

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
October 8, 2015

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 8, 2015 at 9:00am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Roberta Deering
Cathy Garrett
Nancy Lenoil (Melodi Andersen attending)
Paula Peper
Julianne Polanco

Commissioners Absent

Greg Lucas

Visitors

Alex King, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Bill White, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services
Kathy Jacobson, Department of General Services
Matt Bellah, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
John Allen, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Jack Striegel, Department of Veterans Affairs
Mirtha Villarreal, Department of Veterans Affairs
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Rules Facilities
Bob Ruffner, Senate Rules Facilities
Toni Brenner, Senate Rules Facilities
Mark Rossow, Assemblyman Garcia's office
Trish Fontana, Senator Block's office

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Ms. Peper

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the July 2015 meeting minutes with a correction to the spelling of Melodi's last name (Andersen not Anderson).

III. Special Presentations

A. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update

Jack Striegel reviewed remarks he made at the July meeting, including the switch to cast stone veneer instead of white granite. They are amending their contract with Quadriga to reflect phasing, current code updates and changes to plantings. The fundraising is going well. Dolores Huerta is scheduled to be a special guest at a Veterans Day event. Once approval is received from DSA and the Fire Marshall, they will put the sidewalk portion out to bid; they are looking at a spring 2016 start date. Ms. Garrett referenced the statewide ordinance on watering. Ms. Peper asked about the damaged rifle; it will be repaired when the statue is cleaned. A separate meeting will be held to review the proposed plantings list.

B. Presentation on tree mapping

Ms. Peper provided members with a power point presentation on "Urban Tree Mapping in the 21st Century." Her report included tree mapping by use of microchips, QR codes, and urban mapping programs, as well as a look at the Chicago Botanical Gardens app. More information can be found at greenprintmaps.org.

C. QR codes at the State Capitol

John Allen recapped a previous meeting held with the State Library concerning adding QR codes to the Governor's portraits labels that would link to the State Library website, which features the "Governors' Gallery" as well as images of the First Ladies. Members voiced concern about too much visual clutter in the hallways. Both Ms. Deering and Ms. Peper suggested using apps. Matt Bellah indicated that State Parks is in discussions for an app for the State Capitol Museum.

IV. Old Business

A. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Geanie Hollingsworth and Bob Ruffner reported on the following:

1. Historic Capitol Gateposts - Pacific Performance is the successful bidder. They are processing the contract. They hope to install both gateposts by end of the year.

2. Pending Projects

- a. Basement cafeteria - They are still looking for the right vendor and hope to have one by end of the year. The re-design for the dining room (which will include a different use for the Eureka Room) is being handled separately. A communal table, made from a Capitol Park redwood tree that is coming down, will be part of the re-design.
- b. 2nd Floor Rotunda railing – The Wood Wizard will be refinishing the top railing on October 22nd. Solar window film is being installed on the windows of the 2nd floor monumental doors to minimize sun damage to the rotunda railing.
- c. Monumental doors – the job is complete.
- d. Carpeting - The Senate is replacing the carpet in the Senate gallery and will be adding visual strips at the steps for safety purposes.

3. New Projects

Nothing to report at this time.

B. Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Project Management Development Branch

Mr. Tsuruoka and Ms. Sakai-Nesley reported on the following:

a. Memorial Update

1. American Portuguese Veterans (AB 146) - Members were informed of a poker tournament fundraiser held at the Sacramento Portuguese Holy Spirit Society Hall. The California American Portuguese Veterans Memorial Committee has not yet contracted with a vendor.

2. Search and Rescue (AB 136) – nothing to report at this time.

3. Firefighters Memorial - nothing to report at this time.

4. Sally Ride/National Hall of Statuary (SJR 4) - Ms. Benoit reported that this pending legislation is currently in the Inactive File (as of July). The bill would allow for the replacement of the statue of Father Serra in Statuary Hall (D.C.) with that of Sally Ride. Father Serra would be returned to California. Governor Brown indicated "it's done as far as I'm concerned" and, with the recent canonization of Serra by Pope Francis, it doesn't appear as though the bill will move forward.

5. Crime Victims' (AB 2043) - Ms. Benoit reported that Senator Pan has been appointed to the review committee and provided a copy of the appointment letter to Mr. Tsuruoka and Ms. Polanco (legislation would establish the California Crime Victims' Memorial Foundation and a memorial review committee, which would be comprised of the DGS Director, State Historic Preservation Officer, and one Assembly and one Senate appointee). Currently, there is no Assembly appointee.

b. Pending Projects

1. Governor's Office Energy Assessment – Ms. Sakai-Nesley reported that the LED light and lamp replacement project is complete. Ms. Polanco commented on how well the job was handled.

2. Tree Tag project – Ms. Jacobson reported that the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) group is funding only 500 tags, using ECorp, the same arborist that is completing the Capitol Park report. The group is looking at a March 2016 deadline. Ms. Garrett asked about an app instead. Ms. Polanco mentioned that there are a lot of international visitors and students who don't have the capability to access an app. Discussion followed. Ms. Deering suggested taking advantage of the offer on the table and completing the 500 trees. Another discussion followed about coordinating the old numbering system with a new one. Ms. Peper agreed to meet with CFWC and Ms. Jacobson to discuss the project.

