

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
April 12, 2018

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, April 12, 2018 at 9:07 am PST.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Greg Lucas

Visitors

John Allen, California State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Phil Sexton, California State Parks, Capitol District
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Viletta Campbell, Department of General Services
Karen Lott, Department of General Services
Les Strike, Department of General Services

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.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Garrett
2nd: Ms. Lenoil
Approved: Yes
Action: Approve the minutes of the January 12, 2018 meeting.

Chairman Cowan recognized the passing of Fred Hummel, who was State Architect from 1968-1973, prior to John Worsley. Mr. Hummel was involved in the staff work on recommending replacement or restoration of the State Capitol building.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. East Annex Update

Members discussed the status of the East Annex project. Ms. Benoit reported that she was denied her request to obtain copies for Commission members of the East Annex Historic Structures report from the

2006 Dreyfuss and Blackford State Capitol Infrastructure Study, due to the confidential nature of the study. Chairman Cowan reported that copies of Appendix E and F from the December 2017 Planning Study by CHSQA would not be released for security reasons; if they were, members might have to sign confidentiality release forms. Ms. Deering expressed concern that the Joint Rules Committee was taking action without adequate information. The East Annex is part of the National Register listing and, as such, both buildings should be considered as one. She distributed copies of her remarks concerning the study. CHSQA is done with their contract, which required them to produce the needs assessment study and their recommendations.

B. Tree Management Letter

Members reviewed the tree management letter sent to Daniel Alvarez and Debra Gravert. Informal cooperative tree work by Commission member Paula Peper and DGS can continue ahead of formal planning.

C. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Nothing to report.

D. Department of General Services

1. Project Management Development Branch

a. Memorial Update

Ms. Benoit discussed new memorial legislation:

AB 2116 (Melendez) Bill of Rights Monument

AB 2667 (Cooley) State Capitol Building Annex: historic symbols

SB (Wilk) War on Terror Memorial committee

Members agreed to send a letter to Senator Wilk reminding him of the bill language that requires all veteran-related memorials to be placed within the boundaries of the All Veterans Memorial, as it might pertain to his bill for the War on Terror Memorial.

b. Pending Projects

DGS Project Manager Karen Lott spoke on behalf of Jeff Tsuruoka and Kathy Park. Bid advertisements have gone out for the Central Plant recycled water project. DGS plans on a late summer start. The insectary restrooms have reopened, although additional fixture work is needed. Ms. Benoit distributed photos of the recently restored California Registered Historical Landmark bronze plaque. The work was done by Ruhkala. DGS reviewed a study from several years ago concerning West Wing balcony and portico water damage. They have requested an updated estimate to include rainwater leaders or downspouts to direct water out of the structure rather than having the excess drain directly into flowerbeds, resulting in mud on the building. DGS may postpone starting the work until the new infrastructure design team is contracted and turn the project over to them. The work may include bleaching the white marble and removing and reinstalling the floor, taking into consideration some edge loss to the marble tiles. Drawings for the basement restaurant barrier removal project have been

reviewed and approved by the Office of Historic Preservation. The architect is finalizing them. The kitchen is currently open. Pneumatic HVAC valves controlling temperature in the Legislative Chambers are being replaced; work is complete in the Assembly Chamber and will continue in the Senate.

c. Future Projects

DGS is working on several upcoming projects, including refinishing the exterior of the West Wing balcony doors. Blue Line is the contractor; work is slated to begin on May 14. The contractor will be using safe, non-toxic materials.

2. Facilities Management Branch

Staff reported they are working on regular maintenance issues.

