

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
April 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 113, Sacramento, California on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 9:08am 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

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
Casey Hayden, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
John Allen, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Ricardo Reyes, Department of Veterans Affairs
Sergio Mondragon-Lopez, Department of Veterans Affairs
John Feliz, Assembly Rules Facilities
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Rules Facilities

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Garrett

2nd: Ms. Peper

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the January 2016 meeting minutes.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update

Ricardo Reyes and Sergio Lopez with the Department of Veterans Affairs updated members on the memorial's beautification project. A phasing system is still being used for the memorial enhancement; fund-raising is also ongoing. Members were provided a revised diagram and plant list, which took into account the revisions recommended by Ms. Garrett and Ms. Peper for more native, drought-resistant plants. Vanir has been hired as the Project Manager. Veterans Affairs is working on obtaining regulatory approval as well as DSA approval; hope to receive within the next two weeks. Veterans Affairs is working with the Treasurer's Office and Department of General Services (DGS) on the walkway portion of the memorial.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senate and Assembly Facilities

John Feliz and Geanie Hollingsworth reported on the following:

1. Historic Capitol Gateposts – Mr. Tsuruoka provided a handout with photos on the removal and installation of the two historic gateposts. Civic Performance Concrete performed the removal and install. Each post weighed 22,000 lbs. The posts were cleaned, although some residual graffiti remains. DGS is researching a protective coating for each post to prevent future graffiti. Joint Rules is looking into interpretive plaques for the posts. Members discussed presenting a resolution to Christ the King Retreat. Ms. Benoit will follow up.

2. Pending Projects

Basement cafeteria – Joint Rules is still looking for a vendor for the cafeteria. Ms. Lott with DGS is the Project Manager. She is working on a contract for the demolition work. The dining room redesign is moving forward; the vending machines will be moved to the old dish drop-off area. The new design will incorporate historic elements, including books, the portico statuary models, redwood tables and doors with historic chicken wire. The new design may impact the art hanging system.

B. Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Project Management Development Branch

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on the following:

a. Memorials

American Portuguese Veterans (AB 146) – He is working with the contractor on final right of entry issues. The group would like to see the benches completed by June 10th, which is Portuguese History Day.

Ms. Benoit reported on two new bills relating to memorials:

1. Mervyn Dymally Bust – AB 2704 (Gipson)

Bill proposes a bust honoring Mervyn Dymally to be placed in the East Annex.

2. Firefighters Memorial – AB1980 (Irwin)

Bill proposes to prepare a plan to construct modifications to the existing memorial, which may include the construction of a new wall.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

2nd: Ms. Lenoil

Approved: Yes

Action: Ms. Benoit to draft a letter to the California Fire Foundation, reviewing comments previously made and supporting modifications that do not impinge on park visibility and are sustainable.

b. Pending Projects

1. Tree Tag project – Ms. Jacobson reported that the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) group has purchased 500 tags and 100 have already been installed.

Almost every species will be tagged except for those that are too small or short.

Incorrect screws were used,

so they were sent back to be replaced with a more vandalism-resistant variety. ECorp is installing the tags. Ms. Jacobson will provide the list of identified trees to the Commission, as well as the most recent arborist reports.

2. Irrigation, park zoning and control – Mr. Tsuruoka reported on smart irrigation controls for the weather station on site. The Commission has not yet 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.

4. Proposed East Annex Study – Mr. Tsuruoka reported that a steering committee has been established, consisting of DGS, Joint Rules and the Governor’s Office. Members discussed how to frame the question of looking at all options rather than “should we tear down the annex?” Members discussed concerns and weighed in on their opinions, which ranged from being sympathetic to the needs of staff to the loss of cultural landscape, not viewing the park as a void in which to put objects in to sustainability.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

2nd: Mr. Correia

Approved: Yes

Action: Ms. Garrett to draft a letter to the Governor and leadership outlining the Commission’s views and emphasizing considering a broad range of views, including use of other buildings, when considering the future of the East Annex.

c. New Projects – DGS is looking to replace to replace hardware and/or alarms at the West Wing entrance doors to allow exiting in case of emergency. Currently, doors are locked and Senate Sergeants or California Highway Patrol (CHP) must physically unlock them for exiting. Mr. Hayden commented on the lack of exit signs and no CHP presence in the West Wing. Ms. Sakai-Nesley is working on replacing the 6th floor lift near the cafeteria. Ms. Jacobson provided a handout and informed members of large scale plans to transform the Capitol Park landscape for a more drought-tolerant future. The plan includes replacing turf with low-water alternatives and permeable pavers at the traffic circle, and on the north, south, west and east lawns. The plan is temporary until the drought proclamation is lifted. The park uses 25 million gallons of water per year; savings could be over 1.6 million gallons yearly. The project should be completed by summer or early fall.

