

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1992

Members Present

Senator Douglas Henry, Commissioner David Manning, Comptroller William Snodgrass, Secretary of State Bryant Millsaps, Treasurer Steve Adams, Commissioner William Whitson, Dr. Robert Corlew, Betty Gunter and Leroy Lawson

Others Present

Lieutenant Governor John Wilder, State Architect Mike Fitts, Evadine McMahan, Jim Hoobler, Jerry Preston, Howard Symons, Dan Pomeroy, David Graham, Janice Cunningham, Mark Wood, John Lunn, Charles Warterfield, and Georgia Gaye

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The meeting was called to order at 2:25 p.m. Due to the absence of Chairman Amon Carter Evans, Commissioner Manning was elected to act as temporary chairman. Jerry Preston was recognized and gave a slide presentation of the State Capitol area proposed improvements north of the Capitol in relation to the state's bicentennial celebration. Topics included view sheds, traffic flow, pedestrian flow, property owned by the State, potential property to be acquired by the State, enhancing James Robertson Parkway and crescent of the hill, the Capitol grounds, changing the railroad tracks, and extension of the greenspace.

Lieutenant Governor Wilder began a discussion of the existing railroad and its potential changes. Senator Henry suggested the use of a reflecting pool in the mall area. Commissioner Manning stated that the State Building Commission was responsible for the overall funding of the projects and the Bicentennial Commission would play a role in the development. He said that what was presented is only an outline. He mentioned that the General Assembly has supported enhancement of the land already in State ownership and has authorized funds for that purpose. He said that some restricted highway funds may be available for the project. The Commission discussed the issues of parking and traffic flow and the role of the Farmer's Market in the plan. Treasurer Adams suggested development in the area similar to the Second Avenue development that would generate usage and support for the project. Comptroller Snodgrass suggested that the State look into the purchase of land across Jefferson Street for its protection and utilization.

Senator Henry asked about the jurisdiction of the Capitol Commission and its role as it relates to the Bicentennial project. Commissioner Manning responded that there is overlap and that the State Building Commission has overall responsibility for what is built under the jurisdiction of the Capitol and Bicentennial Commissions.

Charles Warterfield, FAIA, architect, was recognized and discussed the historic exterior lamps that were removed in the 1950's restoration, but were not replaced due to cost. He said these light standards contained three figures representing morning, noon and night and were integral to William Strickland's design and the Historic Structures Report recommended their reinstatement. He said attempts have been made by the State to locate the removed standards with no positive results. He said, however, that one figure, that of the "Night" statue, had been located on private property and that, hopefully, the owners would let the State have that figure to use for casting additional figures. Mr. Warterfield recommended the State keep the original and return one of the new castings to the private owners.

Commissioner Whitson asked if there was a possibility, should the State use this located statue, that others might surface. Senator Henry and Comptroller Snodgrass suggested that Red Moss be contacted to see if he might have a recollection of the location of the removed statues.

Treasurer Adams mentioned that some of the antique furniture in his office needed reupholstering and Comptroller Snodgrass added that the carpet needed cleaning or, in some cases, replaced.

State Architect Mike Fitts discussed two proposed options to remedy the poor walkway conditions leading to the Polk tomb. He proposed either creating stepping stones utilizing some of the existing stone that was removed in the 1950's and located on the Tennessee State Prison grounds or providing a crushed stone walkway similar to what has just been installed at the Civic Center in Murfreesboro. Upon his recommendation, the Commission approved the gravel surface walkway as a pilot project for the long range grounds improvement project.

Commissioner Manning moved that the remaining agenda be suspended and the meeting adjourned. After proper second, the motion was adopted.

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