3. Capitol Park

Les Strike reported on the Capitol Yew Tree Project, along the east side of the park between 13th and 14th streets. The project entails removing existing lawn under the mature yew trees and providing them their own irrigation system (low precipitation bubblers) independent from the lawn watering. Decomposed granite will be placed under the yew trees for a cleaner look and a concrete mow band will separate the granite from the lawn. Work is expected to be completed by end of May. At the July Commission meeting, Les will introduce his successor. The next arborist visit is scheduled for May 2018. Les and Ms. Peper have continued their informal work on developing a tree management plan that can be implemented by DGS. They have identified sources for seeds of rare park trees and have arranged with UC Davis Arboretum Nursery to propagate tree cuttings or seeds for the park into seedlings as well as grow and hold trees until they are large enough for planting. The process will be slow as some seeds take 10-15 years before they would be ready to be transferred to the park; fortunately, it is a step in the right direction toward preserving the diversity of the park tree species.

E. California Capitol Historic Preservation Society

No one in attendance; rolled over to July meeting.

F. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Phil Sexton reported on the new "Road Ahead" exhibit. It is proving to be very popular; the display showcases contributions from the Department of Motor Vehicles, California Highway Patrol and Caltrans. The show will remain open through December 2018. They are in the process of hiring 2 new guides. The PORTS program (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) is expanding to include Sutter's Fort and the Indian Museum. They also plan on increasing their online presence via a walking program for shut-ins that would allow them to have an interactive experience. John Allen discussed the next 5 year exhibit plan: (2020/1) – 100th Anniversary of the Women's Vote; (2021/2) – Baseball in California; (2022/3) – Technological innovations in California; (2023/4) – 90th Anniversary for the ending of Prohibition; (2024/5) – State symbols, animals, etc. Members discussed the use of QR codes on museum signage; could the technology be used in Capitol Park with the trees?

G. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

Bob Dreyer reported on the increase of foot traffic in the building due to the nice weather. The Association now has a Facebook page, full of pictures and information on anomalies throughout the building. In May, the Association will take a trip to Monterey to visit historic sites relevant to California history. There are currently no living history events planned.

IV. 2018 GOALS

Goal Area: Adoption by the Joint Rules Committee of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park

2018 Goal: Develop a Capitol Park Tree removal and replacement plan for day-to-day tree management for DGS

Goal Area: Adoption by the Joint Rules Committee of a Master Plan for Capitol Park

2018 Goal: TBD after all members study the Master Plan Initiation document

Goal Area: Assist and Advise on the East Annex Project

2018 Goal: Attend, offer testimony, and respond in writing to East Annex hearings, meet East Annex stakeholders, and respond in writing to published East Annex documents.

Motion: Ms. Peper

2nd: Ms. Garrett

Approved: Yes

Action: Chair to establish a subcommittee consisting of Chair Cowan, Ms. Deering, and Ms. Garrett to draft and send a letter to Joint Rules Committee Members, outlining additional considerations that would be necessary in deliberating the options, as provided by statute.

Goal Area: Creation of a Monument District near the Capitol

2018 Goal: Develop in 2018 the structure of the District and format of an MOU among agencies which would support such a District.

Ms. Deering distributed copies of an article on the city's Public Works Department's plans for redesigning Capitol Mall and provided a brief overview.

V. CURATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Benoit provided an updated on the website. It is close to going live; there is a short "to do" list of edits, additions, etc. still to be completed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Lenoil provided an update on the historic flag collection. She heard in November that the military department is ready to take possession of the flags. She has been trying, unsuccessfully, to schedule a meeting. She now has a contact name and number; her next step will be to contact the Adjutant General for direction. She is looking to have the key returned in case of an emergency.

Ms. Benoit and Ms. Lenoil addressed the Worsley manuscript. Ms. Lenoil discussed the recommendation of the State Archives Acquisitions Committee to acquire the manuscript for the State Archives. Members discussed the pros and cons of such a decision.

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Ms. Garrett

Approved: Yes

Action: Send letter to Mrs. Worsley, advising her of the Commission's recommendation to turn over the manuscript and other Capitol Restoration Project-related materials to the State Archives and include the Deed of Gift for her to sign.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Benoit distributed copies of the draft 2017 annual report. She will send it electronically as well and requested comments back by May 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24am.