

**Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission**  
**May 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes**  
**Capitol Room 103**

Members Present: Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., James Fleming, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert Harris, Jr., Charles Higgins, John Ruffalo, Dr. Walter Woodward

Members Not Present: Benny Auger, Raymond Collins, Jr.

Others Present: Paul Alderucci, Ron Bianca, Rep. Michael Cardin, Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Dana Crompton, Jill Cromwell, Mary Donohue, Harry Lichtenbaum, Nancy Murray, Marguerite Rodney, Linda Voghel

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. The 3-23-06 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Battle Flags – conservation status

Eric Connery reminded the group that the average cost to restore or conserve a flag is \$10,000, and that our first approach is to conserve them with a sandwich technique that would allow us to display them in the Hall of Flags. The second approach is to flat-mount them, which would then require decisions as to how best to display them. 56% of the collection is on display and the balance is stored in cocoons on Floor 4 ½. Over the years, Gerry Caughman has cataloged the flags and done a good job of looking after the collection. Legislative Management has received four proposals from conservators, two of whom we have used in the past - Jessica Hack from New Orleans, LA and Harold Mailand from Indianapolis, IN. We were pleased with Jessica's work. The new conservators are Gwen Spicer from near Albany, NY and Camille Breeze from Andover, MA. They are younger but experienced. Eric and Gerry did site visits and were impressed with their laboratories. We are planning to award one flag restoration to Jessica Hack, Camille Breeze and Gwen Spicer. The funding for the next year and a half will allow us to conserve six flags. Senator Crisco asked how many more beyond these six will need conservation. Gerry Caughman said that there are 96 flags on display out of the 171 flags. A good many can still be restored using the first method. She also stated that there are some flags that have Civil War repairs in them that we may want to preserve. The word conservation means that we are just slowing down the decay process. The only way to truly preserve them is to store them away, but battle flags are intended for display to serve as inspiration to the public. John Ruffalo asked if we should consider areas for the flat display of flags. Eric Connery responded that we may need to trade the Floor 4 ½ space for vault space that would be more secure and offer fire protection. Gerry Caughman and Eric Connery described the sandwich technique of conservation, including stitching methods. Dr. Woodward asked if there were concerns with using the conservator from New Orleans. Eric replied that her lab was not damaged by Hurricane Katrina, and we did not have any of our flags stored there at the time. He stated that Harold Mailand's lab is located in his basement, a potential cause for concern and at present we are not awarding any contracts to him. Robert Harris asked if Legislative Management needed the Commission to take any action at this time. Eric responded that the Commission should be approving the conservation of these six flags and the recommendation to use these three conservators.

Rep. Altobello asked for a review of the financing for the flag restoration. Dana Crompton reported that there is \$50,000 that has been approved to carryover from FY06 and another \$50,000 approved for FY07. Our anticipation is that we will request an additional \$50,000 for

FY08 and FY09 or another amount that the Commission might recommend. The chair entertained a motion to preserve these six flags utilizing these three conservators. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Senator Crisco asked if touring students are taken to see the flags. Gerry Caughman responded that they visit the Hall of Flags, but not the basement where the flag of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment is on display. Senator Crisco asked if we should evaluate other states' methods of flag conservation. Eric said that many states have flags on display. Pennsylvania had a good conservation program but funding has ended. Maine had reproductions made of their flags. The New England states are the ones to monitor. Our goal is to have as many of these flags displayed on staffs as possible while other states are a bit more cautious. We like to think that we are tops in the field, and that our method fixes the problem of potential damage of the flag being on the staff.

#### Prudence Crandall statue - status

Dana Crompton stated that the artist from New York City who had been awarded the contract to create the statue had received another request from the city of New York at the same time. She has now completed that commission and has given us a tentative completion date of December 31, 2006 for the Prudence Crandall statue. The piece will then go to the foundry. Dana Crompton stated that we hope to have the statue on display by March or April of 2007 but that this date may change. Eric Connery said that the Commission had previously approved the future location of the statue, which is on the first floor, across and to the right of the top of the escalator. The work will consist of a life-size Prudence Crandall with a student, and it will have a very low base. Rep. Altobello asked how much the statue will cost. Dana responded that the initial budgeted amount was \$100,000 including foundry costs.

