

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
April 13, 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 2040, Sacramento, California on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 9:01am PST.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Greg Lucas  
Julianne Polanco

Visitors

Geanie Hollingsworth, 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  
Karen Lott, Department of General Services  
Thora Chaves, Department of Veteran Affairs  
Jack Striegel, Department of Veteran Affairs

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Deering  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Garrett  
Approved: Yes  
Action: Approval of January 2017 meeting minutes

**III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

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

Jack Striegel and Thora Chaves with the Department of Veteran Affairs updated members on the memorial's beautification project. The Medal of Honor wall has been cast and delivery to the site and installation is scheduled for next week. At the same time, *El Soldado* will be re-installed. Excavation of the ground is taking longer than planned due to a large amount of moisture in the soil; however, 95% of the soil has been compacted. The plaza area has been formed and concrete will soon be poured. Irrigation and plantings will follow. They are looking at a dedication date of after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Fundraising for the additional phases will take several years to complete.

## **B. Capitol Part Tree Research**

Commission member Paula Peper shared with members her PowerPoint presentation, "Capitol Park Trees: A Rare Asset." She discussed the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by the park's 864 trees (which represent 210 species). Ms. Peper also addressed concerns facing the aging tree population and proposed a tree management plan that would include the systematic removal, replacement and salvage of over-mature, high-risk trees in order to insure public safety and perpetuation of an arboretum-quality tree canopy. Members agreed that her presentation be offered to Department of General Services (DGS) staff, as well as Assembly Rules Chairman Ken Cooley, Secretary of the Senate Daniel Alvarez and Assembly Rules CAO Debra Gravert.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Geanie Hollingsworth with Assembly Facilities reported that the basement restaurant is scheduled to open by end of summer; work is still ongoing in the kitchen. The basement dining room is complete; all the furniture is in. Some of the tables are collapsible and some of the chairs are stackable to facilitate different seating configurations. The old art hanging system has been removed, so it appears as though legislator-sponsored art exhibits will no longer be on display. The 6<sup>th</sup> floor café is operating successfully since it reopened in January 2017. Assembly Rules staff is working on an interpretive plaque that will be affixed to the historic pillars at the West Entrance. Ms. Hollingsworth also reported on a specially-designated group that travelled to the Utah and Wyoming Capitols to discover creative ways other states create sufficient, safe spaces for legislative members and staff.

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

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

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

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that the dedication of the American Portuguese Veterans Memorial (AB 1652 Olsen and Valadao) is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>, although they have not yet broken ground. The bench is in production. Prominence will be given to the pavers with veterans names; the donor names will be placed on pavers beneath the bench. Armed Services emblems will be embedded on the back of the bench.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that the sponsors of the Mervyn Dymally bust (AB 2704 Gipson) plan on placing the piece in the vestibule of the Lt. Governor's office.

Ms. Benoit agreed to check with the California Fire Foundation for a status report on proposed modifications to the current Firefighters Memorial (AB 1980 Irwin). Ms. Benoit also reported on a new bill that would authorize construction of a memorial that would honor California Indigenous People (AB 983 Frazier).

## **B. Pending Projects**

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that Kathy Jacobson was working on editing the final list of trees from the tree tag project. Work is continuing on the Capitol Park Paver Project, which involves the installation of permeable pavers in the lawn. The south lawn work is complete; the same vendor has begun work on the north lawn. StanTec, the contractor for the central plant re-use water project, has completed working drawings. The project involves reusing cooling tower blow down water for irrigation at Capitol Park. The treatment will occur at the central plant, then blended at the park. Members asked if there can be control over various species. Appurtances necessary for tying into the existing irrigation systems are planned for placement on the South side, to the west of the CHP kiosk. Members asked if there was a way to avoid visual clutter.

A pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed changes to the Insectary public bathrooms. Due to concerns voiced by members at the January meeting, DGS has agreed to go with less institutional-designed materials. Mr. Tsuruoka agreed to forward the spec sheets. Members asked that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) be a part of the conversation in order to improve past changes in the restrooms.

Ms. Lott reported that she is working on the fan room project. The controls in the West Wing are obsolete, so DGS is updating them to be in synch with the East Wing rooms. They are also putting temperature controls in the air ducts.

