

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
March 9, 2007
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Rep. Buddy Altobello, Benny Auger, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., Robert D. Harris, Jr., Charles Higgins, Sally Martin, William Morgan, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter Woodward

Members Not Present: Commissioner James Fleming, Lorraine Guilmartin

Others Present: Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Dana Crompton, Kim Fabrizio, Tina Mohr, Bob Mokarsky, Marguerite Rodney, Steve Rose, Liz Saczawa, Michael Sgobbo, Linda Voghel

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

He introduced and welcomed William Morgan, former State Capitol Police Chief, as the newest Commission member.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The December 6, 2006 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Draft of Annual Report

A draft of the Commission's annual report was distributed for review. Mr. Harris stated that there were no previous annual reports to model. The 2006 meeting minutes will be appended to the final copy. The report will be finalized and submitted to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management to meet the statutory obligation.

Formal vote regarding Dr. Woodward's 12-6-06 request to use the likeness of the Genius for the CONNIE awards.

Eric Connery stated that while we could find no requirement for the Commission to approve such a request, the Commission could set a precedent by acting on the request. The Commission voted by acclamation to approve Dr. Woodward's request to use the image of the Genius.

Genius feasibility study

Mr. Connery reported that the structural engineers, (BVH Engineers and Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. have concluded that it is possible to restore the Genius to the top of the dome. It is recommended that a steel structure be added within the lantern to transfer the weight of the Genius down to the dome, an intrinsically strong structure. An RFP was released for the laser scan of the existing Genius model and the creation of a second model which would be used to cast the statue to be placed atop the dome. Legislative Management will now work with the engineers to create the necessary reinforcements. The statue will weigh approximately 6,800 pounds, and this weight and the structural attachment will serve to keep the Genius in place. It is recommended that it be put into place using a crane rather than a helicopter. The Commission will need to formally approve the entire project before additional contracts are awarded. Additional funding will be necessary. The original \$300,000.00 that was in place will be used up before the final casting is done. The funding for the project will come from the budget, not from bonding. Once the scanning estimate is finalized, we will request approval from the legislature for the funding.

Prudence Crandall statue update

Eric Connery distributed photographs of the clay models of Prudence and her student. The sculptor has requested another 30 days beyond the March 31, 2007 deadline for completion of the Prudence

Crandall statue. Dana Crompton, Legislative Management financial administrator, stated that an additional \$16,000.00 would be needed because the original foundry went bankrupt. When completed, the statue will be located on the first floor of the Capitol across from and to the right of the escalator.

21-point Schoenhardt report status and project checklist

Eric Connery reviewed current and future projects and distributed a brief summary of these projects.

- We expect to award a contract to study building code issues in the near future, including making the restrooms more handicapped accessible, and reviewing work that was completed during the restoration.
- A study contract was awarded to Schoenhardt Architecture and BCA (Building Conservation Associates from N.Y.C.) to study the optimal cleaning method for the Capitol exterior. During that study, it was discovered that the masonry repairs completed during the restoration had begun to fail. The study was expanded to include recommendations for repair of the exterior masonry. Photographs of the areas needing attention were distributed. Marguerite Rodney of Schoenhardt Architecture stated that crack repairs have an average life expectancy of 20 to 25 years so they are coming to the end of their useful life. We need to address these repairs during the cleaning cycle, prioritizing the need for repairs and methods of repair.
- The north steps repair contract has been awarded, and work will begin when the outside temperature rises. The tentative start date is April 3rd.
- The previous design for dome lighting is being reviewed due to advancements in lighting technology, energy efficiency, and the future placement of the Genius on the dome.
- Five battle flags are currently undergoing conservation, and one has been completed. An RFP will be issued for five to six additional flags in the near future.
- The pole lights on the Capitol grounds are in fair to poor condition. One of our design consultants has designed a replacement/relocation plan. We will request approval from the Commission at the next Commission meeting to relocate some of the fixtures to even out the lighting. The replacement fixtures look like the current fixtures but are more energy efficient. We will propose a high-pressure sodium bulb that is less yellow. Presently there are four test bulbs on the grounds.
- The wireless network installation, approved by the Commission in November, 2006, has been completed. The system has approximately 100 users logged in at any time.

Request from Capitol Police to install an additional security camera pole on the grounds

The Capitol Police are requesting to install an additional camera. It may be necessary to install another pole unless the Department of Transportation gives approval to place the camera on the existing light pole on the grounds. Pictures were distributed of the site in need of the camera. It was moved that if the DOT approval for use of the existing light pole was not secured within 6 weeks from the day of this Commission meeting, the Commission would approve the installation of an additional security pole so as not to delay the request until the next Commission meeting. The next meeting will probably take place in late June. The motion was approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy