

MINUTES OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 5, 1995

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, Commissioner Larry Haynes, and State Treasurer Steve Adams.

Others present included:

Mike Fitts, State Architect
Georgia Gaye, State Architect's Office
Elsie Chastain Smith, Department of General Services
Lois Riggins-Ezzell, State Museum
Jim Hoobler, State Museum
Evadine McMahan, State Museum
Charles Watterfield, Architect

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 515

State Architect Michael A. Fitts briefed the Commission on the House Joint Resolution that was passed and signed by the Governor that supported the establishment and movement of permanent memorials to honor the heroic Tennesseans of Camp Morton and their Commandant, Colonel Richard Owen, in the State Capitol. Chairman Evans commented that he had a problem with the bill in that it was a bad precedent and did not make much sense. Senator Henry asked if Colonel Owen was Commandant when the Tennessee prisoners died.

Chairman Evans suggested considering monuments outside the Capitol rather than inside. Senator Henry suggested they ask the Historical Society to research the Commandant, Colonel Richard Owen, or they could ask Herbert Harper to look into who this person was and advise the Commission. He also suggested that, if the Commission desired, they could defer until the legislature meets again and they could submit another resolution.

Comptroller Snodgrass asked, if they were to add something in the Capitol of historic nature, would this proposal be appropriate. He said he would like to think that this was something that they would know about and want to commemorate. Amon Carter Evans said they should consider the following things:

1. Does this establish a bad precedent.
2. Should they ask for an investigation.
3. Is it proper for something like this to be placed in the State Capitol based upon the criteria they had before them without the express approval of the Capitol Commission.
4. Should the latter be deferred until an investigation was completed.

Commissioner Haynes stated that they should be very careful about putting anything permanent in the Capitol. Treasurer Adams said the resolution did not define the size of the proposed monument. Secretary Darnell suggested that the historic experts find out what Indiana's monuments were. Chairman Evans commented that he had difficulty with this proposal no matter how good or humane the Commandant was. Senator Henry mentioned that the Confederate Veteran had published an article about Colonel Owen.

Senator Doug Henry suggested that they defer action on this proposal until they had received a report. The Commission concurred.

JAMES K. POLK TOMB

State Architect Michael A. Fitts discussed the proposed loan of urns by the James K. Polk Memorial Association to be placed at the James K. Polk Tomb during the Bicentennial. He said he believed the association would like the Commission to request the loan. Chairman Evans commented that it was a nice gesture of the Polk Association and suggested that Mr. Fitts write a letter of request. Secretary Darnell requested that the Chairman negotiate with the Polk Association and Mr. Evans responded that he would be happy to meet with them.

Architect Charles Warterfield stated that Hardaway Construction Company has funds in their contract to pick up and deliver the urns. Chairman Evans stated that he would see Carolyn Fisher that week. He suggested that they ask the House and Senate to pass a resolution to thank the Association.

No formal action was taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Amon Carter Evans discussed the status of the Johnson Statute and was told it should be installed by August 1 with unveiling scheduled for approximately August 15. Charles Warterfield discussed the reliquary placed on the North slope of the Capitol.

Senator Henry asked about the bronze statues of Morning, Noon, and Night and whether or not they could be reproduced. Mr. Warterfield said they could but it would be expensive.

Chairman Evans commented that he would like to see the chandelier in the House of Representatives reproduced and installed.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 4:20 p.m.