

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 9, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of the Historic State Capitol Commission, held pursuant to due notice, at State Capitol, Room 2040, Sacramento, California on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 9:05am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Roberta Deering
Nancy Lenoil (Melodi Andersen attending)
Greg Lucas
Paula Peper
Julianne Polanco

Commissioners Absent

Cathy Garrett

Visitors

Alex King, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Bill White, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Jeff Tsuruoka, Department of General Services
Matt Bellah, State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Jack Striegel, Department of Veterans Affairs
Mirtha Villarreal, Department of Veterans Affairs
Danielle Chapman, Department of Veterans Affairs
Sergio Mondragon-Lopez, Department of Veterans Affairs
John Suesens, Quadriga
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Curtis Raulinaitis, Assemblyman Wilk's office
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Rules
Edward (last name?), Assemblyman McCarthy's office
Mark Rossow, Assemblyman Garcia'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 9:05 am. The recording secretary read the roll. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves. The new Senate appointee, Paula Peper, and the new State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco, provided brief backgrounds.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Deering
2nd: Ms. Anderson
Approved: Yes
Action: To approve the April 2015 meeting minutes.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Ronald Reagan Statue

Curtis Raulinaitis, with Assemblyman Wilk's office, provided an update on the Reagan statue. The statue was installed in the lower rotunda on Friday, June 19 and the unveiling ceremony took place on Monday, June 22. Ms. Benoit distributed copies of the Sacramento Bee article on the ceremony. Commission members emphasized the need for the Ronald Reagan Foundation to retain adequate funds for maintenance. A duplicate statue will be installed in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in the fall. The former statue, *Columbus as a Young Man*, will be relocated.

B. Mexican-American Veterans Memorial Beautification and Enhancement Project

Jack Striegel and Mirtha Villarreal with Cal Vet and John Suesens with Quadriga provided Commission members a presentation on planned improvements to the Mexican-American Veterans Memorial. Mr. Suesens distributed drawings. They are pursuing an "additive alternate"; i.e. three monetary phases where each phase appears as though it is finished (Base Project - \$300,000, Community Wall, Mothers Wall, Full Project [landscaping and site improvements]). The overall design is based on an intentional destination concept as opposed to an accidental one. Quadriga has made some fabric changes; for example, the walls will be cast stone instead of white granite. The cast stone will match the Unruh building façade (the walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are also cast stone). Decorative notches on top of the wall will discourage skateboarders. The location of the Medal of Honor listing will allow for up to 61 additional names. The height of 'El Soldado' will not change. Members discussed the proposed planting program, which includes an awareness of maintenance concerns and water use restrictions but does not include the use of ground covers. Ms. Deering requested a copy of the planting list.

Motion: Ms. Deering

2nd: Mr. Lucas

Approved: Yes

Action: To approve the concept and phasing as presented with the caveat of looking more in-depth at the plantings while valuing the historical landscape.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senate and Assembly Facilities

Bob Ruffner and Geanie Hollingsworth reported that the new Wi-Fi access points have been installed in the Legislative Chambers, 1st floor committee rooms, leadership offices and basement to provide better coverage and more secure and faster service.

Ms. Hollingsworth informed members that estimates for relocating two historic pillars to the West entrance came in too high and they are looking at various cost-saving measures to bring the expense closer to their original estimate of \$86,000 (approx. \$30,000 in potential savings).

The lower level cafeteria is being gutted and redesigned, including the eating areas, and will include new furniture and carpet. Joint Rules is looking at a "Farm-to-Fork" theme. The new vendor will provide catering services for the building's occupants. Joint Rules is having a difficult time obtaining bids.

B. Department of General Services (DGS)

Jeff Tsuruoka provided an update on various memorials. The American Portuguese Veterans group has final drawings on hand, but they are still in the fundraising mode; they need \$85,000. There was nothing to report on the Search and Rescue, Firefighter's or Genocide memorials. Ms. Benoit updated members on SJR 4 (Sally Ride Statue).

DGS has almost completed the Governor's Office energy upgrade. The upgrades include LED lighting, motion sensors, and wireless switches. The upgrades cost approx. \$500,000. DGS has applied for a SMUD rebate.

Mr. Tsuruoka reported on behalf of Kathy Jacobson regarding the California Federation of Women's Clubs tree tag proposal. They are still raising funds. Ms. Benoit will draft a letter to the Federation requesting clarification on the current plans.

