

# **MINUTES OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 8, 1996**

Chairman Amon Carter Evans called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the following members recorded present: Senator Douglas Henry, State Comptroller William Snodgrass, Secretary of State Riley Darnell, State Treasurer Steve Adams and Commissioner Larry Haynes.

Others present included:

Mike Fitts, State Architect  
Georgia Gaye, State Architect's Office  
Elsie Chastain Smith, Department of General Services  
Evadine McMahan, State Museum  
Charles Harrison, Comptroller's Office

## **MINUTES OF JULY 5, 1995 MEETING**

The Minutes were distributed and approved.

## **TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDENS CLUBS, INC.**

State Architect Michael A. Fitts presented a request for approval by the Tennessee Federation of Gardens Clubs, Inc. to present a State Historical Flower Show at the State Capitol on Flag Day, June 14 and 15, 1996. Chairman Evans stated that the only reservation he had was to be sure that they were going to make some provisions for the protection of the marble floor whenever potted plants were used. The Commission approved the request as presented, conditioned upon the concerns raised by Chairman Evans, and subject to the requirement that they present to Mr. Fitts their plans for protection of the floor before the flowers were placed.

## **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL**

Mr. Fitts presented a request initiated by Senator Cohen to accept a gift of sculpture(s) on the Capitol grounds at the Holocaust Memorial location. Mr. Fitts stated that Senator Cohen would like one or two of the sculptures to be located where the Holocaust Memorial is now, where they have the six trees and the marker. Comptroller Snodgrass asked if the sculptures were already made and Mr. Fitts responded that they exist. Secretary Darnell stated that they have already located the Holocaust plaque and trees on the grounds and he moved that they accept the sculpture of the man and the barbed wire to be located in the area of the current Holocaust Memorial. Chairman Evans asked how tall the statue was and Mr. Fitts responded that, from looking at the pictures, he would estimate about five feet.

Treasurer Adams discussed why the cedar trees were chosen, and Mr. Fitts responded that the cedar trees had particular significance for the monument. Treasurer Adams expressed concern about the number of new cedar trees planted on the Capitol grounds which could grow so tall as to obstruct the view of the Capitol. Secretary Darnell asked if they were sufficiently spaced so they can grow, and Mr. Fitts responded that was the design intention.

Chairman Evans asked if this was a permanent site for the sculpture and Mr. Fitts responded that that was his understanding. Treasurer Adams asked if this was a request from the Legislature by act or resolution. Mr. Fitts responded that Senator Cohen had made the request. Senator Henry responded that Mr. Beltz was going to underwrite any cost. Chairman Evans stated that they have taken notice of the Holocaust by the placement of the marker and six trees and asked if it was appropriate, at this time, to enhance that. Mr. Fitts responded that Senator Cohen believes the current monument tends to go unnoticed and the placement of this sculpture would bring notice to the memorial. Comptroller Snodgrass asked how long had we had the request. Mr. Fitts responded that the sculpture already exists and was looking for a home. He said the Civil Rights Museum might be a good location and they might accept one if the Commission accepts the other. Treasurer Adams stated that he assumed the figure was less than life size and he didn't think it would cause any harm for the sculpture to be located where the existing six trees were located.

Comptroller Snodgrass asked if this was a request made by an organization or group. Senator Henry responded that Mr. Beltz is an individual and he was offering the donation to Senator Cohen and there was no group sponsor. Chairman Evans said he was hesitant to do something when there were so many questions.

Secretary Darnell stated that there exists a "Holocaust Commission". The original motion by Secretary Darnell was then amended to approve the acceptance of the "barbed wire statue", subject to the recommendation and approval of the Holocaust Commission.

### **TEMPORARY GUARD BOOTH - STATE CAPITOL**

State Architect Michael A. Fitts stated that the temporary guard booth had been installed at the entrance drive to the Capitol, is well done and does not detract from the Capitol. He said he thought it was appropriate for a temporary structure. Chairman Evans asked if it was in full operation now and Mr. Fitts responded "yes". Secretary Darnell said it was a nice-looking booth and if they were going to have one, it was okay. Commissioner Haynes mentioned that they have one at the entrance of the Legislative Plaza as well.

