proposal from a historic consultant and water intrusion expert.

### **2. Facilities Management Division (FMD)**

FMD staff was not in attendance; update will be rolled over to the January 2018 meeting.

### **3. Capitol Park**

Ms. Park agreed to provide Ms. Benoit with copies of the arborist reports. The next report is due in November.

### **C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum**

John Allen reported that the new closed-circuit security cameras in the museum rooms have been installed and are up and running. They provide a 360 degree view, and new podiums in the rooms allow staff to view the monitors. They are looking at new interactive kiosks to replace the free-standing podiums outside each room. In April 2018, a new exhibit will open: "The Automobile and its Impact on California." They will be borrowing from the collections of DMV and Caltrans. Staff met and devised a five year exhibit plan; Mr. Allen provided the list:

2020/21 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Vote  
2021/22 Baseball in California  
2022/23 Technological innovations  
2023/24 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the ending of Prohibition  
2024/25 State symbols, animals, etc.

#### **D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association (CSCMVA)**

Marilyn Thompson reported that the Association will host a November 12<sup>th</sup> "Governor's Day" living history event, where several vignettes will take place throughout the Capitol. The Association will be decorating trees in the museum rooms for the holidays. They will also be participating in a special WWI event on November 11, 2018, honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1918 Armistice.

#### **V. GOALS**

##### **A. Achievement and Adoption of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park**

*Members: Cathy Garrett, Paula Peper*

##### **B. Achievement of the Completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan**

*Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering*

##### **C. Assist and Advise on the East Annex Study**

*Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering, Cathy Garrett*

##### **D. Continue Collaboration with Other Agencies on Capitol View Protection and Creation of a Monument District**

*Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering (only as liaison with city folks), Greg Lucas*

Ms. Sufi offered to check with Mr. Lucas as to whether he has spoken yet with the Mayor regarding the monument district. If so, he should be included in the meeting with Richard Rich, Special Projects Manager for the City of Sacramento.

#### **VI. Curator's Report**

Ms. Benoit reported that she is completing paperwork to transfer Caltrans Capitol Restoration Project films to the State Archives (Caltrans had an Interagency Agreement with Joint Rules to take raw film footage of selected aspects of the restoration development's progress). She is meeting with their Audio/Visual archivist to iron out the details. Ms. Benoit provided copies of the contemporary art show catalogue. She also reported on two separate requests she is working on: (1) a public TV documentary on George Moscone under the auspices of the University of the Pacific, his alma mater; and (2) Sacramento Regional Buildings' Exchange request for construction photos of the Capitol and East Annex. In addition, Ms. Benoit is creating informational sheets on the artwork in the Senate leadership offices.

#### **VII. Miscellaneous**

It was agreed that Ms. Benoit would resend the August tree management letter to Legislative Members. Ms. Benoit reported that there have been attempts to schedule a meeting to discuss the next step with the historic flag collection.

Members discussed the John Worsley manuscript. Dan Visnich, Executive Secretary for the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society, provided a handout to members questioning the proposed publication of Mr. Worsley's manuscript as it only represents one side of the story. Mr. Cowan expressed an interest in discovering the story of how the Legislature came to the discussion of preserving the Capitol rather than building the twin towers. Ms. Lenoil emphasized the need to check out additional legislative records and do more research to get the bigger picture; perhaps a Public History graduate student could compile information as part of a thesis project? Ms. Deering mentioned that the project might help with a needed update of the National Register of Historic Places form. The form was done pre-restoration and before the East Annex was 50 years old. Mr. Correa brought up the history of historic preservation/historic rehabilitation philosophies as a context theme for the possible update for the State Capitol. Mr. Visnich indicated that Raymond Girvigian's memoranda should go to the State Archives. Ms. Benoit agreed to read through the manuscript, send it to members to read as well and report back in January.

#### **VIII. New Business**

Ms. Benoit will email proposed meeting dates for calendar year 2018.

Ms. Deering will participate in the California Preservation Foundation's annual conference in Palo Alto in spring 2018 and recount the pillar project for their "3 minute success story".

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.