

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
June 22, 2011
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Rep. Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Robert Harris, Jr., Sally M. Martin, William Morgan, Thomas Ritter, John Ruffalo, Kermit Thompson

Members Not Present: Benny Auger, Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Lorraine Guilmartin, Barry Williams, Lawrence Goodheart

Others Present: Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jay Drew, Elaine Ogren Speranza

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

- ◆ He introduced Kermit Thompson, the acting DPW Commissioner’s designee.
- ◆ The March 23, 2011 Commission meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.
- ◆ Active Projects:
 - Green Capitols: Jay Drew reported that work has begun on completing the rain harvesting system and its connection to the irrigation system. An organizational meeting is planned to review corrections that are still needed. Punch list corrections will go beyond the original June 30th completion date for the project.
 - Lighting: We are investigating new technology regarding lighting efficiency upgrades for the exterior dome lighting and light poles on the grounds. LED replacement bulbs can reduce the energy used from 150 watts to less than 30 watts per pole. Eric added that we are seeing noticeable reductions in the electrical consumption in the Capitol since the office light bulbs were changed out five months ago. The money we save from energy conservation projects can be shifted to other budget line items, especially additional energy conservation projects. For years we have been effectively maintaining our consumption costs, but this is the first year we have seen an actual drop in costs.
 - Water stained walls on fourth floor: Jay added that we conducted in-house roof inspections which have identified areas of concern. Some failed caulking was discovered around some dormers which should be repaired shortly.
 - MDC: Jay Drew stated that the DPW does not have a target completion date for the sewer separation project. The Capitol is part of Contract 3, the Hungerford district, for which there is no scheduled work at present. Work will eventually be required in the Capitol basement. Eric said that the sanitary lines are easily identified and can be replaced. The storm water lines will be left alone.
 - Perennials: Jay reported that we continue to transition from annual plantings to perennial planting to reduce costs.
 - Heat Pumps: We are changing out heat pumps with energy efficient models as existing pumps fail. Replacement thermostats for all of the office heat pumps are being investigated; set-back thermostats with occupancy sensors will result in energy savings.
 - Generator: Within the cooling tower bunker we are planning to rerun the main feeders of the generator from under the slab in the bunker to above the slab, which will permit us to safely test the generator under load.

- Skylight Repairs: Eric reported that as a result of an inspection of the stained glass areas in the skylights, it was discovered there was bowing in the structure that supports the skylight panels. This bowing is not a result of any settling of the building; the grid structure itself appears to not be strong enough to support the glass panels. The goal will be to remove the existing panels and have the support grid repaired. Redoing the pattern on the frosted glass with vinyl or repainting would probably fail again, so the preference would be to etch the glass. To perform the repairs there is a possibility that instead of building scaffolding, we may be able to approach the project from above using workers in a harness. We could reinstall the panels with new gasketing, would give us an opportunity to work with new technology. On the skylight glass above we would film all of the glass which would bring the skylights up to current code.
- ◆ Projects on hold pending funding:
 - Genius: There is no funding for the Genius, but we will look to create a mechanism to receive funding. We have people working to make contacts with donors.
 - Battle Flags: We are attempting to secure funding.
 - Exterior Cleaning and Restoration: This item will not appear in the budget in the next biennium.

Items that may be included on an upcoming Bond Commission agenda include the east and west skylight repairs, the design phase of the blast mitigation project, boiler replacement, and carpet replacement for the House Chamber and Senate Gallery.

- ◆ New Business: There is an ongoing issue in the Senate Caucus Room related to temperature and air circulation. One of the suggestions to correct this issue was to install ceiling fans, either a period piece, or something white and low profile to blend into the ceiling. We would be able to work in the space above the ceiling without difficulty. We will come back to the Commission with a plan for approval.
- ◆ Selecting a date for the next Commission meeting: Bob Harris proposed a mid-September date for the next Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Eric Connery

Elizabeth Conroy