

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 11, 2019

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, July 11, 2019 at 9:07 am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Roberta Deering
Greg Lucas
Tamara Martin
Paula Peper
Jay Correia (for Julianne Polanco)

Visitors

Phil Sexton, California State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Rules Facilities
Micky Chen, Department of General Services
Kathy Park, Department of General Services
Mike Nielsen, Department of General Services
Michelle Messinger, Office of Historic Preservation
Steve Stark, Page & Turnbull

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. The Recording Secretary took roll. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Deering
Second: Ms. Peper
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 quarterly meeting.

Motion: Ms. Martin
Second: Ms. Peper
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the minutes of the May 10, 2019 quarterly meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jesse Unruh Building design/build project

The special presentation by the project director planned for the meeting was cancelled. Members discussed the cultural resources review that ICF is conducting, in which they requested information on historical resources that the project may affect. Their May 24, 2019 letter referenced "modification" of the Capitol fountain. In the Commission's request for clarification, ICF responded that the EIR analyzed the decommissioning and removal of the fountain. Members discussed the significance of the fountain as part of the historic Capitol Extension Group. Members agreed to form a subcommittee to review and comment on the Draft EIR once it is released. Ms. Deering and Ms. Martin will serve on the subcommittee, along with Ms. Benoit. The public comment period is July 17 through August 30. Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to ICF, responding to their similar request on the Bateson building cultural resources review, informing them that the building is not in the Commission's purview.

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Mr. Correia

Approved: Yes

Action: On behalf of the Commission, the East Annex Subcommittee will respond in writing to the ICF letter on the Jesse Unruh Building by August 30.

B. East Annex Project

An environmental site assessment was conducted on the Capitol grounds June 10 – 12. Ms. Hollingsworth indicated that she has not received any information from the assessment; however, there have been conversations on staging, and meetings with Capitol Park Superintendent Mike Nielsen concerning which trees are to be saved, how to work around them, the overall health of the trees, etc.

Copies of the Capitol Visitor/Welcome Center RFQ and RFP had previously been sent to members, along with the Capitol Annex newsletter. Ms. Benoit distributed a list of additional resources on the Annex project. Ms. Hollingsworth stated that Legislative Counsel has mandated them not to discuss the RFQs, etc. They have received RFQ submittals for the visitor center, which are currently under review. They are working with an aggressive timeline.

C. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Ms. Benoit distributed materials relating to the Senate electronic voting board. The Senate plans to replace the board in the fall. The current board is too small and the electronics are obsolete; in addition, Members whose desks are along the far right and left sides of the floor have a diminished view. The board was last replaced in 2011. The proposed replacement would require modifications to the top valance. The existing valance is an attempt to recreate what was there originally; members agreed to the modifications proposed. Members asked that every effort be made to save as much of the valance as possible, keep the separate line of trim, and keep the tassels.

The Assembly is completing minor carpet repairs and painting projects during the Summer Recess.

Members discussed the Wood Wizard proposal for work on the Capitol historic doors. The proposed project includes work on the wood and paint, cleaning of the door hardware, and cleaning of the granite stoops. According to Ms. Hollingsworth, the door repairs are part of a regular maintenance program. Ms. Deering expressed concern that the Commission was not informed about the work earlier, which led to a discussion on Capitol maintenance programs in general. Ms. Benoit agreed to look at the Commission statute to determine the extent of the Commission's purview, as regular repairs and maintenance can result in a physical change. Members discussed the following and decided to engage DGS and State Parks in a review of maintenance policy and procedures in October:

1. How to obtain more information on maintenance schedules;
2. How to formulate questions concerning interior and exterior elements;
3. How to determine whether these elements have periodic inspections; and,
4. How do Senate/Assembly Facilities and the Department of General Services approach them?

D. Department of General Services (DGS)

Ms. Benoit provided an update on SCR 31, the Willie L. Brown Circle and Plaza, and the Mervyn Dymally bust. Members asked Ms. Benoit to ensure that the statuary guidelines were met concerning the bust.

Architectural consultant Page & Turnbull is continuing its work on the water intrusion problem at the West Wing porticos. The State Archives was unable to find anything conclusive regarding identifying if any original marble was on the West portico. The scope has remained the same: remove the existing flooring and membrane, clean up the edging, and add new drains, which will drain into the existing drain system. Downspouts on all three porticos will be custom made to fit the space, and be made of copper, plated with proprietary coating that will oxidize to dark gray to match the granite. Ms. Deering asked that they try to minimize the amount of drilling.

The Senate and Assembly have opted against pursuing options for accommodating egress, or both egress and ingress, from the West entrance. The West entrance is now open for egress only; a CHP officer is on site during normal business hours.

E. Capitol Park

Mike Nielsen reported that they have completed the removal of the large American elm at 13th and L Streets and the topping of the sequoia at N Street (between 10th and 11th). Due to structural issues, a witch elm in the Civil War Grove will be removed in the fall. It will not be replaced in kind, but perhaps something from the battlefield or from box elder cuttings. The cactus garden is expanding; the main garden will have four surrounding gardens. A redwood on the south side will be trimmed down to a safer height. Mr. Nielsen will be meeting with Ms. Peper to discuss significant trees and their future in

the park. He plans to start discussions on permanent homes for the trees that UC Davis is growing for the park. DGS is upgrading their electrical equipment and storage area for the new equipment. The State Archives has a student who will work on transcribing the tapes of interviews with past park superintendents.

IV. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

Bob Dreyer reported that the new volunteer class, with approximately 20 volunteers, is starting next week. The Association currently has over 100 trained volunteers; they average about 100 hours per year. The group is planning a field trip to Sonoma to visit the home of General Vallejo.

V. 2019 Goals

GOAL AREA: Adoption by the Joint Committee on Rules of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park. **2019 Goal:** Continue to develop and execute a Capitol Park Tree removal and replacement plan for day-to-day tree management for DGS. **Membership:** Commissioners Peper and Martin

GOAL AREA: Adoption by the Joint Committee on Rules of a Master Plan for Capitol Park. **2019 Goal:** Ensure inclusion of a Capitol Park Master Plan within the scope of the East Annex Project. **Membership:** Commissioners Cowan and Martin.

GOAL AREA: Assist and advise on the East Annex Project. **2019 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. **Membership:** Commissioners Deering and Martin.

GOAL AREA: Creation of a Monument District near the Capitol. **2019 Goal:** Develop in 2019 the structure of the District and format of an MOU among agencies that would support such a District. **Membership:** Commissioners Deering, Lucas and Martin.

Ms. Deering asked whether a maintenance plan might be a possible 2020 goal. Ms. Benoit agreed to pull files on the previous maintenance subcommittee.

VI. Curator's Report

The Commission website has been updated to include the Capitol Park tree management plan with Ms. Peper's PowerPoint presentation, assessment and recommendation, as well as the Capitol Park tree replacement program and DGS video. Ms. Benoit is working on an inventory of artwork and furniture in the East Annex that will be affected by the annex project. She will be sitting on an interview panel for a new State Capitol Museum custodian. She will also be providing a PowerPoint presentation on the art and furniture program to the new State Capitol Museum volunteer class.

VII. Miscellaneous

The State Archives is still researching whether materials pulled from an estate sale of architect Robert B. Mathews, who worked with Welton Becket and Associates on the Capitol Restoration Project, are public records.

VIII. New Business

Members discussed the Wings of the City sculpture installation, a series of large-scale sculptures installed along Capitol Mall in March. Ms. Deering recommended that the Commission keep this project in mind should there be a public comments phase for future Capitol Mall projects. Members decided that there was no need to comment at this late phase.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33.