

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
September 23, 2009
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Bernard Auger, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally Martin, William Morgan, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Members Not Present: Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Raeanne Curtis, Lorraine Guilmartin
Charles Higgins, Tom Ritter

Others Present: Angela Cahill, Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jay Drew, Liz Ferruggiaro, D’Ann Mazzocca, Tina Mohr

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

The June 18, 2009 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Eric Connery addressed the majority of the agenda’s items.

Schoenhardt Architecture – Eric introduced one of our new contacts for Schoenhardt, Angela Cahill. Marguerite Rodney is now working for John Canning.

Genius Statue – Eric distributed photos of the cast Genius from his August visit to the foundry. The statue was cast in three pieces, the body and the two wings. The foundry did a very good job matching the three pieces. Under close inspection, the seams are not noticeable. Eric approved the patina that was being applied to the Genius. The engineering firm is finishing the design of the base, which will meet the current seismic code mandates. A circular piece of marble and ring of marble at the center of the rotunda floor will be removed. If there is a concrete slab of sufficient thickness located at that opening, the Genius and base will be attached to it. If there is no concrete slab or it is not thick enough, the marble under the new base will be removed and a new concrete slab will be installed. The structure would be removable. We expect to take delivery of the statue in six weeks. The cost of the base and installation remains within the allocated budget of \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Sidewalk repairs – The patching of the sidewalks has been completed before winter.

“Green Capitols Project” initiative – There is an initiative from the EPA to use green infrastructure to manage wet weather on state capitol grounds. The goal is to keep the rain water from going into the storm water system. The funding for this project from the Recovery Act is given to the hosting municipality of the state capitol. In this case, the MDC would act as the hosting authority, as it is responsible for maintaining the sewer systems for the City of Hartford. Half of the funding would come from the Recovery Act, and the MDC would supply the balance of funding for a total of \$500,000. Eric presented sample photos of projects in other states to give the Commission an idea of the concept for wet weather water management as well as conceptual plans created specifically for the Connecticut State Capitol completed by the landscape architect working on this project. Possible suggestions include a reduction in the amount of blacktop and the creation of water retention swales, catch basins and water gardens on the Capitol Avenue (South) and Trinity Street (East) sides of the Capitol perimeter. Some sections of the targeted areas are owned by the City of Hartford, but the city would look to the Office of Legislative Management to maintain the areas. The Joint Committee on Legislative Management would need to approve such

an arrangement. Eric stated that the cost to maintain these additional areas would be revenue neutral. The plants that would be used would be tolerant of snow, salt, and wet and dry conditions. Underground tanks could also be installed to catch rainwater to be used for irrigation. The deadline for completing these projects is April 2010 or the funding will disappear. The Commission was in favor (by a show of hands) of Eric Connery proceeding with these plans.

Water stained walls on fourth floor – Jay Drew reported that despite some recent driving rains, the repaired areas remain dry. On the second floor, we need to open the wall back to the masonry to find the cause of additional water damage.

Maintenance and upgrade projects in process or recently completed ; Projects in design or to be scheduled ; Project Checklist update; Battle Flag Conservation; East and West Skylights required repairs; Exterior Cleaning and Restoration; Blast Mitigation – Window Replacement - Projects have come to a halt due to lack of funding.

Office lights replacement – Jay Drew reported that new light bulbs with advanced technology are being tested in the House Clerk's Office. The light produced is cleaner and causes less eye fatigue. After 1.2 years, these lights should produce \$18,000 per year in energy savings. The fixtures are not being changed. The use of these bulbs will allow us to become eligible for a rebate. The House Clerk's Office has given positive feedback. The restrike time of the existing fixtures continues to be an issue.

Elevator interior upgrade – Eric stated that the design has been completed. The project lacks funding.

Boiler replacement – Eric reported that we have a new company maintaining the boilers. The equipment is running relatively efficiently and reliably. On most days, only one boiler is needed to provide the 5th floor with steam heat and the 1st through 4th floors with hot water heat.

Old State House – In response to Bill Morgan's question regarding oversight of the historic preservation of the Old State House, Eric stated that such oversight falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Hartford's Historic Commission because Legislative Management leases the building from the city. That commission is responsible for approving any changes made to the Old State House facility.

New business – Bob Harris distributed a copy of "Publication: The New Capitol at Hartford, Conn., from The Manufacturer and Builder Volume 0006, Issue 11, November 1874." He extended thanks to Susan Southworth, the Legislative Librarian, for discovering this document and forwarding the electronic link to him.

Selecting the date for the next Commission meeting – Bob Harris said the Commission would next meet in early December to fulfill its statutory responsibility of meeting four times per year.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.


Eric Connery


Elizabeth Conroy