

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 13, 2016

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 113, Sacramento, California on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 9:06am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair  
Roberta Deering  
Julianne Polanco (Jenan Saunders)

Commissioners Absent

Cathy Garrett  
Greg Lucas  
Nancy Lenoil  
Paula Peper

Visitors

Tim Price, Senate Facilities  
Luis Salinas, Assembly Facilities  
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Facilities  
Casey Hayden, State Capitol Museum  
Bob Dreyer, State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services  
Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services  
Kathy Jacobson, Department of General Services  
Eric Driever, Department of General Services  
John Suesens, Quadriga  
Sparky Harris, City of Sacramento  
Thora Chaves, Department of Veteran Affairs  
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 9:06 am. The recording secretary read the roll. A quorum was not present. No actions would be taken during the meeting. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Because a quorum was not present, approval of the July meeting minutes was rolled over to the January 2017 meeting.

**III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A. City of Sacramento City Planning Department/Streetcar proposal**

Sparky Harris provided members with a brief history of streetcars in Sacramento, which were used from the 1870s through the 1940s. The new proposal will be voted upon by property owners along the route. The streetcars are not intended as a commute system, but transportation throughout downtown and midtown. The cars will run on overhead power (catenary system) and their design will be modern, as vintage and vintage replicas were found to not meet ADA and other safety requirements. The city is seeking federal funds. The cars will not run on Capitol Mall. Construction is slated to begin in 2018 and be up and running with six cars by 2020. Future extensions are planned for other areas, including R Street and Broadway. The streetcar system will not be run by RT.

### **B. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update**

Thora Chaves with the Department of Veterans Affairs and John Suesens with Quadriga updated members on the memorial's beautification project. Members were provided revised diagrams. Phase 1 began in September. Ruhkala is cleaning the statue and repairing the broken rifle; an early spring return is planned. Current funds will cover improvements to the statue, repairs to the vandalized rifle, and construction of the Medal of Honor wall. Fundraising is ongoing to cover other elements of the design, although the current lack of funds necessitated going with pre-cast stone walls and concrete paving. Vanir Construction has been hired as the Project Manager. At this time, plantings will be limited to around the base of the statue. As additional funds are acquired, more plantings will be added. If additional funds are not acquired, the Mother's Garden will be lawn only. Any irrigation issues will be reviewed by the Department of General Services (DGS).

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Tim Price, Geanie Hollingsworth and Luis Salinas reported on the following:

1. Coffee shop – the new coffee shop, RUSH, is scheduled to open at the end of October.
2. Basement cafeteria – The demolition of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria is in progress and work should be completed by the end of the year. The basement cafeteria project has been divided into two phases: Phase 1 will involve new carpet, paint, etc. in the cafeteria in time for the start of the new legislative session. Phase 2 will add more historic elements to match the cafeteria design, which is slated to be done by spring. Joint Rules will confer with the State Office of Historic Preservation on recommended changes. Commission members asked to be included in the review process.
3. Historic Pillars - Joint Rules staff is working on an interpretive plaque to be installed on the historic pillars.
4. East Annex Project – Joint Rules is currently focused on the election right now. There was nothing new to report.

Dan Visnich, Executive Secretary with the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society (CCHPS) addressed members and read from prepared remarks. In essence, CCHPS recommended that the Commission have a place on the governance committee reviewing the East Annex project. Members discussed the role of the Commission in these types of projects. Copies of the remarks were provided to DGS and Assembly Facilities.

### **B. Department of General Services**

1. Project Management Development Branch

#### **A. Memorials**

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that he is still waiting for the final list of names (sponsors and veterans) for the American Portuguese Veterans Memorial. Mr. Tsuruoka will provide the draft layout for Mr. Cowan to share with Joint Rules.

Ms. Benoit reported that three new memorial bills were chaptered:

1. Mervyn Dymally Bust – AB 2704 (Gipson)  
Legislation allows for a bust honoring Mervyn Dymally to be placed in the East Annex.