Repairs to the 2nd floor West portico doors by Blue Line Engineering will begin Monday, July 20th. Work will be done on site and should take approx. three days. Modifications are being made to the East Annex restrooms (similar to West Wing with low flow toilets) although the Annex restrooms require more physical alterations.

The Governor's office has convened a group of professionals to address the bare areas in Capitol Park that used to be planted with annuals. DGS will use cardboard and mulch to protect the areas for future plantings. Mr. Tsuruoka will provide the Commission with a copy of the arborist's current report on the park. Mr. Cowan suggested rethinking the zoning in order to save the trees in Capitol Park, and asked Mr. Tsuruoka to return with recommended zoning and control for tree irrigation.

C. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum

Matt Bellah reported that Members will be treated to a tour of the new exhibit "Called to Action: California's Role in WWII" by guest curator Dan Sebby. Museum staff is working with State Library staff on installing a portion of their Panama Pacific

International Exhibit (PPIE) at the State Fair, along with elements from the library's collection. The current exhibit is now on the museum's website.

D. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

Ms. Benoit provided members copies of the final design of the penny smasher souvenir machine along with four design proposals. The Association will retain 50% of the proceeds; the company takes care of maintenance and insurance. Members approved the four designs but suggested that the machine be stained darker. Bob Dreyer, Volunteer Association President, provided an overview of the volunteer association and indicated that a new training session will start in June/ July with 19 applicants. September 9 is Admission Day and the October living history event will celebrate Women's Suffrage. Mr. King asked about signage at the West North and South doors alerting visitors to the entrance pavilions.

V. Goals

1. Develop a practical and appropriate mechanism to achieve the completion of the Capitol Park Master Plan – Chair Cowan reported that he will draft the RFP for project manager candidates. Funds will be held by Legislative Counsel on behalf of the Commission, and contracts will be drafted and reviewed by Legislative Counsel, but held by the Commission.
2. Sustain outreach and visibility of the Commission – Ms. Benoit will continue to send out quarterly memos to members. The 2014 annual report was distributed in June.
3. Continue collaboration with other agencies on Capitol View Protection and creation of a monument district - no update to report at this time. Mr. Lucas mentioned broadening the proposal to included state-wide state-owned properties.
4. Statuary policy – nothing to report.

VI. Capitol Art Program

Ms. Benoit updated members on various projects:

The Contemporary Art Show is to be installed on July 10th. There are 28 Senators participating. A catalogue is being produced.

A Frederick Butman painting in the Capitol Art Program's loan collection is included in an exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art on Lake Tahoe. The show will run from August 22, 2015 – January 10, 2016 and records the history of Lake Tahoe, Donner Pass and the surrounding Sierra, the largest survey of the region to date. KNPB public television is producing a documentary on the exhibit and behind-the-scenes; as part of the documentary, they filmed the de-installation of the Butman painting. The film will include interviews with Ms. Benoit, the Nevada Museum of Art registrar and an Atthowe spokesperson.

A new class of Museum volunteers is currently undergoing training. Ms. Benoit will provide training on the art and furnishings collection the week of August 10th.

Ms. Benoit met with former Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonier regarding the Women in California Politics (WICP), a 501.c.3 non-profit private operating foundation that aims to preserve the history of the first 100 years of women elected to serve in the California Legislature. Ms. Mojonier, who is spearheading the effort, is obtaining oral histories. Visit WICP100.org for more information.

DGS has extended their agreement with Northern California Art Conservators thru June 30, 2016 to complete Phase II (written condition report, treatment received, and proposed treatment with photo documentation) for 22 governors' portraits.

VII. Miscellaneous

Mr. Cowan reported that he has not been able to identify a state agency that could publish John Worsley's manuscript on the restoration project, but the American Institute of Architects has agreed to take it to their board. Mr. Lucas is in discussions with the California Historical Society.

Ms. Benoit reported on the Caltrans negatives project. Mr. Lucas informed members that he has received funding for a preservation department and a preservation librarian. She also informed members that DGS Office of Public Affairs has uploaded on their website a special story on the insectary.

Ms. Benoit provided an update on the Archives and flag projects. Legislative Counsel has provided informal advice concerning the historic flags. In a nutshell, it was not possible to definitely ascertain ownership of the flags due to the fact that there are no documents tracing each flag and there are no California statutes that specifically answer the question of ownership. The Military Department is the state agency that most logically bears responsibility for the collection, based on the general statutory scheme in the Military and Veterans Code. There is some responsibility on the part of State Parks. As for the Archives project, both the Legislature and State Parks are working on identifying those objects/items that should be removed from the Archives. There are a few items still to be addressed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2015.