

Minutes  
Historic State Capitol Commission  
Commission Meeting  
April 14, 2011

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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 14, 2011 at approximately 9:34 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Stacey Aldrich  
Jay Correia (for Wayne Donaldson)  
Nancy Lenoil  
Luis Sanchez  
Janie Schwartz

Commissioners Absent

Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins

Visitors

Les Strike, Department of General Services  
Viletta Campbell, Department of General Services  
Dan Visnich, CA Capitol Historic Preservation Society

Koren Benoit, Executive Director/Curator and recording secretary

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

Mr. Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Ms. Schwartz

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

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the January 2011 meeting minutes.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Department of General Services**

**1. Project Management Branch**

Project Management Branch staff were not in attendance- rolled over to next meeting.

**2. Building and Property Management**

Les Strike provided an update on Capitol Park. Storms have played a positive role in making the park look well (there were no trees lost and only minor limb losses). Camphor trees at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street traffic circle are being trimmed and 2 large root bases are scheduled to be worked

on. The Irish Yews have been trimmed, bundled, and had their overall height lowered 5' which opens up the W-E corridor. Mr. Strike is working with Joint Rules and DGS on brick and concrete restoration and replacing the granite caulking around the north, south, east and west entrance landings and steps. Ed Forrest is the contractor; the job is slated to begin within 2 months. DGS will have oversight. The contractor will be replacing missing granite pieces as well as repairing one step that has migrated  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". After the project is completed, there will be a stricter code in place for bringing in large equipment and the necessary measures to protect the ground surfaces. The contractor will also be addressing the alkaline stains in the entrance arches. Overall cost: \$56,000. Mr. Strike will continue to check with the city regarding the 11<sup>th</sup> Street tree trimming.

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

Ms. Benoit reported that Parks is working on a plan to place the kiosks inside coming exhibits and abandoning the phone booth idea. District Director Cathy Taylor would like to attend the July meeting and provide an update.

### **C. California Mexican-American Veterans Memorial**

Ms. Benoit reported that a final design has been chosen. Preliminary plans have been completed and approved by SHPO and DSA. Working drawings are slated to be completed by May. If funding is in place, the committee will move forward in June with the bid process. Former Assemblywoman Mary Salas has been appointed to the committee. Marketplace Communications is assisting with the marketing aspects. A promotional video can be viewed on the memorial website and on Facebook. The Committee has also chosen the State Library as its repository for donations relating to the history of Mexican-American and Latino veterans as well as the Mexican War Mothers.

### **D. Senate and Assembly Facilities**

Ms. Benoit provided an update on new Annex office signage. The signage is more consistent, less cluttered and the design is in keeping with the architectural elements of the Annex. Mr. Visnich commended Mr. Cowan and Ms. Lenoil for their preservation stance against "wallpapering" the Capitol Annex corridors and urged the Commission to dissuade the Assembly on this proposed project. Mr. Correia relayed Mr. Donaldson's opinion on minimalism in mid-century modern architecture. After some discussion, members voted that Ms. Benoit would contact Mr. Feliz to convey the Commission's feeling informally, but unless the project was confirmed cancelled, the Commission would write to Joint Rules formally.

Motion: Ms. Schwartz

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

Approved: Yes

Action: For Ms. Benoit to explore how far the Annex corridor idea has progressed; if it has, draft a letter to the Assembly voicing the Commission's opposition.

Mr. Feliz showed up and provided samples of the new Assembly Annex signs (17" x 17"). He also informed members that DGS, as part of the infrastructure study, would be replacing an electrical panel on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Annex.

