

Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
March 23, 2006 Meeting Minutes
Legislative Office Building - Room 1B

Members Present: Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Bernard Auger, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., James Fleming, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert Harris, Jr., Charles Higgins, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter Woodward

Members Not Present: Raymond Collins, Jr., Sharon Farrelly

Others Present: Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Dana Crompton, Jill Cromwell, Mary Kula, D'Ann Mazzocca, Nancy Murray

Eric Connery called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Introductions were made.

The members paused for a moment of silence to honor the late Monsignor Joseph Devine, the previous chairman of the Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission who was truly dedicated to the Commission's work.

Election of a new chairperson

Lorraine Guilmartin nominated Robert Harris, Jr. Representative Altobello seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by acclamation. Robert Harris accepted the nomination and took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

Schoenhardt condition report on the Capitol

Eric Connery reviewed the Schoenhardt Architecture 21-item architecture evaluation report on the Capitol. He stated that Schoenhardt will be invited for a detailed presentation and walk-through at the next meeting. Representative Altobello expressed concern regarding the state of the marble on the 4th floor. Robert Harris asked if there were cost estimates attached to the report. Eric Connery replied that the expected costs could be handled within our budget. Dana Crompton stated that as the commission becomes more active, separate appropriations may be an option. Commissioner James Fleming asked if any items would require bonding. Eric Connery said that the commission would have to review the items. Robert Harris asked about any available balance of bond funds. Dana Crompton responded that there has not been a lot of bonding done. Costs have been part of the standard operating budget. There is a funding balance that is restricted for marble repair.

Report on work scheduled in the future

Robert Harris asked for a report on work scheduled for the future. Eric Connery stated that most of the work is related to the mechanical systems of the facility. The fire alarm system upgrade has been completed. The energy management system is being replaced. Consulting Engineering Services, will study the fire sprinkler system for the House and Senate chambers. The sprinklers are now located in the basement. The insurance company recommended installing sprinklers in the chambers because smoke could severely damage the stenciling and require the entire building to be repainted. There is an ongoing project to upgrade the electrical systems. This work is being done outside of the historical areas. There is also work being done to the exterior lighting, including the Bushnell Park side of the parking lot.

Requests for memorials on the Capitol grounds

Eric Connery reported on the recent requests for memorials on Capitol grounds. He stated that in the past the commission has denied such requests and asked the group to consider the topic for the next meeting. Senator Crisco asked if the commission had guidelines to follow. (See attachment printed from the 2006 Legislative Guide). Eric stated that no outside requests for memorials on the Capitol grounds have been approved by the commission in at least 10 years. Robert Harris mentioned the two weeping beeches planted on the south side of the Capitol commemorating 9/11, and stated that the Commission would review this topic at the next meeting. Eric Connery suggested that the next meeting include a walking tour of the facility and grounds, and Senator Crisco suggested meeting at the Capitol rather than the LOB.

New business

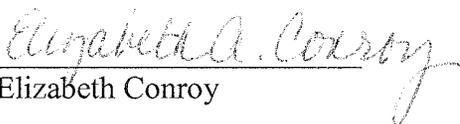
Representative Altobello asked about the status of the tree planting plan that existed at one time. Eric Connery stated that Monsignor Devine always described the Capitol grounds' landscape as originally being much clearer, and said no planting plan exists at present. He also mentioned that the Bushnell Park Foundation's plan for the overlook area is on hold and has been replaced by a plan to fix the Memorial Arch. He will have the Bushnell Park Foundation do a presentation for the Commission on how the plans will affect the Capitol grounds.

Eric Connery stated that Valley Restoration has been awarded the roof repair contract for the inspection and maintenance of the Capitol roof.

Jill Cromwell of the League of Women Voters asked if the Commission oversees the battle flags located in the Hall of Flags. Eric Connery said yes, and Dana Crompton added that there is \$50,000 funding in the budget for the preservation of these flags for FY06. Any balance will carry over to FY07, where there is an additional \$50,000 allotment. Eric Connery said he will make a presentation and conduct a tour of the flags at the next meeting. The Office of Legislative Management has issued an RFP for conservation of additional flags. They are working with Gerry Kaufman of the League of Women Voters to research options. She has written two unpublished books on the collection. Eric Connery noted that flag preservation is very costly, ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000 per flag. Only one-third of the collection, approximately 50 flags according to Jill Cromwell, is on display. She asked if we could provide information on our website regarding the flag collection. Eric Connery suggested we review the topic at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.


Eric Connery


Elizabeth Conroy