

State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission
June 18, 2009
Legislative Office Building – Hearing Room 1B

Members Present: Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Bernard Auger, Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Lorraine Guilmartin, Robert D. Harris, Jr., Tom Ritter, John Ruffalo

Members Not Present: Raeanne Curtis, Charles Higgins, Sally Martin, William Morgan, Dr. Walter W. Woodward

Others Present: Gerry Caughman, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, Jay Drew, Liz Ferruggiaro, D’Ann Mazzocca, Tina Mohr, Marguerite Rodney

Robert Harris called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

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

Genius statue – The Genius is being cast in New York and should be ready to be shipped to Hartford within the next month. The cost for the shipping was included in the original contract with the casting company. Funding of \$30,000 remains available for the project. Discussion ensued regarding a reconsideration of the March 26, 2009 vote to store the completed statue off-site. A motion to reconsider the March 26th vote was made by Rep. Altobello and seconded by Lorraine Guilmartin and approved by acclamation. Bob Harris entertained a motion to rescind the prior vote, which was so moved by Rep. Altobello and seconded by Lorraine Guilmartin and approved by majority. A motion was made by Benny Auger to display the completed Genius statue in the Capitol rotunda, and seconded by Lorraine Guilmartin. The motion passed by a 6 to 1 vote. Tom Ritter commented that once placed in the Rotunda, he considered it unlikely that the Genius would ever be moved to the top of the dome.

March 26, 2009 meeting minutes – The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Battle flag conservation – Eric Connery stated that there is no funding in place for flag conservation.

Jay Drew updated the Commission on sidewalk repairs, water stained walls and office heat pump replacement.

Sidewalk repairs – Jay stated that although there is no funding available to award a contract to an outside vendor for sidewalk repairs, Guardian Services, the contracted maintenance company, is completing repairs as needed.

Water stained walls on fourth floor – The replastering work has been completed in the four rooms for which funding was available.

Office heat pump replacement & automation upgrade – The pumps have been received and are ready for installation by Guardian.

Projects on hold pending funding – Eric Connery listed the projects on hold. Projects include the east and west skylights repairs, the exterior cleaning and restoration, the blast mitigation – window replacement, the office lights replacement, the elevator interior upgrade, and the boiler replacement.

Project checklist update – Eric Connery provided the Commission members with an updated checklist. The restoration era drawings that need preservation have been moved within DPW to an environmentally controlled area.

Old State House – Legislative Management has been operating the Old State House for the last year, with a planned grand re-opening scheduled for July 11, 2009. Bob Harris stated that Bill Morgan had expressed interest in drafting proposed legislation to expand the Commission's role to include the oversight of the Old State House.

Yale University Architecture Journal article – Bob Harris distributed a 1965 article discussing the State Capitol Building.

"Greening of State Capitols" initiative – Eric Connery is working with the EPA, DEP and MDC to study possible storm water diversion projects on or at the perimeter of the Capitol grounds. Federal "Greening of State Capitols" money is paying for the study costs. Federal stimulus through the MDC is available for the project if it moves forward. We could potentially receive funding from this package for new sidewalks. The grass strip between the sidewalk and Capitol Avenue and Trinity Street would be modified and include plantings to capture and hold storm water run-off. If this initiative moves forward, we would come back to the Commission with a presentation of how the project would impact the Capitol grounds.

"I-Quilt" project – Eric described an initiative of the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts and the Greater Hartford Arts Council to link and highlight many of the key cultural and artistic elements of Hartford via a grid of walking paths.

Bob Harris suggested the next meeting be scheduled for late September, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.



Eric Connery



Elizabeth Conroy