

# CAPITOL COMMISSION

JULY 3, 1986

## MINUTES

The Capitol Commission convened in the Executive Conference Room of the Capitol at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 3, 1986.

All appointed Commission members were in attendance with the exception of Secretary of State Gentry Crowell and Representative John Bragg who were out of town.

Chairman Amon Evans presided.

First for consideration was clarification on the degree of formality to be used by the Commission in the conduct of its business. It was agreed that it would function somewhat informally, similar to the Senate Finance Committee, as suggested by Senator Henry.

Also for determination was whether or not the Commission desired for the Department of General Services to continue to provide support services as it did for the Capitol Restoration Executive and Advisory Committees. It was agreed that the General Services' staff would continue this function.

Chairman Evans called upon Commissioner Simons to give a progress report on the restoration of the Library. Commissioner Simons brought the Commission up to date, stating the project is in the beginning stage of redecoration, with bids in on three components of the work. The three components are:

1. Ceiling painting including graining of woodwork
2. Stone Cleaning
3. Scaffolding

She reported that endorsement was received from the Executive Committee of the Capitol Restoration Advisory Committee to accept John Mesick's recommendation for award of contract for all three items. The contract award for items 2 and 3 was a clear-cut selection, however, the selection of a ceiling painter and wood grainer is more complicated.

Discussion followed regarding the technical expertise required by item No. 1.

Mesick has not recommended that the low bidder be awarded the contract. In light of this fact, the Attorney General's (A.G.) office has been consulted. Mike Fitts, State Architect, was called upon to elaborate this point.

Fitts explained that the A.G.'s office has indicated that they are comfortable with Mesick's explanation of the award. Mesick has documented his research which shows that the bid document, as submitted, did not meet specifications. The A.G.'s office, Fitts reported, was of the opinion that if sufficient documentation were available to defend the State's position in court on the basis that the low bid, as submitted, did not meet specifications, then they would feel comfortable about awarding the contract to someone else.

It was moved by Commissioner Simons, seconded by Senator Henry, that the Commission adopt the recommendations of designer John Mesick on the three items to be contracted and transmit them to the Building Commission for approval. Before the motion was put to vote, Comptroller Snodgrass moved to amend the motion to require the inclusion of a statement from the Attorney General that he feels comfortable defending the State's position in court. The amendment was then presented to Commissioner Simons and Senator Henry for acceptance. Both accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Simons called on John Kiser to report on furnishings in the Library. Kiser reported that the antique furnishings in the Library would become part of the Tennessee State Museum collection.

Senator Henry raised a question concerning the criteria to be used in the selection of the furnishings, and whether or not it would be more feasible to purchase antiques or reproductions. Kiser explained the nature of the particular period of furnishings and stated that if originals could be found they would be less costly than the reproductions. Unfortunately, the chances of finding originals are very slim, therefore, reproductions may have to be acquired.

Kiser continued his report on furnishings for the Library: The proposed carpeting will be an historic design. The proposed drapes and cornices will have to be reproduced under the direction of John Mesick. Mr. Mesick is checking with a local person about the chandelier in the Library.

Kiser reported that in other areas of the Capitol, proposals regarding design and specifications of fabrics will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Jackson stated that he was of the opinion that the Acquisitions Committee needed to be given considerable authority to use their own judgment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simons that an Acquisitions Committee which would serve as a sub-committee to the Capitol Commission, be appointed and submitted to the Building Commission for approval. It should be made up of representatives from the Tennessee State Museum, the State Architect's office, the Department of General Services, the private sector; and John Kiser, the consultant for Capitol Restoration. Senator Henry asked to add an amendment that the Tennessee Historical Society and the Tennessee Historical Commission approve the private sector member. Dr. Benjamin Caldwell was suggested and he was approved by both historical groups. The amendment was accepted, and the motion seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Following the motion, Comptroller Snodgrass suggested that it should be recognized that the Acquisitions Committee has no authority to act on its own, that its function is to identify resources.

