

Minutes
Historic State Capitol Commission
Quarterly Meeting
January 11, 2018

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, January 11, 2018 at 9 am PST.

Commissioners Present

Presiding: Dick Cowan, Chair
Cathy Garrett
Nancy Lenoil
Paula Peper
Julianne Polanco

Commissioners Absent

Roberta Deering
Greg Lucas
Absent
Koren Benoit, Executive
Director and Recording
Secretary

Visitors

John Allen, California State Parks, State Capitol Museum
Phil Sexton, California State Parks, Capitol District
Karen Lott, Department of General Services
Dan Visnich, California Capitol Historic Preservation Society
Tim Price, Senate Facilities
Geanie Hollingsworth, Assembly Facilities
Bob Dreyer, California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association
Les Strike, Department of General Services
Leslie Sakai-Nesley, Department of General Services

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

Chairman Cowan called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Polanco
2nd: Ms. Peper
Approved: 4 ayes; Ms. Garrett abstained since she was not present at previous meeting,
no nays

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senate and Assembly Facilities – Geanie Hollingsworth & Tim Price

Tim Price with Senate Facilities reported that the carpet replacement in the Senate Chamber is complete, and they have replaced the internet connection to the Members' desks to allow for a smaller tower at the floor, which is less visible.

Geanie Hollingsworth with Assembly Facilities reported that the basement dining room work should be complete in the next few weeks. Kitchen work should be completed soon with the

restaurant opening February 15, 2018; it will include online ordering capability and a grille for custom orders. The 6th floor café will reduce its menu to a grab-and-go format. Ms. Hollingsworth reported that the interpretive plaque has been installed on one of the historic pillars at the West entrance.

Ms. Hollingsworth reported that the architectural firm hired by the Joint Rules Committee, CHSQA, has delivered its final East Annex program report, which is being printed for delivery to Rules Members, Legislative Members, and then other stakeholders. A public hearing will be set for later in February for oral delivery of the reports by CHSQA.

B. Department of General Services - Capitol Park – Les Strike

Les Strike spoke out of the regular agenda order to allow him to attend another meeting. Mr. Strike will retire in July but may take time off earlier than that. Mr. Strike reported that he and Ms. Peper had reached a tentative agreement with UC Davis to clone and propagate some cuttings from historic, rare trees so that they can be replaced before they are lost. Ms. Peper also reported that she and Mr. Strike had contacted 50 nurseries to find one which would propagate without success, but found several which agreed to grow trees after they are propagated. Ms. Peper also found sources for seeds for trees which are represented in Capitol Park but which can no longer be imported. Taylor Lewis of UC Davis agreed to start his work without additional funds but will ask for funds for propagation materials. Mr. Strike and Ms. Peper will forward his costs request to the Department of General Services (DGS) Building and Property Management Branch.

Mr. Strike also reported that the California Air Resources Board had provided his staff with prototype battery-operated landscaping tools and equipment to test as to safety, power, and ergonomics; they had great results. They also provided software to measure battery life and carbon avoidance. He estimates 10% of his equipment is now battery-powered. His staff had some initial concerns and resistance but they have since been won over.

C. Department of General Services - Project Management Development Branch

a. Memorial update

Leslie Sakai-Nesley reported that the only monument activity concerns the Mervyn Dymally bust. The sponsors of the bust had requested an exception to the requirement for an organization to show funding for repair and maintenance. DGS Legal Counsel will respond to their request.

b. Pending projects

1. Central Plant recycled water - project will bid in the spring.
2. Turf reduction – no update.
3. Insectary restrooms - will open this month.
4. Bronze plaque at West lawn - Eliminating the tripping hazard at the bronze plaque along the West entrance sidewalk will occur this spring

5. West Wing balcony and portico water damage - Eliminating the staining from trapped portico and balcony rainwater has not yet been approved by Joint Rules. Concepts are to lift up tiles, replace waterproof membranes with ones which include a drain, and either using scuppers or rain water leaders to get rainwater out of the structure. Carey and Company is the designer and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be involved if the project proceeds.
6. Barrier removal for basement restaurant - Removal is still being scoped and designed, and will include elevator buttons, basement restroom reconfiguration, revised signage and revised auto door opener at entry pavilions, and handrail revision at the ramps between the East Annex and West Wing. SHPO will be engaged at the correct time.
7. Temperature control - Some pneumatic HVAC valves controlling Chamber temperature are being replaced. The possibility of replacing the pneumatic controls with electronic ones is a future project.
8. Miscellaneous – Ms. Garrett recommended that DGS write up the significant projects they have accomplished for sustainability and air quality improvement - turf reduction, recycled water for irrigation, and tree propagation - because they deserved good publicity. Commissioners volunteered to be references for the good work.