## **D. New Projects**

Nothing to report.

### 2. Facilities Management Division

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

### 3. Capitol Park

Les Strike was not in attendance; Geanie Hollingsworth reported that DGS is replacing the camellias in the Civil War Grove. Once the vegetation has time to adjust and the weather subsides, they will look to replace several downed historic trees. Ms. Peper agreed to follow up with Mr. Strike. Several damaged benches are also being replaced.

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

Casey Hayden reported on staff changes. Matt Bellah is the Acting Superintendent, he is the Acting Sector Superintendent, and Ty Smith is the new Director of the Railroad Museum. They are currently updating their PORTS program (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) and hiring new staff to "up" their technology game. Mr. Consolini introduced himself as the Exhibit Designer/Coordinator and Collections Manager for the Mansion Sector.

Ms. Lenoil stated that May 2019 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad and there will be a plethora of activities and exhibits celebrating the anniversary. She agreed to act as liaison to the Commission and report on any events, etc.

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

Bob Dreyer reported that the Association is working with Mr. Consolini on funding repairs and other projects that need to be done in the museum rooms. They are in school mode now and very busy. Mr. Dreyer indicated that the Association would be pleased to participate in any of the railroad activities.

**V. 2016 GOALS**

Motion: Ms. Garrett  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Deering  
Approved: Yes  
Action: To approve the 2017 goals as outlined below  
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**A. Achievement and Adoption of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park**

Members: Cathy Garrett, Paula Peper

**B. Achievement of the Completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan**

Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering

**C. Assist and Advise on the East Annex Study**

Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering, Cathy Garrett

**D. Continue Collaboration with Other Agencies on Capitol View Protection and Creation of a Monument District**

Members: Dick Cowan, Roberta Deering (only as liaison with city folks), Greg Lucas

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Because the following information was not covered during the meeting, Ms. Benoit agreed to forward it to members in an email:

**Curator's Report**

I am conducting an inventory of all the loan/permanent collection paintings and historic furnishings throughout the Capitol so that all my files and lists are up-to-date.

We have a new Senate Minority Leader – Senator Patricia Bates (SD 36 – Laguna Hills, Encinitas). She replaces Senator Jean Fuller (SD 16 – Bakersfield, Yucca Valley).

This month's "Curator's Corner" in the Senate Operations Newsletter will focus on coastal scenes in the permanent collection.

I am still working on gathering entries from members for the 2017-18 contemporary art show.

### **Website**

Roberta and I plan on meeting with Mukhtar in Assembly Rules, who is putting the Commission's website together. We will review what has been done thus far and see how soon before we can go 'live' with it. There are still some items missing, as well as some layout issues I want to address.

### **2016 Annual Report**

Please review the draft report that was included in your meeting packet and get back to me with any changes, etc. Even if you don't have any changes, let me know it is ok. I sent an email to everyone with the annual report cover samples – please send in your votes.

### **Historic Flag Collection**

The California State Military Reserve has allocated space to store the flags and is ready to meet with other stakeholders. It's now just a matter of scheduling a meeting to discuss the conservator's report and address the condition of the flags and requirements for a collection move.

### **Legislative Counsel/Ethics Training**

Nothing to report.

### **New Business**

Bill of Rights Monument – I have spoken with the Executive Director of a non-profit group ([www.MyBillOfRights.org](http://www.MyBillOfRights.org)) whose mission is to raise awareness of the freedoms and principals in the Bill of Rights through the creation of privately funded monuments in civic spaces across America, starting with all 50 State Capitols. Currently, there is monument in Arizona, with three more projects approved at the Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama State Capitols. I have informed the Executive Director, Chris Bliss, of our moratorium and the proposed monument district, as well as the proposed East End Project. He is working with Assemblywoman Melendez's office on an Assembly Concurrent Resolution; Melendez has asked that Senator Pan be a co-author. I am keeping an eye out but I haven't seen anything come up yet. Mr. Bliss is well aware of the potential uphill battle this monument may have.

**Since we were unable to participate in John Allen's tour of the State Capitol Museum exhibit, I plan on scheduling it before the July 13<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, so the tour would start at 9:15 and the meeting start at 10.**