

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 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 113, Sacramento, California on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 9:03 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Cathy Garrett  
Nancy Lenoil  
Greg Lucas  
Jay Correia (for Carol Roland-Nawi)

Visitors

Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services  
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services  
Karen Lott, Department of General Services  
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services  
Jim Beesley, Department of General Services  
Les Strike, Department of General Services  
Kathy Jacobson, Department of General Services  
John Allen, State Parks/State Capitol Museum  
Alex King, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Bob Ruffner, Senate Facilities  
John Feliz, Assembly Facilities  
Paula Peper, member of the public

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.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Lenoil  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Garrett  
Approved: Yes  
Action: To approve the October 2014 meeting minutes.

### **III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Volunteer Association**

Outgoing California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association president Alex King reported on the first year of displaying period decorated Christmas trees in the historic Governor's office, ante room and Treasurer's office, and shared photos. He reviewed the volunteer association's upcoming calendar of events, including Camellia Day, Museum Day and Earthquake Day. Mr. King also provided an update on funding projects for the museum rooms. Members reviewed the penny smasher proposal and agreed to review further and discuss at the April meeting. If approved, a maximum of four images will need to be selected.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

John Feliz and Bob Ruffner reported on the Wi-Fi infrastructure update previously discussed at the October meeting. The Wi-Fi access point covers measure approx. 7" square and will be painted to match the ceilings. Artisan Beate Bruhl will do faux painting on those covers that require it. Locations identified in the Senate Chamber are well hidden. The covers are due to be delivered in mid-January.

John Feliz reported that Carey & Company have completed site drawings for the two historic pillars, which have been forwarded to Cathy Garrett. They are going with a camphor base "bell footing". Ms. Garrett asked about the time frame – documents should be done within a week, then vendor and cost estimate and schedule – before June. Ms. Benoit will check when the last letter was sent to the retreat; if necessary, send a follow-up letter. A survey crew is heading to the retreat on Friday. The following Tuesday, a geotechnical crew will take soil samples. Phase 2 will include restoration – finial, interpretive plaque and decorative ironwork. The project will also include complete clean-up, fence repair, and possible plantings.

Assembly Rules is working on getting members settled and dealing with various Annex repairs.

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

Teresa Kaneko introduced two new employees – Karen Lott and Leslie Sakai-Nesley. DGS is working on repairing weather damage to the West Wing 2<sup>nd</sup> floor portico doors; they are in contact with the vendor who worked on the Library and Courts building. Central shop is working on the restroom doors and baseboards (ongoing project). They have been short on painters, but should resume project in 30 days or so. DGS is working with the Portuguese American Veterans Memorial Committee (Eddie Maria). They shared proposed new bench designs for the All Veterans Memorial, which will entail removing the current metal benches and replacing them with granite benches.

Mr. Lucas spoke with Bill Emmerson (author of AB 136 Search and Rescue Memorial). He is fine with not replicating Half Dome, as was originally suggested, and is happy to support whatever the Commission recommends. The Search and Rescue representatives want a “wow” factor. The memorial is on hold until the Master Plan is completed. The Native American Memorial bill died (SB 1324). Members discussed the responses from the Firefighters Foundation in answer to questions asked at a previous walkthrough concerning their proposal to alter the existing Firefighters Memorial. Still to be determined is how to deal with names in perpetuity; perhaps decrease font size, but that might be an ADA issue. DGS stated that it is easier to maintain memorials that are flat rather than upright. It was agreed that we would have Legislative Counsel re-examine their opinion and use of the word “modification” – the foundation adds names every year which doesn’t require legislation.

Motion: Greg Lucas  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Cathy Garrett  
Approved: Yes  
Action: Communicate with foundation folks that the Legislative Counsel opinion does not affect adding names; need other options. Mr. Lucas will draft the letter.

DGS reported that the Governor’s energy assessment is done; was to address a lighting retrofit for the “horseshoe” and include upgrades to LEDs. The mock-up in one office was too bright, so DGS is going back to the drawing board. The costs of the new lighting plan are too high, so they are re-examining the project.