This item was a report only and no action was required.

### **SEQUOYA MONUMENT**

State Architect Michael A. Fitts discussed the placement of the Sequoia Monument in the Capitol. Evadine McMahan, Tennessee State Museum, was recognized. She stated that the Sequoia statue was temporarily in the Legislative Lounge and, as soon as the pedestal is

completed, they would like to put it in the hall on the other side of the doorway from the Cordell Hull statue. Chairman Evans asked if it was going to be of such a size to inhibit traffic flow or present a fire hazard, and Ms. McMahan responded that it would not.

Chairman Evans commented that there was no historical reference to the majority of statues in the Capitol, such as a biography of those people. He said, if they were going to continue to do this, he thought the Museum, working with the Capitol Commission, could create some type of appropriate markers. He asked Ms. McMahan if the Museum could come up with a proposal and let the Commission take a look at something that would be standard so that people, like school children, would know at whom they were looking. Ms. McMahan responded that the Tennessee State Museum would come back to the Commission with such proposal.

Senator Henry made a motion to approve the placement as outlined by Ms. McMahan. The motion was approved without objection.

### **POLK TOMB**

State Architect Michael A. Fitts reported that Chairman Evans had successfully negotiated with the Polk Memorial Association and the urns had been placed at the Polk Tomb and that they looked very good.

### **ANDREW JOHNSON STATUE**

Chairman Evans stated that the Johnson statue is up and dedicated and that he liked it.

He said it seemed to him that they have always referred to the area around the Jackson statue as the "Jackson Gardens". He suggested that they officially call the area encompassing the Polk Tomb, Jackson and Johnson statues as the "Gardens of the Presidents", or "Presidential Gardens" or something appropriate. Comptroller Snodgrass asked where would they put this new name for the area and how would they make appropriate reference. Treasurer Adams asked if it would be official. State Architect Michael A. Fitts stated it could be added to the latest landscape plans for the Capitol Hill. Secretary Darnell suggested that a brass plaque be placed with something about each President.

After discussion, the Commission unanimously approved reference to the area of the three Presidential monuments as the "Presidential Gardens".

### **HJR 515: MEMORIAL HONORING TENNESSEANS OF CAMP MORTON AND THEIR HOOSIER COMMANDANT**

Mr. Fitts stated that they had not completed the research on Colonel Owen, Commandant of Camp Morton. Chairman Evans asked Mr. Fitts to report by mail or FAX the status of the research.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Treasurer Adams discussed the placement of cedar trees on the Capitol Hill and said they ought not be placed where they block the Capitol from the street, Charlotte Avenue. Commission Haynes stated they had cut down some cedar trees that had died. Treasurer Adams said he hoped they did not replace those where they might block the view. Senator Henry asked if the Department of General Services can oversee that and Mr. Fitts responded that he and General Services would do so.
- Senator Henry asked if the statues of "Morning, Noon and Night" were in the restoration plans. Mr. Fitts stated that the *Historic Structures Report* included these as a part of the recommended restoration and the *Historic Structures Report* had been approved by the Capitol Commission and the State Building Commission. Chairman Evans commented that it also included the House of Representatives chandelier.
- Senator Henry stated that there should be flood lighting on the statues on the Capitol Hill, with particular reference to Sam Davis. Treasurer Adams stated that he thought the foot lights add alot to the Capitol. Chairman Evans suggested that they ought to come up with a lighting plan.
- Chairman Evans asked the Commission if they would like to take action on a request by Leadership Clarksville to use the Supreme Court Chambers. The Commission approved the request.
- State Architect Michael A. Fitts discussed the idea of whether or not the jurisdiction of the Capitol Commission should be extended to include the Bicentennial Mall. Treasurer Adams said he thought it would be appropriate. Chairman Evans then appointed a sub-committee composed of Comptroller Snodgrass, Senator Henry and Secretary Darnell to address the matter. Comptroller Snodgrass said they would accept and have Mr. Fitts draft an appropriate resolution.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.