D. California State Parks/State Capitol Museum – John Allen, Phil Sexton

Phil Sexton is the new Director of the Capital District. He noted he arrived only the day after Thanksgiving and loves the assignment. He also is responsible for Sutter's Fort. He is working with the tour guides to ensure they are energetic enough in describing the awe and majesty and superlatives of the Capitol and avoid becoming blasé with repetition. He is also working to get Capitol information more available on Social Media.

John Allen reported that the next exhibit, "Paving the Way," will highlight the Lincoln Highway and open in March 2018. A year later, the 150th Anniversary of the Occupancy of the Capitol will be the next display.

E. California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association – Bob Dreyer

Bob Dreyer reported the tour business is quite good, including an unexpected group of 100 students who showed up without any notice and were given a tour. His group's annual meeting and election of officers will occur in late January, and a trip to Monterey's historic district, including a stay in Asilimar, is planned for April. He also noted that Museum Day is coming up in February. Mr. Dreyer reported that the penny souvenir machine is doing very well.

[The Commissioners decided to hold the discussion of goals until after other business.]

IV. Curator's Report – Koren Benoit

In the absence of Ms. Benoit, Chairman Cowan reported on the Commission website and that Ms. Deering will write short, historically interesting pieces for the website which Ms. Benoit will have live in February.

V. Miscellaneous

A. Historic flag collection

Ms. Lenoil reported that she is attempting to coordinate with the Military Department to schedule a meeting about the historic flag, the conservator's report and the next steps.

B. John Worsley manuscript materials/discussion

Ms. Lenoil has not yet completed her review or comments on the Worsley manuscript. Chairman Cowan reported that his research of the oral history of State Architect Fred Hummel did not reveal better information on the legislative deliberation on the issue of restoration vs. new construction of the West Wing.

Dan Visnich delivered some documents concerning the decision to restore the West Wing. Mr. Visnich read a lengthy piece of his report explaining the parties who argued within the Legislature for and against restoration and describing the differing views of the degree of restoration appropriate. Mr. Visnich went on to give his view of the relative power and roles of John Worsley and Michael Heller and his views of the negotiation of the construction contract. Mr. Visnich expressed concern that publishing only John Worsley's account of the decision for restoration might be an incomplete perspective.

C. Other Reports

Ms. Polanco reported that the Rocklin Quarry, where some Capitol granite was quarried, is on the National Register. The project there to remove the old quarry headquarters building did not require SHPO review. Federal funding triggers federal review of listed properties and State owned properties automatically get State review.

Ms. Polanco also answered questions about the designation of a National Historic Landmark, which the Capitol does not have. Only 2,500 places in the country are listed as such. That designation offers no more protection or requirement than being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which the Capitol has. Properties on the National Register are automatically included in the State Register and have the protections of that Register. There are also California Landmark locations, and the title occasionally leads to confusion

Chairman Cowan reported on the meeting he and Ms. Benoit had with Richard Rich of the City of Sacramento concerning waterfront improvements and its value as a location for future monuments. At Mr. Rich's suggestion, he and Ms. Benoit later met with Jerry Allen with Cultural Planning Group, a consulting firm hired by the City, to assess the art needs of the City's spaces.

Chairman Cowan reported his discussion with Joint Rules Chair Ken Cooley that the East Annex project would result in a Master Plan for Capitol Park and a Tree Management Plan, but that they needed to be worked in that order, simply due to the priority of energy available to devote to them. Commissioners disagreed that "trees cannot wait" and that the need for a practical solution to tree threats was urgent. Ms. Polanco noted that the adoption of management plans can often be a suitable mitigation measure when it's necessary to provide a public benefit for the impact of a project, and that the structure of Park and Tree plans may help mitigate the East wing project.

Ms. Lenoil had to leave the meeting at 10:45 am.

IV. 2017 GOALS (discuss revisions for 2018)

Commissioners further discussed Goals for 2018 and decided that the current four Goals would be described as "Goal Areas" and more specific, attainable goals for actual accomplishment in 2018 be adopted. This language was begun with refinement and adoption to occur at the next meeting.

Goal Area: Adoption by the Joint Rules Committee of a Tree Management Plan for Capitol Park

2018 Goal: develop a Capitol Park Tree removal and replacement plan for day-to-day tree management for DGS

Goal Area: Adoption by the Joint Rules Committee of a Master Plan for Capitol Park

2018 Goal: TBD after all members study the Master Plan Initiation document

Goal Area: Assist and Advise on the East Annex Project

2018 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.

Goal Area: Creation of a Monument District near the Capitol

2018 Goal: Develop in 2018 the structure of the District and format of an MOU among agencies which would support such a District.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm

NOTE: Minutes recorded by Chairman Cowan and Ms. Lenoil.