### **E. Goals/Subcommittee Reports**

1. Maintenance Plan – nothing to report.
2. Communication – Mr. Cowan provided an update on his meeting with Greg and Jon. They are still interested in the Master Plan, but timing is off to seek funding. In regards to amending Gov. Code 9149, they recommended limiting the East Annex to only corridors and public restrooms. Both were non-committal concerning the Commission attending budget hearings or informing the Commission on Annex projects. Ms. Benoit provided an update on the one-page memo that is sent to all legislative members following each quarterly meeting.
3. Capitol View Protection Plan – Mr. Sanchez stated that there have been stops and starts in regards to the city's initiative, but he will continue to follow up. Mr. Cowan reported on the architectural design competition for re-use of Capitol Mall. The Commission has asked to assist. Mr. Cowan has applied for the CAC Senate vacancy.
4. Park Memorials – Mr. Cowan provided a copy of written comments from his meeting with Sacramento City Parks Planning and Development and the City of Sacramento Department of Urban Design on "The California Memorial District." The purpose of the meeting was to discuss placing monuments around the city. The city and state need to identify sites (other than Capitol Park) that would be appropriate for memorials of statewide interest in order to discourage more monuments in the park. Mr. Cowan agreed to organize another meeting.

### **D. 9149 Amendment**

Members reviewed Mr. Cowan's and Mr. Donaldson's revision, which included the language "Any review of projects in the East Annex will be limited to those involving the historic spaces identified in the historic survey conducted by Page & Turnbull in the 2006 State Capitol Infrastructure Study." Mr. Cowan will review Mr. Donaldson's recommendation to reference Public Resources Code 5024 (all state agencies shall formulate policies to preserve and maintain all state-owned historical resources and provide an inventory to SHPO of all state-owned structures over 50 years of age under its jurisdiction) and 5024.5 (no state agency shall alter the original or significantly historical features or fabric of historical resources on the master list maintained by SHPO), make revisions (if necessary) and forward the new draft to Greg and Jon for their review.

### **E. Capitol Art Program**

Ms. Benoit provided an update on this year's contemporary show,

### **F. Other**

1. Painting study funding sources – Ms. Lenoil suggested sending a letter of introduction to State Parks Foundation, inviting them to attend a quarterly meeting. Ms. Benoit will draft. Mr. Correia suggested a future exhibit in the museum spaces. A subcommittee will follow-up with the Foundation.

2. Historic Capitol corner pillars – nothing to report.

3. CRP materials at the State Archives – Mr. Visnich read from a written statement, in which he asked for the following: (1) written justification on which records would remain sealed; (2) explanation of “Deed of Gift”; (3) any Legislative Counsel opinions; and (4) which CRP records will remain sealed. Ms. Lenoil explained that obvious records would remain restricted: personnel records, building design, blue prints, anything that could compromise security, etc. Ms. Lenoil explained the Deed of Gift process (transfers ownership of the record from whoever owns the record to the State Archives and is tailored for the particular type of record), as well as the Legislative Open Records Act (affects Committee files only). Members discussed ownership of the CRP records. Ms. Lenoil raised several concerns: (1) they can't process or do conservation work on materials not owned by the Archives; (2) the material is not being processed or catalogued according to archival standards; (3) it doesn't have the guide developed that it would normally have for an archival collection; and (4) the Archives does not normally accept collections that are not going to be opened. Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to Joint Rules requesting the restriction be lifted.

### **G. 35 year anniversary**

Ms. Benoit will contact Greg regarding a fee waiver for the rental of the basement cafeteria and rotunda. Ms. Lenoil mentioned a 2010 article in SacTown Magazine on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of construction. Members discussed possible anniversary dates; what about the laying of the cornerstone? Ms. Benoit will check with Rules on the availability of the cafeteria and rotunda.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Future presentations – Ms. Benoit provided an update on her conversations with the Sacramento Area History Network and the Sacramento Association of Museums.

2. Annual report – members reviewed cover options. Mr. Cowan to provide a revised cover letter and members will send 2011 goal ideas to Ms. Benoit. Some ideas: keep the 'Master Plan' goal, remove the 'increase outreach and visibility of the commission' goal, and include a goal dealing with memorial hearings and budget hearings.

3. July meeting scheduled for 7/14 at 9:30am.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mr. Sanchez

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

Approved: Yes

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:15am.