2. Building and Property Management

New name – Facilities Management Division; no report.

3. Capitol Park - Ms. Benoit will follow-up with Les Strike on more information on the audio files of former park superintendents.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Casey Hayden introduced himself. Matt Bellah is now District Superintendent. The WWII exhibit is closing April 25; the new exhibit, “Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your California State Library,” is scheduled to open on May 28th. Mr. Hayden will provide members information on the exhibit. Ms. Benoit brought up the historic flag

collection issue. She will send the case measurements to Mr. Hayden and schedule a separate meeting to discuss.

D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association (CSCMVA)

President Bob Dreyer reported that the North entrance information desk is now being manned by volunteers. They are busy with a large number of school groups. This Saturday is the Women's Suffrage living history event. The association is planning to attend a River Cats game this summer and a trip to Hearst Castle in October. The October living history event is on the elections and, in November, the association will celebrate its 35th anniversary.

V. 2016 GOALS

A. Achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan

Members discussed whether we should continue to move forward with the Master Plan in light of the East Annex issue; members agreed that we should. Ms. Deering recommended we look at the projects together and try to work in concert. Ms. Peper advised not doing things piecemeal; we need to plan ahead for the future. Ms. Garrett read the definition of a "master plan". **Motion: Ms. Peper**

2nd: Ms. Deering

Approved: Yes

Action: Mr. Cowan to draft a letter to the Joint Rules Committee to implore the restart of the Master Plan immediately and cite reasons expressed by Commission members. Include definition of what a master plan is.

B. Increase Outreach and Commission Visibility

Ms. Deering agreed to schedule a meeting with Mr. Cowan, Ms. Benoit and Mr. Lucas to work on outreach program.

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

We have not received a response from the letter we sent on the CalPERS project. Members discussed and agreed to uncouple the project from the Master Plan.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

2nd: Ms. Deering

Approved: Yes

Action: Mr. Cowan to draft a letter to Joint Rules Committee urging legislation to create a monument district to offer relief for Capitol Park.

VI. CAPITOL ART PROGRAM – Koren Benoit

A. Dusting Program

As part of Phase II, Northern CA Art Conservators have dusted and reviewed 23 portraits. Phase I, with 15 portraits, was completed in June 2014. The project includes photographs, and condition and treatment proposal reports. Conservators also removed a liquid spill on the Schwarzenegger portrait. DGS took advantage of having the portraits down and cleaned walls. Phase III will be to prioritize the 38 portraits, based on repairs needed on both the canvas and the frame, and then schedule the additional work.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. John Worsley/Manuscript

A publisher has not yet been found, despite the options provided at the January meeting. It was decided to put the project on the back burner for the time being.

B. Mike Casey/Artifacts

Nothing to report at this time. Ms. Benoit will check whether his business is still valid.

C. Insectary plaque

A letter was sent to Joint Rules Committee on March 2nd requesting a bronze plaque be purchased and installed (DGS to install); Rules is obtaining additional bids.

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

2nd: Ms. Peper

Approved: Yes

Action: To adopt the draft guidelines based on changes and edits accepted and send final draft to members for ok before sending to members. Send advance copy to Joint Rules, pro Tem and Speaker.

VIII. New Business

A. Annual Report

Members approved the draft 2015 annual report and voted on a cover choice (combine options #2 and #3 and remove map).

B. Conflict of interest requirements

Ms. Benoit informed members of her conversation with Legislative Counsel; should have more information at July meeting.

Ms. Garrett informed members that the Historic American Landscape Survey group of Northern California would be in Sacramento on May 7 for a tour (www.halsca.org).

Ms. Lenoil informed members of a new bill (SB 2674) that would do the following:

1. Establish an online Archives program which would make more records available to the public
2. Allow for the mounting of collections and exhibits online.
3. Provide the Archives with a stronger social media presence.

Motion: Ms. Lenoil

2nd: Ms. Garrett

Approved: Yes

Action: Ms. Benoit to draft a letter to the bill author on behalf of the Commission supporting the bill.

Ms. Lenoil also informed members of two new exhibits at the State Archives:

1. Voting in California
2. Whitaker and Baxter Inc.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2016.