

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 17, 2014

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, July 17, 2014 at 9:10 am PST.

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair

Commissioners Present

Cathy Garrett
Nancy Lenoil (Melodi Andersen attending)
Greg Lucas
Carol Roland-Nawi (Jay Correia attending)

Commissioners Absent

Luis Sanchez
Janie Schwartz

Visitors

Lia Lopez, Assembly Rules Committee
Teresa Kaneko, Department of General Services
Kathy Jacobson, Department of General Services
Viletta Campbell, Department of General Services
Les Strike, Department of General Services
Bob Ruffner, Senate Facilities
John Feliz, Assembly Facilities
Alex King, President, State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
John Allen, State Parks
Matt Bellah, State Parks
Trish Fontana, Senator Roth's office

Koren Benoit, Executive Director and recording secretary

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Lucas
2nd: Ms. Andersen
Approved: Yes, with edit
Action: To approve the January 2014 meeting minutes with spelling correction to Ms. Andersen's name

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

Association President Alex King informed members of ongoing training, both with research and extra investigative efforts in the historic rooms. October 18th is the Election Day living history event. The

Association currently has 110 members; a small training class is expected in February. The Association plans on approaching Joint Rules about taking over the East Annex north entrance information kiosk.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Department of General Services (DGS) Project Management Development Branch

1. Capitol Park Master Plan – Ms. Kaneko reported on the recent meeting with interested folks concerning the Master Plan proposal. The proposal advances the idea of a legislatively-led master plan effort, drawing on State Parks' and DGS talents, but taking advantage of the flexibility the Legislature has in procurement. A legislative funding source has been identified for the first year's efforts - \$350,000. There are continuing discussions between DGS, State Parks and the Governor's office.

2. Memorials

a. American-Portuguese Veterans Memorial - Ms. Kaneko provided copies of a preliminary document that outlines the use of additional pavers and the replacement of existing metal benches with granite benches. No additional legislation is needed as these modifications are in keeping with the original design. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) will determine placement of the benches. Plaques will incorporate 1" font size/all caps. Ms. Garrett suggested continuing the plaques (without seats) behind the flag groups to visually continue the design. The Portuguese American Veterans Club is moving forward with the bench/paver idea for the Portuguese memorial. Members discussed the need for a development plan and establish a hierarchy.

Motion: Mr. Lucas

2nd: Ms. Andersen

Approved: Yes

Action: To send a letter to CDVA requesting they adopt and publish their plan for the development , including a hierarchy of appropriate recognition, of the All Veterans Memorial, prior to any additional pavers or benches being installed (cc: Governor, Portuguese club, Assemblywoman Olson).

b. Firefighters Memorial – Ms. Benoit shared the Legislative Counsel opinion that recommended new authorizing legislation to expand or alter the existing memorial. Ms. Benoit agreed to speak with Donna Durham upon her return.

c. Search and Rescue – Ms. Kaneko provided an update on the meeting held previous in the week with Matt Scharper, Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement Branch, State Search and Rescue Coordinator, and Jeff Joling, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Lieutenant, Emergency Operations Division, Volunteer Forces. Mr. Lucas will speak with Senator Vidak (appointee to the committee) and Bill Emmerson (author of the bill).

3. Infrastructure – Nothing to report.

4. Projects

a. Governor's Office – The office is interested in doing their own energy assessment, focusing on lighting and plug loads. The ceiling structure is affecting the energy assessment.

b. Tree Tags – Ms. Jacobson will follow up with the California Federation of Women's Clubs to get a better idea of their fundraising efforts.

c. Pillars – Ms. Kaneko reported that they have identified funding through Joint Rules Committee. The governor's office has concerns over the final look of the pillars (missing finials and decorative ironwork), so she is working with John Feliz on obtaining cost estimates to replicate these elements.

5. Capitol Park

Les Strike provided an update on the park. They have declared a drought emergency and are cutting back on the water delivery system. The lawns will be reseeded once DGS has an opportunity to turn the water back on. The trees are being watered. At this time, DGS is not replacing anything that dies. In the future, they will look at drought tolerant plants. There is signage in the park alerting visitors. Mr. Strike also reported on the damaged copper Liberty Bell plaque. He is recommending that the plaque be replaced with a bronze plaque (DGS will bear the cost). The original plaque will be turned over to the Archives. Jay Correia and Ms. Garrett will provide metal contacts to Mr. Strike. Mr. Ruffner brought up the possibility of artificial turf. It is expensive and requires watering for maintenance.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Matt Bellah reported on lighting in the historic rooms. Staff is trying to find a balance between aesthetics (historically dark), artifacts (conservation) and being more visible per ADA standards. Some of the bulbs have been replaced with LED lights. The museum technician/custodian is taking readings for relative humidity and temperature. The lighting has received mostly positive comments. Environmental data loggers will be used in each museum room to download data for room conditions. Mr. Cowan asked Mr. Bellah to plot out attendance, looking ahead 20-30 years.

D. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Mr. Ruffner reported on the bike rack. The original bids came in extremely high (\$365,000), so they scaled it back to \$125,000, which was still too high. The result is a dramatically scaled back project – extending the south side bike rack and adding racks in front of the Legislative Office Building. The job should be completed by August. Mr. Feliz reported that he is working with DGS on finding fabricators who can do the granite carving for the pillar finials and replace the missing elements, then providing an estimate. There may be available granite in the DGS yard. Mr. Feliz presented a proposal from the Assembly Sergeants to add signage outside the committee rooms prohibiting food and drink. After some discussion, the proposal was tabled. Mr. Feliz reported that the wall of Speaker's portraits on the 3rd floor has been well received. Mr. Ruffner informed members of the dais camera project, which would clean up the wall and mounting apparatus of the two side wall-mounted cameras. Joint Rules is working with DGS on refinishing the West Wing bathroom stall doors.

E. Goals

1. Develop a practical and appropriate mechanism to achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan – already discussed.
2. Sustain outreach and visibility of the Commission – nothing to report.
3. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and creation of a monument district - Mr. Cowan reported on behalf of Mr. Sanchez. During the last several months, they have spoken with city councilmembers, city parks staff, transportation staff, capital area development staff and regional transit staff on declaring a monument district within the city of Sacramento. There is still not clarity on the mechanism, although the thought is to begin with state properties. Legislation should be drafted, with DGS taking the lead effort among the different agencies that control state property.
4. Complete and see adopted guidelines for a statuary policy – Ms. Benoit updated members on the Reagan statue. The circular benches in the lower rotunda will remain, and signage will be inscribed in the bench seats. A January/February install date is being considered. No location has yet been determined for the Columbus as a Young Man statue.

F. Capitol Art Program

Ms. Benoit advised members of the ongoing cleaning and dusting project for the governors' portraits. The 2013-14 contemporary show will be dismantled in early September.

G. Other

Ms. Benoit reported on several miscellaneous issues, including John Worsley's digital manuscript, which consists of 27+ chapters. The family owns the copyrights. Mr. Worsley's personal restoration project materials will eventually be given to the State Archives. Mike Casey's widow intends to turn over his materials to the Archives as well. The State Treasurer's office will provide an update on their security project at the October meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cowan discussed the DGS-prepared "California State Capitol Park Interim Policy." Ms. Kaneko stated that DGS needs some latitude in the replacement of benches and trees.

Motion: Ms. Garrett

2nd: Mr. Correia

Approved: Yes

Action: To include language concerning the donation of trees, plaques and benches in the letter to CDVA that addresses holding the line on veteran memorials

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.