

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Commission Meeting
November 5, 2009

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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 112, Sacramento, California on Thursday, November 5, 2009, at approximately 10:00 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Vice Chair

Commissioners Present

Stacey Aldrich
Lizzetta LeFalle-collins
Nancy Lenoil
Luis Sanchez

Commissioners Absent

Wayne Donaldson

Visitors

Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services
Marilyn Nelson, Department of General Services
John Feliz, Assembly Rules Facilities

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 10:10 am. The recording secretary read the roll. Mr. Cowan introduced the new Assembly appointee, Ms. LeFalle-Collins and asked visitors to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Sanchez
2nd: Ms. Aldrich
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the August meeting minutes

III. Old Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Maintenance Manual

No movement. Chair Cowan and Mr. Sanchez are committee members.

2. Communications

Members reviewed notes from Chair Cowan's and Mr. Sanchez's meeting with Secretary of the Senate Greg Schmidt and Assembly CAO Jon Waldie.

3. Capitol View Protection Plan

Mr. Sanchez provided a recap of the 8/28 workshop with the City of Sacramento planning department (a "what do you guys do and here's what we care about" meeting). Attendees discussed the differences between City and State height restrictions. The Commission will follow through with a November workshop that will deal with the view corridor and how to protect the view of the Capitol. Ms. Benoit will resend email to Ms. LeFalle-Collins, Ms. Aldrich and Anne Cavanagh. Mr. Sanchez will draft goals for the workshop, primarily that of increasing the strength of the view protection enforcement, and advise on materials to be provided. There was also discussion on the design competition and revitalization of Capitol Mall, and the Bee's article on the planting of almond trees down Capitol Mall.

4. Capitol Park Memorials

Mr. Donaldson and Ms. Lenoil are committee members. Ms. Benoit informed members of her attendance at the latest planning session for the California Mexican-American Veterans Memorial where she provided committee members on the history of the Commission and its stand on memorials in Capitol Park. Ms. Benoit also provided a brief background and update on the Thomas Starr King statue.

B. Department of General Services

1. Capitol Park Master Plan

Ms. Kaneko provided a brief overview and update. DGS has been discussing the plan since 2003, and has had funding issues since 2004. They have been ready to move forward since 2008 with an approved scope and funding. It was suggested that the UC Davis landscape program be involved; it has been slow to provide the necessary paperwork (scope proposal, etc.) There is full funding in place for a master landscape consultant with or without UC Davis involvement. Rules have opined that DGS can move ahead without their involvement. DGS is 3-4 months out from advertising.

2. Infrastructure Study

There have been leaks in the Capitol building due to the heavy rains (limited to the Annex). Ms. Kaneko and Ms. Durum are conducting water testing of the windows and will remove one window to study frame construction, etc. There are leaks in the roof as well due to gaps in the sealant. DGS is working with the contractor to come up with a work plan. The mechanical survey work is continuing; there are some hard to reach areas. DGS is also doing an evaluation of the electrical/emergency generator system.

3. Miscellaneous

Deputy Assembly Facilities officer John Feliz informed members that several of the lights in the Assembly Chamber have been switched out. The light is more bluish in tone. They are discussing the necessity of dimmables, as the color range is greater without them.

4. Memorials

a. The Mexican-American

Ms. Nelson informed members that the California Mexican-American Veterans memorial committee has received 4 RFQ's and will be setting up an interview panel.

b. Thomas Starr King

Ms. Benoit an overview of the proposed installation of the Thomas Starr King statue in Capitol Park and accompanying exhibit.

c. Ms. Benoit informed members that DGS is working with the Lt. Governor's staff concerning a request from the chapter president of the Tuskegee Airmen on procedures for erecting a statue in Capitol Park.

5. Current Projects

1. Tree Maintenance

Les Strike provided a history of the trees in Capitol Park, including the removal of all old elms (as they age, they develop cavities) and trimming the deodar cedars at the west steps. One other elm, on 9th street and Capitol Mall, is scheduled to be removed as well. Chair Cowan asked about trimming back the canfer trees and expressed the need to open up the view corridor so that the wings of the Capitol are not obscured. Chair Cowan suggested a walkthrough with Mr. Strike. There was discussion about the almond tree project and making the oranges that grow in Capitol Park edible.

C. State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Nothing to report.

D. Other/Miscellaneous

Ms. Benoit provided an overview of the Capitol Art Program.

Chair Cowan reported that he and Mr. Sanchez will make appointments with each Rules Committee to present the Annual Report. Letters were sent to several local Senate and Assembly members asking them to be liaisons. Ms. Lenoil indicated that Assemblyman Niello expressed interest in historic issues at an Archives' open house. Chair Cowan will follow through with a personal visit. Members will work to suggest candidates for the remaining Assembly vacancy.

Ms. Benoit provided copies of the letter sent to the non-profit society asking them to fund the paint study.

Chair Cowan discussed the Commission's legislation that limits its purview to the Historic State Capitol and not Capitol Park or the East Annex. After discussions with Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Waldie, it was decided not to pursue any changes at this time, but to focus on elements in the East Annex that are important and should be considered historic. It was suggested that members conduct a walk-through of the East Annex to identify historic elements.

Members approved 2010 calendar dates and special presentations:

January 14 - History of Capitol Mall
April 8 - Budget brief
July 8 - Parks Foundation report
October 14 - Museum Consortium

Chair Cowan plans on meeting with DGS Project Director Bob Bowen concerning having a Commission member sit on the Capitol Park Master Plan advisory committee.

Ms. Lenoil reported that Archives staff is reviewing the draft letter concerning necessary conservation needs on Capitol Restoration Project materials.

Chair Cowan brought up the four historic corner pillars from the Capitol that are now in Folsom. With Folsom undertaking a restoration of its historic downtown, this might be an opportune time to discuss with the city about returning them (there are also two in Citrus Heights). Chair Cowan offered to contact the city of Folsom and start a dialogue.

Members reviewed 2009 goals and voted on 2010 goals and committee alignments:

1. Capitol Master Plan and Memorials
Committee members – Donaldson, Lenoil, LeFalle-Collins
2. Increase Outreach and Visibility of Commission
Committee members – Cowan, Sanchez
3. Pursue other options for Creating an Integrated Maintenance plan
Committee members – Cowan, Aldrich
4. Collaborate with other agencies on Capitol View Protection
Committee members – Sanchez, Donaldson

Members agreed to remove the paint study and the CRP materials as goals and keep them as agenda items when necessary.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.