

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 14, 2016

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, January 14, 2016 at 9:05am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair  
Roberta Deering  
Cathy Garrett  
Nancy Lenoil  
Paula Peper  
Julianne Polanco

Commissioners Absent

Greg Lucas

Visitors

Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society  
Alex King, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association  
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services  
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services  
Karen Lott, 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  
Danielle Chapman, Department of Veterans Affairs  
Sergio Mondragon-Lopez, Department of Veterans Affairs  
John Feliz, Assembly Rules Facilities  
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Rules Facilities  
Bob Ruffner, Senate Rules Facilities  
Jay Correia, Office of Historic Preservation

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Polanco  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Garrett  
Approved: Yes  
Action: To approve the October 2015 meeting minutes.

### III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

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

Jack Striegel, Senior Architect with the Department of Veterans Affairs, updated members on the memorial's beautification project. The amendment contract with Quadriga is in place (design only); they expect to see revised plans next week. These will then be forwarded to the State Fire Marshall and DSA for access review. A spring start date is expected. Veterans Affairs is working with the Treasurer's Office and Department of General Services (DGS) on the walkway portion. Mr. Striegel provided members a revised plant list, which he said took into account the revisions suggested by Warren Roberts (UC Davis Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus and former California Horticultural Society president) and those who attended the October meeting - lower heights, native species, and lower water-use species. Ms. Garrett and Ms. Pepper expressed concerns about maintenance issues with bulbs and there not being enough native species represented. Ms. Benoit agreed to coordinate a follow-up meeting to discuss the revisions.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Bob Ruffner, John Feliz, and Geanie Hollingsworth reported on the following:

1. Historic Capitol Gateposts - Mr. Feliz reported that there is a meeting scheduled for next week to deal with several issues that have come up.
2. Pending Projects
  - a. Basement cafeteria - Joint Rules will be looking at final presentations by two vendors for the cafeteria and concurrently working on the design of the dining room, which will incorporate historic elements in a "Capitol Farm-to-Fork" theme.
  - b. Carpeting - The Senate has replaced the carpet in the Senate gallery and is waiting to replace the chamber floor carpet.
3. New Projects - Ms. Hollingsworth reported that they are replacing the ADA lifts on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors. Mr. Feliz provided members a copy of the new brochure "Public Art Tribute: California State Capitol Annex."

#### B. Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Project Management Development Branch

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on the following:

- a. Memorial Update
  1. American Portuguese Veterans (AB 146) - He is working with the sponsor group and the contractor on final liability issue contract details.
  2. Search and Rescue (AB 136) - nothing to report.
  3. Firefighters Memorial - nothing to report.
  4. Sally Ride/National Hall of Statuary (SJR 4) - Ms. Benoit reported that this pending legislation is still in the Inactive File (as of January).

b. Pending Projects

1. Tree Tag project – Ms. Jacobson reported that the California Federation of Women’s Clubs (CFWC) group has raised \$15,000, \$7,000 of which will go toward purchasing the tags. They plan on replacing 500 tags, completing 50-100 at a time. 10% of the new tags will include language recognizing the club. Members agreed that the old tree tags should be removed (except for the tree survey tags, which should remain). DGS indicated that they might not have in-house resources to remove the old tags; if not, the club will need to remove them. Ms. Peper offered to approach a group of certified arborists who might be interested in volunteering their time. Members recommended keeping a representative sample of the different phases of tree tagging. Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Peper will follow up.

2. Irrigation, park zoning and control – The Commission has not received a response from their letter sent to DGS Director Kim following the October meeting, in which the Commission offered assistance in developing a process for long-term planning for landscape and applauded the proposed new irrigation project. The Governor’s proposed budget includes bringing recycled water into the park.

3. East Annex Restrooms – The project is currently on hold pending the proposed \$2.9 million study of the East Annex, as cited in the Sacramento Bee.

c. New Projects – DGS has started preconstruction meetings for replacement of diesel fuel lines, which are east of the Sisters of Mercy sculpture. They plan to start in February. Ms. Sakai-Nesley is working on replacing the fabric panels in the Governor’s Office. Members discussed the recent proposal to move the office of BOE to the CalPERS-owned site at Capitol and Third. The Chair will write CalPERS and DGS reminding all of the View Protection Plan.

