

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 12, 2017

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 12, 2017 at 9:07am PST.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Visitors

Luis Salinas, Assembly Facilities  
Casey Hayden, State Capitol Museum  
John Allen, State Capitol Museum  
Bob Dreyer, State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services  
Kathy Jacobson, Department of General Services  
Les Strike, Department of General Services  
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services  
Ricardo Reyes, Department of Veteran Affairs  
Thora Chaves, Department of Veteran Affairs  
Dan Visnich, 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 9:07 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The July 2016 and October 2016 minutes were unanimously approved, with the amendment that a notation be made in the October minutes that a quorum was not present.

**III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update**

Ricardo Reyes and Thora Chaves with the Department of Veterans Affairs updated members on the memorial's beautification project. The DGS-led survey of the sidewalks is pushed out until later in the month. Upgrades include enhancements to the sidewalks and the installation of additional lampposts. A May 10<sup>th</sup> rededication day is planned, which also happens to be Mexican Mother's Day. A construction sign will be on-site informing the public of the project. Fundraising is ongoing for Phase 2.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Luis Salinas with Assembly Facilities reported that Rush Coffee will be operating the basement coffee shop, basement cafeteria and 6<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria. New paint, carpet, doors and lighting have been installed in the basement cafeteria; they are still waiting on the new furniture. Work is still ongoing in the kitchen. The 6<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria is scheduled to open on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The large communal table that was crafted from a tree removed from the south lawn is in place.

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

###### 1. Project Management Development Branch

###### **A. Memorials**

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that he has the finalized text for the American Portuguese Veterans Memorial; they are waiting for clear weather to do the installation. Prominence will be given to the pavers with veterans names; the donor names will be placed on pavers beneath the benches.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that the sponsors of the Mervyn Dymally bust (AB 2704 Gipson) are interested in donating the bust to the State. Their intention is to place the piece in the vestibule of the Lt. Governor's office.

Ms. Benoit agreed to check the text of existing memorials for language pertaining to groups using insurance to meet the requirement for financial responsibility for maintenance costs for their sponsored memorials.

###### **B. East Annex Project**

Mr. Tsuruoka indicated that he had nothing to report. Mr. Cowan reviewed his December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with Mr. Alvarez and Ms. Gravert in which he reiterated two of the Commission's arguments for connecting the Master Plan and the East Annex Project: (1) a successful plan for a building and a plan for a site need to be one integrated plan, not two separate ones, and (2) a Master Plan including CEQA is the perfect tool to collect all the relevant information to guide the East Annex project, regardless of the option chosen. Joint Rules has issued a Request For Information to several architectural firms. Mr. Tsuruoka recommended that any questions should be addressed to either Joint Rules or Assembly Rules Chair Ken Cooley.

###### **C. Pending Projects**

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on the Capitol Park Paver Project, which involves the installation of permeable pavers in the lawn. Work is complete on the south lawn; the same vendor will begin work on the north lawn. Work on the west lawn and the traffic circle will begin after the Amgen race in May. StanTec has contracted for the Central Plant re-use water project.

Motion: Ms. Deering

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Garrett

Approved: Yes

Action: Formally recommend to Joint Rules Committee that the Legislature act immediately to have DGS undertake a comprehensive redesign of the irrigation of Capitol Park to save park trees.

#### **D. New Projects**

Nothing to report.

##### 2. Facilities Management Division

DGS staff was not in attendance, so update was rolled over to the April 2017 meeting.

##### 3. Capitol Park

Les Strike reported that the park has weathered the storms relatively well, with only minor loss of tree limbs. Kathy Jacobson reported that their arborist contract ends in December 2017; to continue the program would require additional staff and the purchase of software. Members discussed the importance of having a tree management plan for the park that would address replanting, long-range planning and nursery stockpiling; Mr. Strike indicated they have a maintenance plan, which allows for quarterly inspections and reports.

Motion: Ms. Peper

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Lucas

Approved: Yes

Action: Formally recommend to Joint Rules Committee that the Legislature act immediately to have DGS create a tree management plan. The Commission would include resources already on hand and the steps needed to create the plan.

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

Casey Hayden reported that staff has begun work on the next exhibit, a history of California through maps, which will open over Memorial Day weekend. Objects will be pulled from the State Archives, State Library and Caltrans collections. The Capitol Bookstore is closed indefinitely; staff is changing out the barcode system. Mr. Hayden mentioned that the exterior staircase at the Leland Stanford Mansion is being replaced; Paige and Turnbull are overseeing the project. Members asked that SHPO be consulted.

#### **D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association (CSCMVA)**

Bob Dreyer reported that in November, the Association celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some members have been with the Association since its inception; they were given a special award at the luncheon. They saw an increase in visitors between Christmas and New Year's. There are several upcoming events planned: Museum Day and Camellia Day are planned for February and September will see the celebration of California's "birthday."

#### **V. 2016 GOALS**

##### **A. Achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan**

Mr. Cowan reviewed the high points to date: support of Joint Rules, Commission procurement authority and fund-holding capability incomplete, discovery of need for ethics training, surfacing of new reservations and emergence of new East Annex project. Members discussed the importance of planning for the health and longevity of the Capitol and the park.

**B. Increase Outreach and Commission Visibility**

Members discussed the possibility of creating a website on which communications, annual reports, meeting minutes, background information, etc. could be posted.

**C. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and Creation of a Monument District**

Greg Lucas reported that he has raised the issue with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg with a positive initial reaction, but follow-up meetings are needed.

**VI. CAPITOL ART PROGRAM**

Ms. Benoit reported that the current contemporary art show has come down; the next show is scheduled for May 2017. An art packet, outlining the art and antiques programs as well as facility use guidelines, was distributed to all members earlier in the month.

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Historic Flag Collection**

Ms. Benoit reported that the California State Military Reserve has space allocated to store the flags. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to review the conservator's report and discuss moving the flags.

**B. John Worsley materials**

Ms. Benoit distributed copies of the materials received from Mr. Worsley's widow.

**C. Meeting Dates**

Members agreed on the following 2017 meeting dates:

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Deering revisited the issue of the public restrooms at the insectary. She reviewed comments made at the October meeting and expressed dismay at DGS's intention to use "prison quality" fixtures. She felt that the fixtures could respect the history of the building but also be functional. Ms. Benoit agreed to contact Mr. Tsuruoka on the status of the project and inquire if SHPO has been consulted. The issue will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**VIX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017.