

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 13, 1987

The State Capitol Commission met on this date with the following members and staff in attendance:

Representative John Bragg
Senator Douglas Henry
Comptroller William Snodgrass
Secretary of State Gentry Crowell
Treasurer Steve Adams
Michael A. Fitts, State Architect
Lois Riggins, Director, State Museum
Mary Sue Wright, Secretary of State's Office
Jeff Reynolds, Comptroller's Office
Doug Loope, Secretary of State's Office
Marion Fowlkes, The Ehrenkrantz Group
Jim Thompson, The Ehrenkrantz Group
John Mesick, Mendel-Mesick-Cohen-Waite-Hall
Hoy Stephenson, Department of General Services
Jim Hoobler, Tennessee Historical Society

Mr. Fitts advised the members that Chairman Evans had phoned him and stated he would be unable to attend the meeting. Senator Henry moved to nominate Representative Bragg as Acting Chairman. Secretary Crowell seconded the motion, and the motion passed without objection.

Senator Henry asked when was the Legislature scheduled to meet in the Capitol to which Mr. Fitts replied, "the second week in January".

Representative Bragg asked Mr. Fitts if there are are there any major difficulties associated with the fourteen days behind schedule? Mr. Fitts stated the schedule is very tight. Reoccupation was to begin approximately the 15th of December and finished by January 1 and that he believed these dates could still be met.

The designers for the project, Jim Thompson and Marion Fowlkes of Watterfield-Goodwin/The Ehrenkrantz Group, presented the floor plans of furnishings for the First Floor indicating which pieces were recommended to be existing, purchased new, or antiques. Senator Henry questioned why antiques were not being used in the Supreme Court chambers. Mr. Thompson

replied that four of the five Supreme Court chairs would be antiques but the remaining furnishings would be reproduction antiques. Mr. Crowell questioned whether the chairs would be comfortable to which Mr. Fitts replied, "not particularly".

Mr. Thompson stated that the current plan as shown was within the project budget. Mr. Fitts indicated that the Ground Floor level would utilize the dark oak prison industries furnishings throughout with exception of the cabinet level offices which would utilize refinished mahogany pieces. Senator Henry asked if the electrical and utilities would be completed and plumbing capabilities for the Second Floor. Mr. Fitts stated that these would be complete upon reoccupation of the Capitol.

Upon questioning by Mr. Crowell, Jim Thompson stated that the budget for the purchase of new executive furniture was \$77,000. Representative Bragg asked if the furnishings were visually coordinated. Mr. Thompson replied that the recommendation to purchase new furnishings for the corridor offices would help visually coordinate the project. Senator Henry asked Consultant John Mesick if such a mixture of existing new and antiques had been utilized on any of his other projects, to which he replied it had. He stated, "It's not a museum; it has to work. We have tried to mix reproductions with antiques. You will get a mixture. We have tried to restore certain rooms very faithfully where possible.

Representative Bragg asked if you can get computers that look like ink wells and quills. Mr. Mesick replied that the intention is to establish a basic tone for the overall look that will establish the historical ambience of the Capitol.

Representative Bragg began a discussion of control over additions, deletions, etc. of furnishings for the Capitol after this project is complete. Mr. Fitts stated that he believed the Capitol Commission had the authority to retain general jurisdiction over the furnishings for the Capitol. Discussions continued around the development of written policies regarding furnishings and appointments. It was suggested that staff begin working on draft policies that addressed these issues.

Secretary Crowell asked if the proposal as presented for the First Floor and Ground Floor was a unanimous recommendation. Mr. Fitts stated it was the recommendation of all the consultants and his office. Senator Henry made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented; Mr. Snodgrass seconded and the motion passed without objection.

Representative Bragg asked how we were going to be able to purchase all of the recommended antiques prior to January 1. Mr. Fitts stated that he realized all of these could not be purchased by that date but he, the consultants and the museum were making every effort to obtain as much as possible by January. Representative Bragg indicated his concern that the State will pay a premium if the State's critical need was known to perspective vendors. Lois Riggins stated she believed that they would be able to get antiques at market price. In the interest of expediting

approval, Crowell made a motion to delegate authority for approval of the purchase of antiques be given to Commissioner Manning for the antiques recommended for purchase by the designers and shown on the board presented. Without objection, Mr. Crowell's motion passed.

Treasurer Adams raised the question of the utilization of paintings. Lois Riggins responded that most of the paintings that were in the offices prior to the restoration project will be brought back with some shifting. She stated that the museum would be working with the individual occupants for museum paintings to be utilized in individual offices.

Secretary Crowell brought to the attention of the members that there had been a request by the Beane family to place a plaque in the Capitol and that there was some objection to the proposal by the historical experts. He stated that this request is still pending.

Representative Bragg indicated to Mr. Fitts that he did not believe the Capitol could be reoccupied by January 1, 1988 but he hoped that it could. Mr. Fitts stated that he needed all the help he could get.

Chairman Bragg adjourned the meeting and asked Mr. Fitts to advise Chairman Evans of the action taken today.

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