2. Building and Property Management

Joan (Armstrong) Johnson attended on behalf of Viletta Campbell. The new Capitol Building Manager is Sam Flores.

3. Capitol Park - Ms. Benoit reported that Les Strike will be retiring in December 2016, not 2015 as previously thought.

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

Matt Bellah reported that the museum is working on its next exhibit “Out of the Vault: Treasures from the State Library,” which is scheduled to open in May. Their exhibit designer is creating special cases and working with the State Library on selecting pieces. They are also pulling from the Sutro Library. John Allen will coordinate a meeting to follow up on the State Library’s request to add QR codes to governor’s portraits. The museum coordinated 57 musical groups during December with a rough

count of 10,000 visitors attending. Mr. Bellah has been promoted, so Casey Hayden will be taking on some of the State Capitol Museum responsibilities. The new signage outside the museum rooms have QR codes that provide visitors with audio recordings (1-1.5 minutes long, voiced by staff and volunteers). Ms. Benoit revisited the historic flag collection issue. Mr. Bellah agreed for Parks to pay for a conservators report as previously discussed (it is a line item in their budget with a deadline of March 23). Ms. Lenoil will draft a letter from the Secretary of State to the Military Department verifying Archives permission to conserve the flags.

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

President Bob Dreyer reported that museum day is the first Saturday in February. They had a successful Christmas decoration program this year. The annual meeting is scheduled for January 21, where association members will vote on a new board. Upcoming events include Camellia Day in February, Women’s Suffrage in April and Election Day in the fall.

**V. 2015 GOALS**

**A. Capitol Park Master Plan Proposal** – Chairman Cowan reported that the Master Plan is at a pause, but he is hopeful on getting clarity from Joint Rules and being able to move forward.

**B. Outreach and Visibility**

**C. Capitol View Protection and Monument District**

Motion: Mr. Cowan

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

Approved: Yes

Action: To adopt the following 2016 goals: (1) Achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan, (2) Assist and advise on the East Annex Study, and (3) Collaborate with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and creation of a Monument District.

**VI. CAPITOL ART PROGRAM** – Koren Benoit

**A. Dusting Program**

Ms. Benoit is dusting the frames and backs of all the paintings in the Capitol Art Program.

**B. Museum Volunteer/Guide Training**

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

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. John Worsley/Manuscript**

A publisher has not yet been found. CSCMVA suggested asking Mary Geach for recommendations on publishers that she has worked with. The association may have funds to assist. The Sacramento County Historical Society and the

California Historical Society (specifically Anthia Hartig) were also recommended. Ms. Lenoil will send contact information for Ms. Hartig.

**B. Mike Casey/Artifacts**

Nothing to report at this time.

**C. Insectary plaque**

Ms. Benoit distributed sample text/layout and sample sizes for a proposed National Register of Historic Places plaque on the State Insectary building in Capitol Park. The Office of Historic Preservation approved the sample distributed. Once the size and text are approved and a cost is obtained, Ms. Benoit will submit to Joint Rules for funding. Members agreed on the text and layout, and suggested the size should match that of the existing plaque at the site that honors Ellwood Cooper, the Commissioner of the California State Commission of Horticulture from 1883-1907.

**D. Statuary policy**

Members discussed the draft guidelines prepared by Ms. Benoit. While the Commission would like to recommend against further statuary in the State Capitol building (following the June 2015 installation of Ronald Reagan), it recognizes the need for guidelines to direct future statuary proposals. Historically, there have been few statues in the building – the absence of which is a hallmark of the building. The draft guidelines take into consideration fire, life and safety issues, as well as ADA concerns.

Motion: Ms. Deering

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

Approved: Yes

Action: Ms. Benoit will resend the draft guidelines to members for their review and comment by the end of January; the draft guidelines and cover letter will be sent to Governor Brown and Joint Rules.

**VIII. New Business**

Ms. Benoit confirmed 2016 meeting dates: April 14, July 14 and October 13.

**IX. Adjournment**

11:15am