

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
March 26, 2009
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Charles Higgins, Sally Martin, William Morgan, Tom Ritter, John Ruffalo III, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Members Not Present: Bernard Auger, Senator Joseph Crisco, Raeanne Curtis

Others Present: Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Elizabeth Conroy, Jay Drew, Kim Fabrizio, Marguerite Rodney

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

The December 11, 2008 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

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

Genius Statue – Funding is in place to cast, deliver and install the statue inside the Capitol. There is not sufficient money to place the statue on the dome. Eric recommended that the original plaster model remain in its current location. To move it would damage it. The bronze statue is in the early stages of casting at the foundry. The estimated delivery time is 6 – 8 weeks at the earliest. A discussion ensued among the members regarding temporary placement of the statue upon delivery. Several potential locations were discussed. Per Eric Connery, the most viable interior location would be in the rotunda at the Capitol where the statue’s weight of 5,600 pounds could be supported. The cost to place the statue at that location would be approximately \$30,000. The cost to display the statue on the Capitol grounds would be an additional \$10,000. The cost to store the completed statue offsite could be approximately \$1,000 per month. The cost to eventually place the statue atop the dome is approximately \$150,000 - \$200,000. The cost would include structural reinforcement of the dome, rigging, assembly of two cranes, and placement. Bob Harris suggested entertaining a two-part motion to keep the plaster model in its current location and place the newly cast Genius in the Capitol rotunda on a temporary basis. Bill Morgan motioned separately for the plaster model to remain in its current location due to its historical significance. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. Bill Morgan expressed concern of the marble floor being damaged when the new Genius would be installed. Eric Connery said an engineer would complete a full study of the installation process, and the riggers hired would make sure no damage occurred. A second motion was made by Bill Morgan for the off-site storing of the completed statue for a minimum of 2 years or until funding can be found to install the statue on the dome. The motion was seconded by Tom Ritter. The majority approved the motion.

Battle Flag Conservation

The conservation project is on hold pending funding.

Maintenance and upgrade projects in process or recently completed

Generator underground fuel tank removal – The tank has been removed, the ground repaired, and the project completed.

Water-stained walls on fourth floor – 4 rooms have been repaired. There is no more funding for the 6 additional rooms with minor damage. The painter will seal and re-paint those areas.

Sidewalk repairs – Needed repairs were completed last fall. There are no signs of additional areas in need of repair.

Projects in design or to be scheduled

Office heat pump replacement & automation upgrade – 47 additional heat pumps have been purchased. As they are installed, the older working pumps will be put aside and saved in case other failures necessitate their use.

Projects on hold pending funding

East and west skylights required repairs – The project is on hold pending funding. The safety netting remains in place to catch any falling glass.

Exterior cleaning and restoration – Legislative Management has appeared before the appropriate sub-committee to request that a bonding request for LOB work be reallocated for the Capitol cleaning and restoration project. This project has high priority. If that reallocation occurs, the bonding request would still have to be approved by the Bond Commission. The project is anticipated to span three budget years.

Blast mitigation/window replacement, office lights replacement and elevator interior upgrade projects – All projects remain on hold.

Boiler replacement – The new contractor has done well keeping the existing boilers running and improving their efficiency.

Project Checklist update – An updated checklist was provided.

Old State House – Bill Morgan expressed thanks to Bob Harris for his research on the history of the Old State House and his report to the Commission. Bob Harris and Bill Morgan agreed to do additional research regarding the potential role of the Commission as it relates to the Old State House.

2008 Annual Report – A draft copy of the 2008 Annual Report of the State Commission on Preservation & Restoration was distributed to members.

Bob Harris suggested the next meeting should be scheduled for mid-June 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy