

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
September 25, 2014
Legislative Office Building

Members Present: Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Commissioner Donald J. DeFronzo, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally M. Martin, Thomas Ritter

Members Not Present: Bernard P. Auger, William Morgan, John Ruffalo, Barry Williams, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Others Present: Rachel Bishop, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Ken Dixon, Jay Drew, Kim Fabrizio, Liz Ferruggiaro, John Harnick, Tina Mohr, Jim Tracy, Dr. Matt Warshauer

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

- ◆ The June 19, 2014 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.
- ◆ Bob Harris distributed a copy of an article from the July 25, 2014 Hartford Courant discussing the architecture of the Connecticut State Capitol Building.
- ◆ *Active projects:* Jay Drew updated the Commission on the project list.
 - The security upgrades at the South and West entrances have been completed.
 - The basement recessed canned lights have been upgraded to LED lighting.
 - The restoration and painting of the three roof flagpoles is out to bid. We are hoping to find a steeplejack to avoid bringing an aerial lift onto the property.
 - The design has been completed for new porch lifts just inside the House Chamber and one leading to the Speaker's anteroom. We are out to bid on pricing for materials and labor to complete the project.
 - Maintenance is needed on the sidewalk ramp along with most of the concrete walkway leading to the handicapped parking area and executive parking area. The bid for the work was posted yesterday.
 - We have completed a design for installation of ramps or lifts at the entrances of Room 207A and Room 310. Eric Connery added that they would not be permanently attached structures, but not intended to be removed. They would be substantial structures designed to fit appropriately into the spaces when complete.
 - Jay continued with the update. Trees have been trimmed on the Capitol grounds to make walkways safer.
 - An order has been placed for an HVAC unit for the flag room.
 - We have received recommendations for a method of repair for the Room 415 dormer leak and are now investigating pricing for the repair.
 - Bob Harris noted that the grassy area at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Trinity Street is still in need of restoration. Eric responded that the area would be re-seeded this fall.
- ◆ *Maintenance and upgrade projects:*
 - Skylights - Eric stated that the restoration phase of the project is complete. The design consultant is working on structural upgrade and re-installation plans. We are working

with the roofing vendor regarding a new leak that was discovered when the lights were removed.

- Battle flags – The restoration of the flag of the 31st Regiment was a success and has been returned to the collection. We need to investigate the best display method. The flag of the 22nd Regiment is now being restored.
- ◆ *Checklist update:*
 - Eric briefly reviewed the checklist, which had no major changes.
- ◆ *Projects on hold pending funding:*
 - Boiler replacement – The design is nearly complete. The project should begin in the spring, pending bond funding.
 - Genius Statue - Dr. Warshauer gave the Commission an update. Due to an internal graduate and undergraduate research grant, extensive research is being done on the Genius, including its role in the World War II precious metal drive. He is working on a publicity plan which will include reaching out to corporations with broad public appeal, especially those with an interest in humanities, social studies, and history education. The goal is for a public outreach campaign to begin the first of the year. Eric added that once the fundraising begins, studies can begin and approvals sought to bring the Genius back to the top of the Capitol building. Dr. Warshauer would like to see the Genius installed by April or May of 2015, which would coincide with the end of the Civil War's sesquicentennial or the Fall of 2015 at the latest.
 - There are no updates on the exterior cleaning and restoration, elevator interior upgrade or office lights replacement. We have not found a suitable solution for the blast mitigation project.
- ◆ *New business:*
 - Wireless data nodes - Eric explained that there is work being done on the data nodes in the Chambers. Some are being relocated for better functionality and some added, to accommodate the increase in the use of wireless devices. He requested approval of the Commission to add one node behind the dais in the House Chamber. This solution puts no new holes in the walls, but does add another visible item. The Commission approved the request.
 - Engineering consultant – The Commission will need to approve the engineering consultants that have been selected to work in the Capitol building. There has been a delay in notifying the selected vendors, so we will wait until the next Commission meeting to ask for approval.
- ◆ *Selecting the date for the next Commission meeting:*
 - Bob Harris suggested an early December date for the next meeting.

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



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy