

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Commission Meeting  
October 13, 2011

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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 Wednesday, October 13, 2011 at approximately 9:32 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Debbie Newton (for Stacey Aldrich)  
Jay Correia (for Wayne Donaldson)  
Nancy Lenoil  
Janie Schwartz

Commissioners Absent

Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins  
Luis Sanchez

Visitors

Casey Hayden – California State Parks  
David Gonzalves - Assemblyman Dickinson's Office  
Pella McCormick – Department of General Services  
Gus Kanelos – American Portuguese Club  
Wesley Silva – American Portuguese Club  
Albert Balshore – American Portuguese Club  
Manual Perry – American Portuguese Club  
Ralph Nevis – Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society  
Monica Souza – Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society  
Teresa Kaneko – Department of General Services  
Marilyn Nelson – Department of General Services  
Kathy Jacobson – Department of General Services

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 9:32 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Lenoil  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Correia  
Approved: Yes  
Action: To approve the August 2011 meeting minutes.

### III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### **A. Department of General Services – Library and Courts Renovation Project**

DGS Building Manager Pella McCormick, project director for the restoration of the 1928 Stanley Mosk Library and Courts building, provided members with a brief slide show. Ms. McCormick gave an overview of the building, a historic landmark and on the National Registry of historic places. DGS is conducting a complete fire/life safety upgrade and replacing the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and telecommunications systems. The estimated project cost is \$45 million, with an expected completion date of November 2012. Several important components of the project include rewiring the historic light fixtures, opening up the light wells, repointing the granite and terra cotta surfaces and restoring the antique furnishings. There will be some similarities with changes being made in the State Treasurer's Building regarding security upgrades. Chair Cowan raised the question about maintaining the historic fabric of the building after the project is completed. Ms. McCormick explained that every project goes through a CEQA process as well as consultation with SHPO.

#### **B. American Portuguese Club - Proposed Memorial**

Gus Kanelos, representing the American Portuguese Club (founded in 1935), presented members with a proposed memorial for Capitol Park, honoring Portuguese veterans. He distributed information on the memorial and a schematic for the design. They are trying to get legislation introduced. The estimated cost of the memorial is \$23,000; funds are being raised through Portuguese communities. Both Mr. Kanelos and Ralph Nevis, representing the Portuguese Historical and Cultural Society, asked for the Commission's support. The groups hope to have the unveiling of the memorial coincide with Portuguese Heritage Month, June 2012.

Ms. Kaneko, Ms. Nelson and Ms. Jacobson joined the discussion, reiterating the existing moratorium on memorials in Capitol Park until the Park Master Plan is completed. Ms. Jacobson reminded members that the master plan is to create order in the park and to protect the trees. DGS is at a standstill re: memorials until they receive direction from the current Governor's office. Chair Cowan shared several points:

1. The Legislature has agreed unofficially on a moratorium
2. The master plan has been interrupted by diversion of funds
3. AB 2171 (chaptered in 2008) states that any new veterans memorial, pursuant to approval by Joint Rules, shall be constructed within the existing boundary of the Capitol All Veterans Memorial

The Commission plans on requesting the Department of Veterans Affairs create a master plan for accepting new elements within the All Veterans Memorial, as no plan currently exists. Chair Cowan advised Mr. Kanelos that the Commission, while in support of the Portuguese, will remain neutral on the shape, size, and form the proposed memorial will take, pending the moratorium, the master plan adoption and the master plan adoption of the All Veterans Memorial.

Motion: Ms. Lenoil

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Schwartz

Approved: Yes

Action: For the Commission to ask the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a plan for accepting augments and additional elements to the All Veterans Memorial.

Ms. Benoit mentioned a 2004 Assembly bill that would have created a California Veterans Memorials Commission; it was vetoed. Some of the language, however, could be used as a basis for the All Veterans Memorial master plan.

Chair Cowan also broached the idea of the Memorial District and placing the proposed memorial in a location other than Capitol Park. Chair Cowan advised Mr. Kanelos to continue with planning and fundraising, but to recognize that the shape and size of the memorial may have to follow guidelines not yet established and the timing is subject to the funding of the Capitol Park Master Plan and the creation of a master plan for the All Veterans Memorial.

Members discussed three chaptered monuments: International Genocide, Search and Rescue, and Crime Victims. Chair Cowan reported on his visit with Assemblyman Garrick concerning a proposed bill to create a memorial for former president Ronald Reagan. Members discussed the pros and cons of allowing statuary in the State Capitol building and whether Joint Rules should adopt a policy on statuary. Ms. Lenoil requested Ms. Benoit pull together all disparate rules and procedures on the existing art program to discuss at the January meeting.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Department of General Services**

###### **1. Project Management Branch**

Ms. Kaneko provided an update on the Capitol Park Master Plan. DGS has contracted for a topographic survey of the entire park (9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, N to L). The Master Plan is the basic backbone of every negotiation for the future of the park. Chair Cowan asked for a schedule with funding timelines. UC Davis is still gathering historical information.

Ms. Kaneko provided updates on various infrastructure projects, including electrical panel replacements, East Door replacement project and water intrusion repair projects.

DGS is moving forward with phasing for the East Annex project (seismic, mechanical, fire/life safety and electrical improvements). Ms. Benoit will follow through with the Asset Management Branch to arrange a presentation on the Capitol Area plan at the January meeting.

## **2. Building and Property Management**

Nothing to report.

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

Casey Hayden, Director of the State Capitol Museum, the Stanford Mansion and the Governor's Mansion, provided an update on the "Women's Suffrage" exhibit, which runs October 2011 – October 2012. Parks is working with the Assembly to renew their interagency agreement (done every 2 years). They are debating adding the Stanford Mansion to the IA in order to save the mansion from closure. Funding for operations is not available through the Foundation. Mr. Hayden mentioned the need for cleaning the Columbus and Isabella statue. Ms. Benoit will approach Joint Rules on funding cleaning, repairs or, at a minimum, dusting.

### **C. Senate and Assembly Facilities**

Ms. Benoit reported on behalf of Assembly Facilities. They are repairing windows in the annex.

### **D. Goals/Subcommittee Reports**

1. Maintenance Plan - Nothing to report.

2. Communication – Nothing to report.

3. Capitol View Protection Plan – Nothing to report.

4. Park Memorials – Chair Cowan reported on the letter sent to members of the Capitol Area Committee on expanding the idea of the Memorial District. A similar letter will be sent to folks in city government, Regional Transit, and General Services Administration. He hopes to arrange for convocation before the January meeting.

### **E. 9149 Amendment**

The Speaker's office is assisting in determining the right legislator to carry the bill. Greg and Jon have approved the amended language.

### **F. Capitol Art Program**

Nothing to report. Ms. Benoit will provide a demo of the State Parks DVD at the January meeting.

**G. Other**

1. Painting study funding sources – No response from State Parks Foundation on 8/25/11 letter.
2. Historic Capitol corner pillars – Nothing to report.
3. CRP materials at the State Archives – Deputy Secretary of Operations Sheron Violini reviewing letter.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Future presentations – California Mexican-American Veterans Memorial Committee and State Treasurer's office in January. Capitol Mall design competition?
2. CalTrans Letter – Ms. Lenoil informed members that she would be sending a letter to Joint Rules indicating that the Archives is agreeable to the negatives going to the State Library, but reminding them that committee records should come to the Archives
3. Miscellaneous – Ms. Benoit reported on her research on the statutory responsibility of DGS over Capitol Park. Several sections of the Government Code are referenced on their website but no direct mention of Capitol Park.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.