#### Requests for memorials on the Capitol grounds

Robert Harris opened the discussion of the two most recent requests from the Survivors of Homicide and the Connecticut AFL-CIO. Robert Harris commented that the only request approved in many years was for the 9/11 memorial. There is a concern that the grounds could become filled with plantings and memorials. The chair entertained a motion to reject the requests. The motion was approved by acclamation. James Fleming recommended that letter notification to the requesting groups indicate that the rejection is not an indication that the Commission rejects the cause represented by the group.

#### Project to Return Genius to the Capitol dome

Rep. Cardin presented a history of the Genius project. The Genius statue was originally located on the dome of the Capitol. It was given to the state as a gift by the builder of the Capitol, James G. Batterson. He commissioned the work with an ex-patriate, Randolph Rogers, in Italy in 1876. The bronze model was cast in Germany. It was loosened by a storm in 1903 and had to be removed from the dome for repair. It was again damaged by the 1938 hurricane, removed and ultimately melted down for the war effort in 1942. We still possess the original model. The state Bond Commission authorized funding of \$300,000 to restore the Genius statue to the dome. Rep. Cardin is hopeful to carry the project forward with the approval of the Commission. With the help of Mary Donohue of the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, he provided detailed information on the project in binders for the Commission members. James Fleming asked if there will be structural issues with the dome itself. Mary Donohue stated that the three issues with the Genius are 1) replication without damaging the original model, 2) fabrication including finding the proper materials, and 3) installation. Eric Connery stated that the first issues to be addressed are weight and wind-tolerance issues and suggested that the

Commission vote on the concept of restoring the Genius to the Capitol dome and directing Legislative Management to complete a structural and cost analysis of the project. James Fleming offered the assistance of the Department of Public Works engineers. The Commission approved the concept of returning the Genius to the Capitol dome by acclamation.

#### Work in the Capitol during the interim

##### a) Additional air conditioning units in the Senate caucus rooms

Eric Connery reported that a study was completed to address the issue of inadequate air conditioning in the Senate caucus rooms. The recommendation was to add an additional heat pump unit within each caucus room and one in each anteroom where no air conditioning existed before. The heat pumps would be placed on either side of the wall that divides the caucus room from the anteroom. Cabinetry would also be installed to cover the pumps and would be constructed to match the existing woodwork. He mentioned that Marguerite Rodney from Schoenhardt has drawings available of the planned cabinetry. He requested that the Commission give approval to proceed with this project. Eric stated that they are also beginning to replace all existing heat pumps in the Capitol to avoid any damage that could come from heat pump failure. The chair entertained a motion to approve the air conditioning unit installation. The Commission approved the motion by acclamation.

##### b) Installation of wireless data networking

Eric Connery described the reasons for adding wireless functions throughout the facilities. He stated that we are trying to move away from the myriad of wires that are needed to operate laptops and that all of the laptops now being leased have wireless capabilities. There are also locations that are not able to be wired because of the building design. Eric introduced Ron Bianca, Director of the Information Technology Services Department, who presented information on the status of the project. He said the goal is to become completely wireless in both the Capitol and the LOB. Legislators and staff would be able to move throughout both buildings with laptops without breaking network connectivity. The wireless hardware would consist of small box-like antennas that would be placed throughout the buildings, with 40 to 50 to be placed in the Capitol. ITS would attempt to hide these wireless devices or make them as unobtrusive and inconspicuous as possible in every location. They would be placed in the ceiling or walls, but ITS would take direction from the Commission when placement issues arise and adapt the plan to the Commission's recommendations. Eric Connery suggested that the project start with the same rule as for the fire-alarm installation. The rule was to not allow visible wires at all. The ITS department is presently evaluating manufacturers and product offerings. The next step in the process will be to conduct a site survey and design the network. The wired network will continue to function and is needed for the wireless network to operate. Ron Bianca mentioned that wireless speed decreases with more users. John Ruffalo asked if there were security issues that should be addressed. Ron responded that our system will find rogues that have infiltrated the network, and that the wireless area will not extend beyond the perimeter of the two building footprints. Lobbyists and building guests will be allowed "pass-through" connectivity which means they will have wireless access but not access to the CGA network. Dr. Woodward asked if new electrical lines would be needed. Ron said that the units would require power but again, they would try to locate additional electrical unobtrusively. James Fleming asked if ITS would report back to the Commission after the completion of the site survey, especially to describe antenna locations in areas such as the Old Judiciary Room, the Chambers, and the Hall of Flags. Ron Bianca responded that they will be very specific in the final report to the Commission. James Fleming asked if the Executive Chambers were included in the plan. Ron Bianca said no, but that those areas may receive pass-through access because of

