

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
March 27, 2008
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Bernard Auger, Senator Joseph Crisco, Jr., Raeanne Curtis, Robert Harris, Jr., Charles Higgins, Sally Martin, William Morgan, Thomas Ritter, Dr. Bruce Stave

Members Not Present: Lorraine Guilmartin, John Ruffalo

Others Present: Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jay Drew, Marguerite Rodney

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Harris introduced Dr. Bruce Stave, acting State Historian, who is filling in for Dr. Walter Woodward during his scheduled leave.

Meeting minutes approval

The December 13, 2007 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Annual report draft

Bob Harris distributed a draft copy of the Commission’s annual report.

Eric Connery reviewed the balance of the agenda’s items.

Genius of Connecticut statue

Molds of the Genius should be completed at the foundry within a month. The \$300,000 balance of funding for the casting and placement of the Genius does not appear on the agenda of the next Bond Commission meeting of March 28, 2008. The proposed cost of the engineering design to reinforce the dome lantern came in above anticipated projections. Legislative Management will be meeting with the engineers tomorrow to see if modifications can be made to the design proposal to reduce costs. The estimated completion date of this project is the spring of 2009.

Prudence Crandall statue update

Photos of the clay models were distributed. Project funding is in place from the “Pennies for Prudence” campaign and other commitments. Completion is expected for fall of 2008, perhaps coinciding with Prudence Crandall’s birthday of September 3rd.

Battle flag conservation

Two more flags, the 24th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry National Flag and the 28th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry National Flag were delivered to Gwen Spicer for conservation and two conserved flags, the 118th Medical and 1st Cavalry flag have been received from Camille Breeze of Museum Textile Conservation Services. Eric Connery distributed photographs of the flags.

Maintenance and upgrade projects in process

Jay Drew updated the Commission.

- *Sidewalk repairs* – Spring repairs will begin shortly.
- *House Chamber redundant HVAC system* – The unit has been installed, insulated and tested. Two change orders to the contract are pending.
- *Exterior lighting* – The new poles have been installed. The contractor expects to complete one final step of the circuitry this weekend across the north parking lot between the Capitol and Bushnell Park.
- *Chamber fire sprinklers* – Sprinkler heads have been installed. The work should be completed by the end of April.

Projects out to bid or in design

Eric Connery continued with the update.

- *Exterior cleaning and restoration* – Five proposals are in analysis. Most of the required repairs are related to the previous restoration. When a vendor is selected, Legislative Management will review the proposal with Bob Harris to see if a presentation to the Commission is necessary. The project will require scaffolding of the building for a year. Raeanne Curtis mentioned that some restoration era drawings have been located at the Department of Public Works. Eric said that there was a fear that some drawings had been lost or destroyed, so he and Marguerite will visit DPW to review them.
- *Blast mitigation and window replacement* – Five Requests for Information were received. Three were responsive. We have not been satisfied with any of the window replacement samples. We are still investigating the option of a catch-wire with blast mitigation film. Marguerite Rodney of Schoenhardt Architecture discussed concerns regarding window replacement because the windows are a major part of the fabric of the building and tied to the original masonry. She added that they will be investigating other State Capitols so that options presented to the Commission will include precedents.
- *Office lights replacement* – Marguerite stated that the design of the new lighting is progressing. Detailed drawings and finished samples should be available for the Commission's review at the next meeting in June.
- *Code compliance study* – Eric stated that Schoenhardt has completed the study. There were not a large number of issues found. No action has been taken to address them as there may be more study required if we proceed with making the restrooms handicapped accessible. We are looking at the 2008-2009 budget year to proceed with some of the recommendations.
- *East and west skylights required repairs* – Sagging has occurred on the stained-glass skylights. Catch netting has been installed underneath as a precaution. We will scaffold during the summer, dismantling and reassembling the skylights in a way that is more structurally sound. Also, a chunk of ice fell off the dome during the winter and broke the wired frosted glass above an area of skylight. We plan to repair the glass as well as install blast film. Schoenhardt is working with a consultant, Julie Sloane, to inventory, photograph and assess all of the stained glass in the building. Marguerite Rodney added that the peeling strips on the skylights is actually paint, and we will be addressing this issue. Most of the glass is stable, and we don't anticipate any major stained glass work over the next few years except for the atria.
- *Elevator interior upgrade* – Marguerite reported that Schoenhardt has completed construction documents for upgrading the Capitol elevators. Legislative Management is reviewing the documents. Eric added that there is no estimated completion date.

- *Boiler replacement* – We will proceed with this project during the summer. Only two of the three boilers are functioning now. There will be energy conservation effects of replacing the hot water and steam heat system.

Project checklist update

Eric presented a detailed spreadsheet with estimated completion dates, costs and priority ratings of projects.

Miscellaneous minor projects / repairs

- *Generator underground fuel tank removal* – A new above ground fuel storage tank has been installed in the cooling tower bunker at the highway ramp. Piping will be installed and the existing oil pumped into the new tank in the near future. When this is complete a the underground tank will be removed.
- *Office heat pump replacement & automation upgrade* – The automation will save energy so that the pumps do not run while the offices are unoccupied.
- *Water stained walls on fourth floor* – We do not believe the water is coming from the internal gutters. It appears they are coming through the window frames in the northeast corner. We have a contract in place for the plaster repair but are waiting to make sure all leaks have been stopped.

The Commission agreed that the next meeting date would be set for June 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.


Eric Connery


Elizabeth Conroy