3. UC Davis Nursery – Mr. Tsuruoka reported that UC Davis was not interested in the proposal. Members encouraged DGS to keep the idea alive and make it a part of the Master Plan; it is important to maintain the original "international" theme of the park and have a plan for replacing trees and maintaining diversity. Ms. Deering asked if the Commission could weigh in on the replacement tree for the redwood that is scheduled to come down. Mr. Tsuruoka added that DGS is considering a plan to use recycled water from the Central Plant for park irrigation.

Motion: Ms. Garrett
2nd: Ms. Deering
Approved: Yes
Action: To send a letter to DGS requesting that the Commission assist in the process for selecting tree replacement and achieving original plant diversity in Capitol Park.

4. Irrigation, park zoning and control – Members discussed the possibility of rezoning the irrigation in Capitol Park to water trees separately. The plan would require a new irrigation design and the cost would be prohibitive (approx. \$4 million).

Motion: Ms. Polanco
2nd: Ms. Garrett/Ms. Deering
Approved: Yes
Action: To amend the tree replacement letter to include endorsing long-term planning for landscape and to raise its priority in budgeting.

5. East Annex Restrooms – DGS is checking the sewer line conditions to see if the bathrooms can handle low flow toilets. They are giving consideration to historic fixtures and glass material.

c. New Projects – DGS is installing new hand rails in the galleries of Rooms 4202 and 4203 (will be to code) and replacing handicap lifts on the 4th floor (Assembly side) and the 6th floor.

2. Building and Property Management

a. New and Pending Projects – no one in attendance; rolled over to next meeting.

3. Capitol Park - Ms. Benoit reported that she heard that Les Strike was retiring in December 2015. Members asked that a thank you letter be sent and, at Mr. Tsuruoka's suggestion, to check with Mr. Strike on tapes he may have on discussions with past Capitol Park superintendents.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Matt Bellah reported that this is a slow time so staff is helping at other park exhibits. The next exhibit will be "Treasures of the State Library". Dan Sebby will provide a talk on the current WWII exhibit on November 18th at the State Library. Mr. Bellah reviewed the museum's five year exhibit plan. Members discussed changing signage outside the two changing exhibit rooms (handout provided by Mr. Bellah).

Motion: Ms. Polanco
2nd: Ms. Garrett
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve new signs for the changing exhibit spaces that are of the same design as the historic rooms but different enough that they will provide visual clues to visitors. Parks will remove the State Library sign.

D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

President Bob Dreyer reported on a busy summer at the information desk. They have 17 new volunteers who are finishing their mentoring hours. The group had a successful summer outing at a River Cats Game, and is planning a bus trip to Benicia in November. The Christmas committee is coordinating with DGS on installing holiday decorations. The penny smasher is scheduled to be installed today. Bill White passed out samples.

V. Goals

A. Capitol Park Master Plan Proposal – Chairman Cowan provided members an update from the July 8th meeting. He agreed to send copies of the RFQ to all Commission members, and to the Cultural Landscape Foundation, California Preservation Foundation, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Planning Association and the American Institute of Architects. A Master Plan Project Manager Selection Committee needs to be established. The Commission needs to reconfigure the steering committee in order to avoid a quorum of Commission members.

Motion: Chairman Cowan

2nd: Ms. Polanco

Approved: Yes

Action: to appoint a Master Plan Project Manager Selection Committee consisting of Cathy Garrett, Roberta Deering, Paula Peper, Toni Brenner and Geanie Hollingsworth.

B. Outreach and Visibility (Legislative Members and Joint Rules) – Ms. Benoit will start sending specific reports to Legislative members concerning the Master Plan Proposal in addition to the quarterly memos.

C. Capitol View Protection and Monument District – The bill on the monument district was not carried forward this year. Chairman Cowan will make another run later.

D. Statuary policy

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Ms. Polanco

Approved: Yes

Action: To recommend to Joint Rules Committee that the current art policy be amended to prohibit statuary in the State Capitol building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53am

(Items not covered will be sent to Commission members via email)

ITEMS NOT COVERED AT THE OCTOBER 2015 COMMISSION MEETING

VI. Capitol Art Program – Koren Benoit

A. Senate Contemporary Art Show

Seems to be very popular with members; everyone pleased with the catalogue (Ms. Benoit provided copies); the show will remain up through September 2016; start again in January 2017.

B. Museum Volunteer/Guide Training

Ms. Benoit provided training for volunteers in August; will follow-up with similar training for guides in December.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. John Worsley/Manuscript

Nothing to report at this time.

B. Mike Casey/Artifacts

Per Vito Sgromo, Casey's widow is traveling and will not be available until November; she is still going through his materials and will present a possible donation upon her return.

C. CalTrans negatives

At last meeting, Greg Lucas reported that the library received funding for a preservation department and preservation librarian.

D. Insectary plaque

Need to review design and language; once final is approved, Ms. Benoit will contact local vendor for costs – ROLL OVER TO JANUARY MEETING

VIII. New Business

Establish 2017 meeting dates – completed via email