their location. He said that he would discuss this issue with D'Ann Mazzocca. Robert Harris commented that the Commission would not need to act on this project information at present.

#### Additional Business

Senator Crisco asked that a discussion of the exhibits in the Capitol basement be placed on the next agenda. Eric added that the spoon collection located in the basement is now owned by the state. Sen. Crisco asked where the silver collection is now located. Eric said that we would research this issue. James Fleming would like a better understanding of the mechanism in place for accepting donations of artifacts and collections and asked if we have an inventory of these items and if they are insured. Eric said that there is no conservancy, we have an inventory of some items, and very specific items are handled with an insurance rider if the value is appraised at over the state's one-million dollar policy. The flags were appraised five years ago and will be reappraised in the near future.

Representative Altobello asked for an outline of how the budgeting process works for restoration and preservation projects. Eric Connery replied that bonding requests are rare. We can identify line items on the existing budget and discuss a 5-year plan with the Commission on items that need to be addressed. The Commission does not have its own line item in the budget.

Robert Harris suggested that at the next meeting the Commission receive an on-going status report on the 21-item Schoenhardt Architecture evaluation report and asked that a date be considered for the next Commission meeting. It was decided that a mid-July meeting would be scheduled, by which time Schoenhardt will have completed the North Steps study and the restroom study.

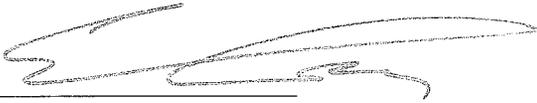
#### Capitol Tour

Eric Connery introduced Marguerite Rodney with Schoenhardt Architecture. The Schoenhardt report that was submitted was based on a visual inspection and is the first phase of a larger project. This document was meant to lay the foundation of determining a maintenance plan for the Capitol, which she described as being in great shape. She stated she has inventoried all of the extant drawings from the original restoration. The group inspected the following areas with Marguerite Rodney.

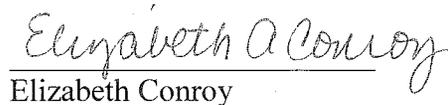
1. The frames underneath the stained glass in the dome: Water has infiltrated this area and seems to have been occurring long-term. It has not been determined if there is a problem now.
2. Skylights on the east side of the building: The faux-lead vinyl is peeling.
3. The skylight in the Old Judiciary Room: It is floored over by the Press Room 409A. Eric Connery suggested looking into a fiberoptic lighting method to re-light the skylight and building scaffolding to see if space is available underneath the Press Room floor.
4. Senate Chamber: The wall canvas in the gallery is bubbling and should be repaired sooner rather than later. Robert Harris also mentioned that the Senate Clerk staff had difficulty reading the voting board because of lighting glare during session.
5. Senate Caucus Room: Viewed location of heat pump placement.
6. Outside the House Chamber: The water fountain needs attention, including missing finials.
7. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor: Water rust stain in ceiling and delamination that seems to have occurred since the restoration. This area will be monitored.

8. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at top of escalator: Viewed future location of the Prudence Crandall statue. At same location, viewed columns in need of cleaning because of dirt and air that flows up from escalator.
9. Hall of Flags: Discussion with Gerry Caughman.
10. North Steps: There is staining and rusting above the North Steps.
11. Capitol Basement: Viewed the Flag of the 29<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment and collections and memorabilia on display.
12. Room 4 ½: Viewed battle flag storage method.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy