

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
October 17, 2013

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 Friday, October 17, 2013 at 9:03 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Cathy Garrett
Nancy Lenoil
Gerry Maginnity (Debbie Newton attending)
Carol Roland-Nawi
Janie Schwartz

Commissioners Absent

Luis Sanchez

Visitors

Donna Durham, Department of General Services
Diane Elliott, Department of General Services
Viletta Campbell, Department of General Services
Les Strike, Department of General Services
Jim Beesley, Department of General Services
Rod Grossman, Senate Information Technology
John Feliz, Assembly Facilities
Christopher Sneed, State Treasurer's Office
Alex King, President, State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Dan Visnich, Executive Secretary, 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 9:03 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves. Chairman Cowan took note of the passing of Alice Carey, whose architectural firm (Carey & Company) has done so much good work for the Capitol and other important buildings. Ms. Durham noted that the Governor's awards for historic preservation would be awarding a Lifetime award posthumously to her.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Roland-Nawi
2nd: Ms. Schwartz
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the July 2013 meeting minutes

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. State Treasurer's Office Security Project

Mr. Sneed updated members on the security upgrades planned for the State Treasurer's Office. Working with the Department of General Services (DGS), they have finished the bid process for the new access control system installation. They hope to award a contract within the month; work is expected to finish by the end of the calendar year. The second phase, if funding permits, will involve the installation of new interior and exterior security cameras. Some specifications were adjusted due to new standards and technology in the security field. The exterior cameras will be small and unobtrusive; a pan/tilt/zoom camera is anticipated for the front of the building to provide after-hours coverage of the Mexican-American Veterans Memorial.

B. California Capitol Historic Preservation Society

Mr. Visnich read from prepared remarks. The Society requests that the Commission recommend that Joint Rules Committee assume the expense to re-evaluate their 50+ loan paintings and appraise the uninsured sculptures. The Capitol Curator is asked to locate a prominent historic California art expert to provide the appraisal. Ms. Benoit indicated that the responsibility for providing loaned artwork values normally falls on the lender, but agreed to bring up the issue with Joint Rules.

Mr. Visnich informed members that the town of Rocklin was threatening a landmark by constructing a commercial area at the granite quarry site that supplied the stone for the Capitol. Ms. Roland-Nawi stated that SHPO was reviewing the issue and would notify the Commission if a designation would be going before the State Resources Commission.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Department of General Services

1. Project Management Branch

a. Capitol Park Master Plan – Ms. Elliott reminded members that the Master Plan is in its same state; funds are still lacking to move forward.

b. Memorials – Ms. Elliott reported that DGS is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a location for the American-Portuguese Veterans Memorial, as well as establish parameters for future memorials within the All Veterans Memorial. DGS is researching the All Veterans memorial statute. The American-Portuguese group is still in discussion with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Assemblywoman Olson's office. They have decided against the temporary marker.

c. Infrastructure – Ms. Durham informed members that cracks and setting were discovered in the ceiling above the 2nd floor West Wing entrance landing. The ceiling had set 2 3/4". The staircase has been closed off to the public and shoring has been put up. DGS determined that the pins holding the ceiling suspension wires to the concrete structure were inadequate and had failed, not only in the center section of the ceiling but also in the adjacent sections. No similar problems were found in other ceilings. Repair plans are in effect (remove the old support, jack up the ceiling, install new support and new glass barrier) and should be completed by December 6, 2013. Ms. Durham also reported that the fan room replacement project is going well.

d. Projects

i. Bike Enclosure - Work is progressing. DGS is working on identifying the right light fixture that would light the enclosure but would also be cost and energy efficient. The project is close to going to bid.

ii. Cell Phones – DGS is installing the antennae system.

iii. Library and Courts Building – Ms. Roland-Nawi congratulated DGS on their recent receipt of the California Preservation Foundation Design Award for the restoration of the Library and Courts Building. Chairman Cowan reminded her to look into SHPO's review of the exterior cameras.

2. Building and Property Management

a. Capitol Park – Mr. Strike reported that DGS is in the process of refurbishing all the walkways in the park. The asphalt project is complete. DGS is replacing some of the concrete walkways in and around the perimeter of the park and putting back their historical aspect. The Christmas tree lighting event is scheduled for December 11, 2013. Ms. Garrett inquired whether there was an overall plan for the park pathways. Mr. Strike explained that he works with a yearly budget and tries to utilize the funding by prioritizing areas.

B. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Mr. King reported on Admission Day and Women's Suffrage events at the Capitol; both activities were well attended. The Volunteer Association is funding several projects at the museum, including refinishing the countertop in the Historic Treasurer's office, replacing the volunteer cane chairs, and replacing the matting in the Secretary of State's office.

C. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Ms. Benoit reported that the Senate is running new camera cables, which has resulted in a cleanup of all the wires in the committee rooms and the chamber, cleaner baseboards, and new decorative corbels to hold the cameras. Mr. Feliz updated members on the 2nd and 4th floor wall graphics. The Assembly plans on displaying a rug in the 4th floor lobby that was gifted to the Assembly.

D. Goals

1. Capitol Park Master Plan – Chairman Cowan reviewed his 2-page memo. He and Ms. Garrett are ready to speak with Greg Schmidt and Jon Waldie.

2. Outreach and Visibility – Chairman Cowan has an appointment scheduled with Assembly member Cooley, who sits on the Assembly Rules Committee, to provide background on the master plan and the proposed monument district.

3. Capitol View Protection - Nothing to report.

4. Statuary Policy – Ms. Benoit advised that she plans on meeting with Legislative Counsel for direction, discuss informally with Greg and Jon, then proceed with a 3rd draft. The Joint Rules Committee will ultimately be responsible for adopting the policy.

5. All Veterans Memorial – Ms. Elliott informed members that she has not been able to locate any reference to the boundaries of the memorial, or any definition that the designation is larger than the actual constructed memorial. Ms. Garrett raised the issue of sunseting and its purpose.

E. Capitol Art Program

Ms. Benoit reported on the successful ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Profile in Courage award. The contemporary art show is on display and will remain so through September 2014. The Columbus and Isabella statue, as well as Columbus as a Young Man, have been dusted as part of the yearly program. Ms. Benoit and Senator Wolk will be speaking at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on the Capitol Art Program. There has been little to no movement with the Reagan statue; Joint Rules has required that the family sign off on the maquette.

Ms. Benoit also reported that the California Federation of Women's Groups has raised \$4,000 toward the tree tag project.

F. Other

1. Historic Corner Pillars – Ms. Garrett reported that Christ the King Retreat has committed to providing 2 pillars that originally came from the Capitol. We are awaiting written confirmation that funding has been secured. Members discussed locations and the possibility of obtaining additional pillars from a private residence in Folsom. After the meeting, Ms. Garrett and John Feliz will walk the park to review the discussed locations. Mr. Feliz reported that they will be using Carey & Company's structural engineer to design the footing.

2. Memorial District – Chairman Cowan synopsised Mr. Sanchez's timeline. He is in the process of briefing stakeholders on the idea of a Memorial District in the city that would accept monuments of statewide significance. The next step will be to determine what document is necessary to guide people through the process.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Benoit reported that the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the official state Vietnam Veterans War Memorial. Ms. Lenoil informed members that there will be a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the memorial on November 23, 2013. The California Military Museum and the State Archives will prepare exhibits focusing on the items left at the memorial.

Members agreed to the meeting schedule for 2014: January 23, April 17, July 17 and October 16.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.