2. Firefighters Memorial – AB1980 (Irwin)

Legislation allows for the preparation of a plan to construct modifications to the existing memorial, which may include the construction of a new wall.

3. International Genocide Memorial – AB2790 (Nazarian)

Legislation authorizes DGS to apply to Joint Rules for an exemption to allow siting and construction of the memorial if the Capitol Park Master Plan is not approved or adopted on or before January 1, 2021.

**B. Pending Projects**

1. Tree Tag project

Ms. Jacobson reported that the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) has installed 451 tags (several have to be replaced due to errors). The Club has expressed interest in continuing to raise funds to tag all the trees in Capitol Park. Ms. Jacobson will provide a final list of tagged trees to the Commission.

2. Irrigation, park zoning and control

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on the Capitol Park Paver Project, which involves the installation of permeable pavers in the lawn. Work will start on the south lawn; DGS is preparing document for the north and west lawns and the traffic circle. Water and electric lines are being repaired in the process.

**C. New Projects**

The new native plant garden planned for the mulched area on the east lawn will be planted in the spring. Work on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor lift is complete. HVAC upgrades to the master fan rooms in the West Wing are planned to facilitate future East Annex upgrades. DGS is working on incorporating Sprint as part of the existing cell phone system so that their old antennas, etc. can be removed. Recycled Central Plant irrigation water will be treated for salt removal prior to use in Capitol Park.

DGS is planning upgrades to the insectary restrooms as well as the surrounding areas to make them ADA compliant. They will be working with DGS preservation architects, and any changes will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office. Members discussed the problems of trying to preserve the historic structure while recognizing that the facilities are used by transients and there is a need for high-functioning equipment. According to DGS, there is no historic fabric left in the restrooms.

2. Facilities Management Division

DGS staff was not in attendance, so update was rolled over to the January 2017 meeting.

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

Casey Hayden reported that staff has begun work on the next exhibit, a history of California through maps. Objects will be pulled from the State Archives, State Library and Caltrans collections. Staff is working with Joint Rules to add more security to the exhibit rooms. Mr. Hayden raised the question of adequate exit signage in the building; he was advised to write a letter to Joint Rules.

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

Bob Dreyer reported that the September 9<sup>th</sup> admission day event was very successful. The Association is not going to produce any living history events this fall. In

November, the Association will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Volunteers are starting their holiday preparations for the historic rooms.

## **V. 2016 GOALS**

### **A. Achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan**

Mr. Cowan reported that he broached the subject to Danny and Debra of tying the Master Plan with the East Annex project. They both seemed to like the idea. Members discussed the idea of a “Capitol Master Plan” which would combine the building and the site into an integrated plan, rather than two separate ones. The initial design of the Capitol and park was integral – planned as a whole.

### **B. Increase Outreach and Commission Visibility**

Ms. Benoit will schedule a meeting with Mr. Cowan, Mr. Lucas and Ms. Deering to discuss.

### **C. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and Creation of a Monument District**

Ms. Benoit will schedule a meeting with Mr. Cowan, Mr. Lucas and Ms. Deering to discuss several ideas suggested by Ms. Deering.

## **VI. CAPITOL ART PROGRAM**

Ms. Benoit reported that the current contemporary art show has come down; the next show is scheduled for May 2017. Fall recess projects include installing historic images in the Maddy Lounge and Cox Clubhouse. An art packet, outlining the art and antiques programs as well as facility use guidelines, will be distributed to all members after the election.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **A. Historic Flag Collection**

Ms. Benoit reviewed the conservator’s report, a result of her visit in July. A follow-up meeting is to be scheduled for all interested parties.

### **B. Conflict of interest requirements**

Ms. Benoit informed members that Legislative Counsel is still reviewing any conflict of interest requirements that may affect Commission members.

### **C. Meeting Dates**

Members agreed on the following 2017 meeting dates:

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2017.