

MINUTES

STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

July 12, 2011

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Chairman Emkes called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was noted with the following in attendance:

Members Present

Mark Emkes, Commissioner of Finance & Administration
Justin Wilson, Comptroller of the Treasury
David Lillard, State Treasurer
Jonathan Rummel, designee for Secretary of State Tre Hargett, who joined via
teleconference
Bob Martineau, Commissioner of Environment & Conservation
Steve Cates, Commissioner of General Services
Senator Jack Johnson
Representative Gerald McCormick
Janie Conyers, private citizen
Francis Guess, designee for Judy Danner, private citizen

Members Absent

Norman Hill, TN Historical Commission
Bobby Lovett, private citizen

Others Present

Bob Oglesby, State Architect
Alan Robertson, Assistant State Architect
Georgia Martin, State Architect's Office
Thad Watkins, Department of General Services
Cheryl Rudy, Department of General Services
Terry Mason, Comptroller's Office
Jason Mumpower, Comptroller's Office
Josh Stites, State Treasurer's Office
Jim Hoobler, Tennessee State Museum
Bert Chalfant, Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution
Greg Mayo, Mayo Architecture
Phil Hyde, Department of General Services
David Carpenter, Department of General Services
Jim Douglas, Hodgson & Douglas

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting were approved.

3. Exception from the Commission's Policy Not to Permit Weddings or Wedding Receptions in the State Capitol

Commissioner Emkes stated a request had been made by Candice Graham to use the interior of the Capitol for her wedding ceremony scheduled for October 9, 2011. Comptroller Wilson stated that the Commission had a long-standing policy not to permit weddings or wedding receptions in the State Capitol. He said it was a very good policy, unless there was a good reason or unusual circumstances to veer from it. In this case, it was his understanding that a member of the General Assembly was to participate in the wedding. He thought they should consider the request and those cases where members of the General Assembly actually participate in the ceremony, and made a motion to approve.

Senator Johnson said that they had this same conversation over the last request for an exception, and he thought they would want to be judicious and limit it in terms of doing as the Comptroller suggested. He said he thought this request did involve special circumstances, and that the purpose of the Commission was to examine those special circumstances. Secretary Hargett spoke via telephone in favor of the motion, agreeing that the request fell under special circumstances, and seconded the motion. Commissioner Emkes stated that the motion had been made and seconded to approve the special exception, which then passed without objection.

4. National Folk Festival

Thad Watkins stated that the National Folk Festival had chosen Nashville as its venue for the next three years to conduct their 3-day festival over the Labor Day weekend. He said the NFF had requested use of a substantial portion of State property including part of the Capitol grounds and some of the State parking lots. Allison Cutler was recognized. She thanked Commissioners Cates, Martineau and Emkes and stated they had received outstanding cooperation from the Administration and from staff. She said that the Festival was one of the oldest and most prestigious of its kind, involving many different cultures with music, dance and crafts involving six stages on the campus. She made a brief presentation regarding the details of the arrangements, adding that the first year is the most difficult as they get all the approvals in place.

Commissioner Emkes thanked Ms. Cutler and expressed his appreciation to all involved for their time and effort adding that it will bring tourists and sales tax revenue to the state. He also recognized and thanked David Carpenter for all his work and effort. He then asked Ms. Cutler to share who the honorary co-chairpersons will be, and she replied, "the Governor and First Lady, and Emmy Lou Harris".

Mr. Watkins discussed some of the obstacles that had to be worked out and some of the steps taken to issue the protection of the grounds. Comptroller Wilson made a motion to approve the request, subject to approval of all the details by the Department of General Services and Office of the State Architect. The motion was properly seconded and passed without objection.

5. Restoration of the Liberty Bell

Alan Robertson presented a summary of past action involving the deteriorating condition of the Liberty Bell's yolk. After discussion, State Architect Bob Oglesby requested approval of the concept drawing and to finish the documents for bidding. He said that once funding sources are identified, they will request approval from the State Building Commission and forward those costs to the Capitol Commission for approval before proceeding. The Commission approved the request as presented.

6. Capitol Grounds Master Plan

Phil Hyde presented a request for approval of the continued development of the Capitol Grounds Master Plan in order to proceed with construction documents and cost estimates. He recognized Jim Douglas, Hodgson & Douglas, who gave a presentation of the plan's details. Mr. Douglas identified certain pieces of the plan that were not able to be executed in the plan 20 years ago, which included continuing the walkway system using concrete walks, granite walls and limestone walls to match the historic integrity of the Capitol. In addition, he said, a portion of the Capitol Hill is irrigated and the rest is not, and the idea would be to extend the irrigation for the livelihood of the plants over the entire area. Treasurer Lillard discussed the completion of the Sam Davis walkway and restoration of stone pavers near the Jackson statue and asked that they be considered as part of the plan. After discussion, the Commission approved the request, including the two items mentioned by the Treasurer, to identify funds and obtain SBC approval to proceed.

7. Other Business

Treasurer Lillard expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Cates, David Carpenter and the Office of the State Architect for their help in eliminating more claims for Risk Management regarding the bollard gates at the State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

* * * * *