

Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
December 6, 2006
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Benny Auger, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., James Fleming, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally Martin, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter Woodward

Members Not Present: Raymond Collins, Jr., Charles Higgins

Others Present: Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Gerry Caughman, Jill Cromwell, Harry Lichtenbaum, Tina Mohr, Tom Spinella, Linda Voghel

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

He introduced and welcomed Sally Martin as the newest Commission member.

Harry Lichtenbaum “State Seal Proposal”

Chairman Harris introduced Mr. Harry Lichtenbaum who presented a request to have the State Seal, that at one time hung outside of the Senate Chamber, reinstalled. He provided the Commission members with a copy of a photograph of the seal taken in 1961. He described the current location where the Seal had been located as now being blank with four holes filled with grout that did not match the wall. Chairman Harris suggested that the Commission take the request under advisement. Eric Connery arrived and was asked to give additional information on the history of the State Seal that Mr. Lichtenbaum presented. Per Eric, Mr. Lichtenbaum had brought this photograph to the attention of the Commission previously. During the Restoration, there was an attempt to remove all extraneous items from the Capitol common areas. It was the decision of the Commission that unless some historical significance was found for reinstalling the Seal, the Commission did not want to take action to replace it. Eric understood the original item to be made of plywood and that it does not exist anymore. Eric stated that as part of the 21-point Schoenhardt report, we will address repairing the masonry. The Commission voted to reject the request as presented with a stipulation to move forward with repairing the holes in the wall. The motion was approved by acclamation. Chairman Harris will draft a letter to inform Harry Lichtenbaum of the Commission’s action. Commissioner Fleming requested that the letter include an explanation that the Seal no longer exists, it was originally made of plywood, the Commission already made the decision not to reinstall it at the time of the Restoration, and that the Commission would take up the issue of repairing the grouted holes.

Dr. Walter Woodward’s request to use the likeness of the Genius statue for the CONNIE awards

Chairman Harris invited Dr. Woodward to present his request to use the likeness of the Genius of Connecticut. The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism has a biennial Governor’s Conference on Culture and Tourism at which they present awards to people who have made contributions to historic preservation, heritage advancement, and tourism. Normally, these awards have been in the form of a plaque. It was suggested that the Conference use a likeness of the Genius of Connecticut made in statuette form, similar to the Oscar statuette for the Academy Awards. He asked for the Commission to give him a sense of whether it would be appropriate to use the likeness for these awards, which would be called the CONNIE awards. The Commission voted by acclamation that while it may not be in the Commission’s purview to give permission for the use of the likeness, the Commission did agree that it was a good idea. Chairman Harris also stated that if it is discovered that the request for using the likeness of the Genius does require a formal vote, he will place the item on the next agenda. Dr. Woodward also asked that the Commission continue to support the effort to return

the Genius to the Capitol Dome. Commissioner Fleming asked that Legislative Management check to make sure there are no copyright issues involved.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The May 17, 2006 meeting minutes, July 25, 2006 meeting minutes, and the November 14, 2006 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Lights in leaders' Capitol offices

Eric Connery stated that the Commission has received a request from Sen. Williams to look at replacing the lights in the leaders' Capitol offices. Eric expects a request to arrive from the Speaker's office as well. The round high-intensity metal haloid lighting, used since the Restoration, does not seem appropriate to the building's historic character. The Commission had looked at this issue many years ago, but was not able to find an aesthetic and functional replacement. With technological advances, more options may be available that may even have some energy conservation qualities. Eric will include this item in a scope of work and report back to the Commission on alternatives. The plan would be to complete work on the leaders' offices first. Commissioner Fleming will ask the Department of Public Works to offer suggestions from other buildings.

Wireless Update

Per Eric Connery, the wireless project has begun, although the access points have not been installed yet. The wiring in the main data closets is being completed. There is nothing for the Commission to review at this time. He reminded the Commission that the wireless implementation will not eliminate the need for wires. The wireless network is useful for the areas where wires cannot be installed. Wires are still needed, for example in screening rooms, so that there is not a delay as the bills arrive. The more users that are on a wireless network, the less speed and data transfer capability is available. It is a fill in for where no wired connection exists.

21-point Schoenhardt report status and on-going projects

Eric Connery reviewed the status of items on the 21-point Schoenhardt report including the following details:

- Codes Issues – We are going to have a code study done, but other priorities have taken precedence. There is a need to research code variances that may have been granted to the building.
- Drawings – We would like to have an intern identify each unique Upjohn drawing and the last revision date. When completed, we would like to have each of them digitally scanned so that they are available electronically.
- Oral History with John Canning – working to schedule him in the spring.
- Exterior Cleaning – We are in the process of issuing a contract for studying the cleaning of the Capitol. The goal is to clean and repair the exterior in July 2007.
- Capitol Doors Project - The project is complete except for a change of work order to add a bead of caulk at the bottom of each door to stop moisture from wicking up the doors.
- Genius - Structural engineers climbed to the peak of the outside of the Capitol dome on October 20th with ground penetrating radar to begin the analysis of whether or not the dome could withstand the weight of the Genius. No hidden cracks were discovered. There is no evidence that when the Genius was on top of the dome in 1908 that much held her up there besides her weight.
- Prudence Crandall - Photos of the project will be given to the Commission at the next meeting. The statues (Prudence Crandall & Student) are now clay models.

- Fire Sprinklers – The RFP to install five sprinklers in the House and Senate chambers will be released in the spring. The sprinkler heads will be recessed in the ceilings. Once the proposals have been received, the Commission will be asked for approval to proceed.
- Silverware Collection – Some of the collection is located at Comptroller's office or transferred to the State Library collection. Some may have been sold. Senator Crisco recommended that the Commission look into legislation that the Commission be required to approve any sale of legislative property.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy