

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
October 16, 2014

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 16, 2014 at 9:10 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Nancy Lenoil
Carol Rolan-Nawi
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Cathy Garret
Greg Lucas
Janie Schwartz

Visitors

Lia Lopez, Assembly Rules Committee
Les Strike, Department of General Services
John Feliz, Assembly Facilities
Matt Bellah, State Parks
Toby Ewing, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
Chris Sneed, State Treasurer's Office
Trish Fontana, Senator Roth's office
Bruce Reynolds, Assembly Rules
Sohrab Mansourian, Assembly Chief Information Officer
Eric Bedsworth, Legislative Counsel

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Lenoil
2nd: Ms. Roland-Nawi
Approved: Yes,
Action: To approve the July 2014 meeting minutes.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. State Treasurer's Office

Christopher Sneed provided an update on the Treasurer's office security project. Construction has begun and should be complete within 30 days. They are waiting on the new administration before moving on with the second phase of the project (due to funding, the project was broken down into phases).

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B. Volunteer Association

Ms. Benoit relayed the following from Association President Alex King – the Association is assisting with paying for cleaning the drapes in the historic Governor’s office and purchasing replacement blinds in the historic Secretary of State’s office. The second living history event will be held on October 18, featuring a reenactment of the 1906 election. Volunteers will be decorating the historic Governor’s office, ante room and Treasurer’s office with 19th century Christmas décor.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Department of General Services

No one in attendance; rolled over to January meeting.

B. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Sohrab Mansourian, Assembly Chief Information Officer, provided a presentation on WiFi infrastructure in the Capitol. He reported that users are losing connections from room to room, and the current service is unreliable. Due to advancements in technology, they will have better coverage, secure and fast service with the proposed new cat6 data drops. The Assembly has identified 18 locations (a handout was provided to members). The WiFi access point covers measure approx. 7” square and can be painted to match the ceilings.

John Feliz reported that the pillar is project is currently stagnant; they are waiting on the funding. Donna Durham is working with the Governor’s office and Joint Rules to move the project forward. An antique bench in Room 125 was reupholstered in green leather; Mr. Feliz will send a sample for the curator’s file. The window weatherizing project is now completed.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Matt Bellah reported on the second living history event October 18, featuring a reenactment of the 1906 election, and Christmas decorations in the museum rooms. The annual Christmas music program starts December 1 and goes through the 23rd. The curtains in the Governor’s office have been cleaned and the shades in the historic Secretary of State’s office have been replaced. The next museum exhibit is called “Call to Action: California’s Roll in WWII” and will open Memorial Day 2015.

D. Capitol Park

Les Strike provided an update on the park. A drought emergency has been called and they have cut back on the water delivery system, which has resulted in a savings of 20% or more in some areas. DGS is not planting any fall colors, or replacing any plants, but are looking at drought resistant ones for the future. Mr. Strike also reported on the damaged copper Liberty Bell plaque. Unfortunately, the original manufacturer is out of business; members will forward vendor names to Mr. Strike. It was agreed that a new one be reproduced in bronze and the original one stored in the State Archives. Mr. Strike is researching a better anchoring system. Koren will draft language for the replacement plaque.

Motion: Chair Cowan

2nd: Ms. Roland-Nawi

Approved: Yes

Action: Send resources to Les to affect restoration by 11/16 then go forward with bronze replacement.

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E. Goals

1. Develop a practical and appropriate mechanism to achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan – Chair Cowan provided an update to members, on behalf of the Steering Committee.
2. Sustain outreach and visibility of the Commission – Chair Cowan plans on meeting with Danny and Debra that afternoon.
3. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and creation of a Monument district – CalPers is looking at sites downtown. Members agreed to send a letter with a gentle reminder regarding the Capitol View Protection laws. Chair Cowan reported that Assemblyman Cooley has a draft bill going to Leg Counsel for review.
4. Complete and see adopted guidelines for a statutory policy – Ms. Benoit updated members on the proposed Reagan statue.

F. Capitol Art Program

G. Other

Ms. Benoit reported on several miscellaneous issues, including John Worsley's digital manuscript, which consists of 27+ chapters. Mr. Worsley's family reports that no publisher has the rights to the manuscript and has approved initiating discussions with other publishers. Chair Cowan will ask Greg Lucas to look into other options. Mike Casey's widow intends to turn over his materials to the Archives at some point in the future. Ms. Benoit shared an update on the cornerstone rededication ceremony, held on June 21st at the Capitol. Ms. Benoit also shared information on the CalTrans negatives, now in the collection of the State Library.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Members approved the 2015 meeting schedule:

January 8, 2015; April 9, 2015; July 9, 2015 and October 8, 2015

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34am.