

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
June 27, 2007
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Rep. Buddy Altobello, Benny Auger, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Sally Martin, William Morgan, Thomas Ritter, John Ruffalo

Members Not Present: Commissioner James Fleming, Charles Higgins, Dr. Walter Woodward

Others Present: Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jill Cromwell, D'Ann Mazzocca, Tina Mohr, Marguerite Rodney, Liz Saczawa, Michael Sgobbo, Linda Voghel

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

He introduced and welcomed Thomas Ritter, former Speaker of the House, as the newest Commission member, appointed by Representative Cafero.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The March 9, 2007 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

Return of the Genius to the Capitol Dome

Eric Connery stated that a contract will be issued shortly to Polich Tallix, LLC for the laser scanning of the existing Genius and for the creation of a mold. The mold will be used to cast a new Genius statue. Funding is in place for these projects, but additional funding will be necessary for casting, for structural reinforcement of the dome, and for cranes to place the Genius on top of the dome. To fund these items from the minor capital improvements fund would require leadership approval.

Prudence Crandall Statue Update

Eric Connery said that the sculptor, Gabriel Koren, is continuing her work. She has visited the casting company, Polich Tallix, LLC. She needs to approve the quality of the clay models so that casting of the statue can be completed. We do not have an exact completion date.

Report on the Capitol Blast Mitigation Study

Eric Connery discussed three options submitted by Fletcher Thompson Architects and Weidlinger Associates for the blast mitigation project. Blast mitigation lessens the impact of flying glass if the Capitol were to undergo an explosion. The first option, which was successfully used in the Legislative Office Building, would require applying a film on the glass panes. The film would be attached to the window frames. However, there is no way to attach the film to the wood frames in the Capitol, and the wood frames would not be strong enough to hold the glass in place under the stress of a blast. The second option of placing a cable or bar across the windows as a "catch" system would not be an option aesthetically. The third option would be to replace the windows so that the film could be glued to new metal frames. The existing single-pane glass windows were replaced during the Restoration but the wood frames were not. Some of the framing is rotted and would have to be removed. Although the suggested new frames would be metal, they would have the appearance of painted wood.

Marguerite Rodney of Schoenhardt Architecture addressed the conservation issues related to the window frame replacement in a historic structure. The manufacturer proposed for the replacement is Graham Architectural Products. It is a reputable window manufacturing company in the blast mitigation field performing work in historic buildings. Studies need to continue regarding maintaining the historical integrity of the building. Items to be addressed include looking at the size of the new window frames in relation to the existing frames, which are original, as well as the thickness of the sash and window frames.

Eric Connery said this blast mitigation project is not a requirement of current building codes, but due to the nature of the world's climate, it is an important safety precaution. We do not have an estimate of the cost. It will be necessary to scaffold the building for the exterior maintenance in the latter part of 2007 through 2008 which would provide a more cost-effective opportunity to complete the window replacement. The level of the glass mitigation would withstand a 4 to 10 pound blast per square inch.

21-point Schoenhardt report status and project checklist

Eric Connery reviewed the report including the following items:

- Investigate Code Variances – Schoenhardt will be conducting research on compliance code issues and granted variances. Items to be included are access to the galleries, the 310 ramp, and restrooms. Eric was also asked if research had been completed yet on what may exist underneath the high floor in Room 310. As of yet, the research was not completed.
- Exterior Cleaning – Building Conservation Associates, (B.C.A.) is doing a cleaning test today on the exterior of the Capitol to check for methods of removing iron and copper stains and biological growth. Per Marguerite Rodney, the building should clean quickly and look pristine when completed. Eric added that the goal will also be to remove some of the large bushes surrounding the Capitol because they are contributing to algae growth and were not part of the original landscape. B.C.A. expects to have the bids package complete in early August and the work could begin approximately 60 days later. If leadership were to approve the scaffolding of the building during Session, the repairs could continue throughout the winter. The goal will be to have the work completed by the end of 2008.
- Capitol Offices Lighting – Schoenhardt Architecture is making recommendations regarding the lighting. Fluorescent lighting is now available that would fit within the electrical limits of the wiring in the Capitol. The new fixtures would draw 20% less power, but the real savings would come from having motion sensors and dimmers installed. The Commission will have final approval for fixture selection. The goal would be to keep the selection consistent for all offices.
- Exterior Door Re-Finishing Project – The project is complete. A contract was issued for annual maintenance of the doors.
- Exterior Lighting – This project began as an upgrade, but since many fixtures were deteriorating, a contract will be awarded to replace all of the fixtures. The project will require trenching sometime during the summer. The new fixtures will look identical to the existing fixtures.

Request from Capitol Police to install an additional security camera pole on the grounds

Eric Connery stated that approval had not been received from the Department of Transportation to install a security camera on an existing DOT light pole. The March 9, 2007 Commission meeting minutes were reviewed to confirm that the Commission had already approved the Capitol Police request for installation of a stand-alone security light on the Capitol grounds in this blind spot area.

Additional Business

Senator Crisco asked about the large blue tank located on the north side of the Capitol. Eric Connery responded that this tank is a replacement for the underground fuel tank for the emergency generator. This new tank must be moved to the cooling tower with a crane.

The Commission agreed that the next meeting date would be set for late September.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.


Eric Connery

Revised 11-7-07 for typographical correction.


Elizabeth Conroy