

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 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 3191, Sacramento, California on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 9:03am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Roberta Deering
Nancy Lenoil
Greg Lucas
Paula Peper
Julianne Polanco

Commissioners Absent

Cathy Garrett

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
John Allen, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Jack Striegel, Department of Veterans Affairs
Sergio Mondragon-Lopez, Department of Veterans Affairs
Bob Ruffner, Senate Rules Facilities
Jeff Cruz, Department of General Services
Jay Correia, State Historic Preservation Office
Barbara Hubbard, pro Tem's Office
Trish Fontana, Senator Block's Office
Michael Bennett, Department of General Services (grounds)
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Vernon Nodohara, 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 9:03 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Mr. Lucas

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the April 2016 meeting minutes.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial update

Jack Striegel and Sergio Lopez with the Department of Veterans Affairs updated members on the memorial's beautification project. Members were provided revised diagrams. A phasing system is still being used for the memorial enhancement; the first part will be the walkway portion (which includes additional lighting), the second portion will be the enhancement project. Fund-raising is ongoing; the group has \$171,000 on hand, \$21,000 in contingency funds, but need \$220,000 to fund the

complete project. Current funds will cover improvements to the statue, repairs to the vandalized rifle, and construction of the Medal of Honor wall. A September fundraising event is being held to acquire funds to complete the plaza. Vanir Construction has been hired as the Project Manager; Department of General Services (DGS) will start direct construction in August. Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to complete the project, including the Mother's Garden, by Veterans Day 2016.

B. State Capitol Museum

John Allen provided a PowerPoint presentation on the museum's new exhibit, "Out of the Vault: Treasures from Your California State Library", how the exhibit came together, and a history of the State Library. Ms. Lenoil mentioned two new exhibits currently on display at the State Archives: *Campaigns, Inc.: Government by Whitaker and Baxter*, and *Power of the People: Voting in California 1850-2016*.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Bob Ruffner and Vernon Nodohara reported on the following:

1. Basement cafeteria – Joint Rules has identified a vendor for the cafeteria and is currently negotiating the contract. They are also negotiating with a design firm for the dining room. Carey and Company are the architectural engineers for the project. The goal is to be completed by January 2017. Ms. Lott with DGS is the Project Manager.
2. 6th floor lift - Ms. Sakai-Nesley reported that work on the 6th floor lift should be completed by the end of July.
3. Historic Pillars - Joint Rules staff is working on an interpretive plaque to be installed on the historic pillars.

B. Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Project Management Development Branch

A. Memorials

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that the fundraising for the American Portuguese Veterans Memorial is complete. He is waiting for the final list of names (sponsors and veterans). They are getting close to construction, which should take 30-40 days. Mr. Tsuruoka will provide the draft layout for Mr. Cowan to share with Joint Rules.

Ms. Benoit provided an update on several bills relating to new memorials:

1. Mervyn Dymally Bust – AB 2704 (Gipson)

This bill proposes a bust honoring Mervyn Dymally to be placed in the East Annex. The bill is next scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations.

2. Firefighters Memorial – AB1980 (Irwin)

This bill proposes to prepare a plan to construct modifications to the existing memorial, which may include the construction of a new wall. The bill is next scheduled to be heard in Senate Appropriations.

Motion: Mr. Lucas

2nd: Ms. Lenoil

Approved: Yes

Action: Ms. Benoit to draft a letter to the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee repeating comments previously made and supporting modifications that do not impinge on park visibility and are sustainable.

3. International Genocide Memorial – AB2790 (Nazarian)

This bill would authorize DGS to apply to Joint Rules for an exemption to allow siting and construction if the Capitol Park Master Plan is not approved or adopted on or before January 1, 2021. The bill is next scheduled to be heard in Senate Governmental Organization.

B. Pending Projects

1. Tree Tag project

Ms. Jacobson reported that the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) has purchased 500 tags, and all but 35 have been installed (the 35 were to be placed on trees that are too small or had died, so replacement trees are being identified). The Club has expressed interest in continuing to raise funds to tag all the trees in Capitol Park. Ms. Jacobson will provide the list of tagged trees to the Commission, as well as the most recent arborist reports. She indicated that these reports have recommended increasing water.

2. Irrigation, park zoning and control

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on smart irrigation controls for the weather station on site. The Governor's proposed budget includes bringing recycled water into the park. The design for the paver project (permeable pavers on the north, south, west and east lawns) is complete for the North, South and West lawns, which will result in a 50% reduction of lawn in these areas. DGS has received approval from DSA; construction is slated to begin in September. Members discussed the use of recycled water and how changes in watering introduce bark beetles, which recognize drought stress in trees. Ms. Benoit reported that Les Strike advised her that the soil is in good condition. They are taking good care of the trees. In regards to the recycled water project, he recommended having strong baseline data on file before beginning, especially with soil samples.