Les Strike reported on the replacement Liberty Bell plaque. The new plaque will be slightly smaller than the original plaque (16 x 16 vs. 16.5 x 18) and will take several months to replicate before they can install. Mr. Strike will take photos of the new installation; it is planned to send the original to the Archives. Park activity includes taking down the Christmas tree, pruning camphor trees in the traffic circle, and checking the irrigation system. The park did not suffer any significant storm damage, nor is there any change to the areas already damaged by the drought.

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

John Allen reported on behalf of Matt Bellah. The museum is looking to breathe new life into the Panama Pacific International exhibit display. A new exhibit on WWII and California will open in late May. Mr. Bellah is working with CHP on handling the display of weaponry and bringing them into the Capitol building. Mr. Allen agreed to look for historic photos of the Insectary to include on the proposed signage. Members discussed where to put the plaque and interpretive signage. It was decided to proceed with only the National Register signage for now. Ms. Benoit will work with Jay Correia on text and cost estimates. Ms. Benoit will follow up with Mr. Bella on questions regarding outside exhibit requests, the museum’s ‘laundry list’ of repairs, and updating contact information on the museum’s website.

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**V. 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; the committee meets the following day; staff has interviewed for the project manager position; Chair Cowan will send the contract draft to members for their review; the Governor's office have ok'd the initiation document, provided there is a good discussion on which entity will manage the park after the plan is put into place. CEQA status is still unknown.
2. Sustain outreach and visibility of the Commission – Communication concerning the Master Plan will be sent to all Legislators in January; Ms. Benoit will continue to send out quarterly memos to members.
3. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and creation of a Monument district –Chair Cowan reported that Assemblyman Ken Cooley has a draft bill going to Legislative Counsel for review.
4. Complete and see adopted guidelines for a statutory policy – Ms. Benoit updated members on the Reagan statue.

**VI. Capitol Art Program**

Ms. Benoit updated members on various projects. The completion of conservation assessment on the Governor's portraits is still up in the air, pending funding approval. The Schwarzenegger portrait was hung in early December. A label is still needed on the frame. Upon Rules approval, a memo will be sent to all Senate members, informing them of the 2015-16 contemporary art show. The proposal for interpretive signage for the lower rotunda Mathews murals are on hold until the Reagan statue is installed. There is a small section of missing marble on the Columbus statue; Ms. Benoit has requested recommendations for marble artisans.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

Kathy Jacobson provided an update on the tree tag proposal. The sponsoring group has raised \$8000; they need \$16,000 + to cover labor cost. DGS can provide a map and guidance with scheduling. Members suggested that if money is tight, they could just tag three hundred species rather than all of them, or reduce the tagging from all to those trees that are unusual. Ms. Peper asked about micro chipping trees.

Chair Cowan indicated that he would discuss printing options with Mr. Lucas concerning the Worsley manuscript. Ms. Benoit is keeping informed on Mike Casey's widow's potential donation to the State Archives. Roberta Deering has been recommended to replace Luis Sanchez as a Senate appointee.

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Ms. Lenoil reported that January 5<sup>th</sup> marks the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the first law enacted in California: Statutes of 1850, Chapter 1: An Act Concerning the Public Archives. The law established the State Archives on January 5, 1850.

Jeff Tsuruoka suggested DGS look into programs that would maintain the genetic integrity of trees in Capitol Park (i.e. the Moon Tree). Rather than replacing “like for like”, DGS would replace with a genetic image. Mr. Tsuruoka will explore the options with UC Davis. The program would be very advantageous, especially with the trees in the Civil War Grove.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Benoit provided an update on State Treasurer’s security upgrade project and the CalTrans negatives at the State Library.

Suggested special presentations for the April meeting include Shelly Willis, Executive Director and Public Art Program Director for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and Chris Sneed with the State Treasurer’s office.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.