3. Historic Capitol Pillars

The pillars were cleaned and graffiti removed on 7/12 & 7/13. Rukhala will apply a graffiti sealant next, but it should not affect the texture or color of the granite.

4. West Entrance Hardware

Due to security concerns voiced by the Assembly and Senate Sergeants, this project has been dropped.

5. East Annex Project

Mr. Tsuruoka reported that a governance committee has been established, consisting of Finance, DGS, Joint Rules and the Governor's Office. The group will be examining either reconstruction of the existing Annex or building a new Annex. If CEQA exempts the project, it will not go through the State Historic Preservation Office. Teresa Kaneko is the project director.

C. New Projects

A new native plant garden is planned for the mulched area on the East lawn. Ms. Lott reported that, as part of the ongoing Infrastructure fan project, she is removing and adding fan walls in the West Wing, similar to what was done in the East Annex, so that the entire building will be on the same system.

2. Facilities Management Division

Nothing to report.

3. Capitol Park Superintendent

Ms. Benoit reported that the insectary plaque has been installed. Les Strike has provided her with 4 cassette tapes and she will arrange for transcripts to be made. Ms. Benoit also made a copy of a binder that Mr. Strike has on the Capitol Christmas trees.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

John Allen reported that there is an increase in summer tours, particularly out-of-state and international visitors. Staff has started to work on the next exhibit, a history of California mapping. Objects will be pulled from the State Archives and State Library collections.

D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association (CSCMVA)

President Bob Dreyer reported that the West and North entrance information desks are being manned by volunteers. They are busy with a large number of summer groups, particularly international visitors. They have produced self-tour guides in many different languages. Upcoming events include September 9 admission day, and elections living history in October. The Association is planning to attend a River Cats game this summer and a trip to Hearst Castle in October. In November, the Association will celebrate its 35th anniversary.

V. 2016 GOALS

A. Achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan

Ms. Peper agreed to share mitigation information with Ms. Jacobson and Mr. Tsuruoka. Ms. Deering suggested adding a 25 year plan to the Master Plan for trees that need to be added back to the park. There is a moratorium on new plantings at this time. DGS confirmed that they are not replacing trees. Members discussed whether there were things that the Commission could do to promote the Master Plan, perhaps re-address the Initiation Document Table of Contents and identifying parts that could be funded, or parts that address both the Master Plan and the East Annex Project. Mr. Cowan mentioned an upcoming meeting with State Parks; perhaps they could act in an advisory role.

B. Increase Outreach and Commission Visibility

Mr. Visnich recommended that the Commission look for a legislator that would be a champion for the Commission, someone that would give the Commission more "teeth." Would that require new legislation?

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

Mr. Cowan stated that Joint Rules has expressed an interest in finding out how monument districts are created elsewhere. The Commission has been informed of an expert in Washington, D.C. (Marcel Acosta, National Capitol Planning Commission Executive Director). There was discussion of the State Library hosting a forum and inviting Mr. Acosta to speak. Mr. Lucas agreed to speak with Assemblyman Ken Cooley's Chief of Staff.

VI. CAPITOL ART PROGRAM – Koren Benoit

A. Dusting Program

As part of Phase II, Northern CA Art Conservators 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.

The current contemporary art show will come down in September; the next show is scheduled for May 2017. Fall recess projects include updating the furniture inventory, cleaning up LOB storage and dusting artwork (Speaker's office is complete; there are 30 paintings in Assembly offices and 82 paintings in Senate offices).

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Historic Flag Collection

Ms. Benoit reported that a conservator is scheduled to do an assessment on July 21st. The report will be paid for by the California State Military Reserve. McClellan may no longer be an option for storage; there is discussion of perhaps the new military museum at B and 28th streets.

B. Re-review of adopted statutory guidelines

Members approved the changes and thought it a good idea to add the issue of for-profit names.

Motion: Ms. Oropeza

2nd: Ms. Peper

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the revised statutory guidelines.

C. Mike Casey/Artifacts

Ms. Benoit reported that the phone number of the company is no longer in service; the domain name is obsolete. Mr. Visnich offered to provide contact information on the widow.

D. Rocklin Quarry

Ms. Benoit reminded members that Mr. Visnich had previously mentioned that the town of Rocklin was threatening a landmark by constructing a commercial area at the granite quarry site of California Granite co. The State Historic Preservation Office was to be reviewing the issue. Ms. Oropeza agreed to look into the issue. The quarry is on the National Register of Historic Places (ID#12000375).

VIII. New Business

A. Conflict of interest requirements

Ms. Benoit informed members that Legislative Counsel is still reviewing any conflict of interest requirements that may affect Commission members.

B. Miscellaneous

Ms. Lenoil informed members of the upcoming Archives Crawl, "Thirst for History."

Ms. Deering announced her retirement, effective September 2016.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 noon. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016.