A discussion ensued concerning ways to acquire furniture that are proper and legal. Lois Riggins of the Tennessee State Museum discussed the Museum's policy on artifact acquisition. She stated that acquisitions for the Capitol will be part of the permanent collection of the Museum.

Mr. Snodgrass suggested that procedures which are now in place for acquisition be put in writing and be available at the August Building Commission meeting.

At the request of Chairman Evans, Commissioner Simons gave an explanation of the Historic Structure Report (HSR), its recommendations, and cost estimates associated with it. She explained that the HSR was organized in three parts: 1.) the history of the Capitol, 2.) a room-by-room description and inventory, and 3.) recommendations for the Capitol's adaptive restoration. Commissioner Simons further explained that the HSR designated three distinct types of spaces in the Capitol: 1.) public spaces where historic authenticity is necessary, 2.) administrative-type spaces which are historically significant but need to be functional, 3.) mechanical space which is of little historic significance. Commissioner Simons explained that the Ground Floor is deemed to be critical space as its adaptive restoration is important to the success of the restoration of the First Floor. The adaptive restoration of the Ground Floor leads to much more flexible office space.

The question was raised as to whether the restoration would result in the addition or loss of space. Mr. Fitts responded, stating that a small loss would be incurred, but nothing of significance. The end result should be more efficient utilization of space.

Commissioner Simons continued to explain that the proposal for adaptive restoration includes the evacuation and complete renovation of the Ground Floor, the restoration of one courtroom on the First Floor as well as the offices on the First Floor including the Governor's suite (24 rooms altogether), Fire Suppression in the attic, Fire Detection throughout the building, a Food Service Kiosk to be located outside the Legislative Halls on the Second Floor, the installation of handicapped requirements and additional restroom facilities.

Mr. Snodgrass at this time recommended that the Commission consider taking the position that occupants of the Capitol may not make any substantive changes to the building without prior consultation with and approval from the Capitol Commission. Mr. Snodgrass suggested that the staff draft procedures regarding the use of the building in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

A discussion followed and it was suggested that the curatorial approach to handling problems of this nature in the Capitol may be a good solution, and that the recommendations of the consultant be sought with regard to developing on going policy.

Commissioner Simons stated that the Capitol Commission ought to submit to the Building Commission for approval a recommendation regarding the scope of the restoration project. Simons made a motion that the Capitol Commission approve the concept of the Second Phase of the Adaptive Restoration of the State Capitol (to include the renovation of the Ground Floor and First Floor offices and the restoration of the Supreme Court Chamber as an historic meeting room) as set forth in the Historic Structure Report as well as the corresponding cost estimates for the work. The motion was seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Evans requested Senator Henry take the Chair so that he might make a recommendation. Mr. Evans explained that several local architects had expressed interest in doing some of the work on the Capitol. Warterfield/Goodwin, a local firm has joined forces with The Ehrenkrantz Group, a local firm with national offices. Street and Street, other local architects have also expressed interest in the project.

Mr. Evans reported that upon interviewing both firms, both seemed qualified to do the work, however, in view of the combined expertise of the Warterfield/Goodwin - Ehrenkrantz joint venture, he made a motion that the Capitol Commission submit to the Building Commission for approval the recommendation that the Warterfield/Goodwin - Ehrenkrantz joint venture be chosen as the design team for the second phase of the restoration process. The motion was seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Senator Henry returned the Chair to Chairman Evans. Mr. Evans reviewed the purpose and function of the Capitol Restoration Executive and Advisory Committees and asked for thoughts from the Commission about its continued existence and/or function past January 1, 1987. Because the Capitol Restoration Committee was established by Executive Order, it will be terminated when the present administration ends.

A suggestion was made that the Capitol Commission might distribute a Restoration Newsletter in order to keep the Capitol Restoration Committee apprised of the progress being made. A decision was reached that the staff of the Capitol Commission would take under advisement what to do with the Advisory Committee and report back at the next Capitol Commission meeting.

Mr. Evans reported that the Capitol Restoration Executive Committee in its last meeting had passed a recommendation to the Capitol Commission that they (the Capitol Commission) ask the Building Commission to approve the hiring of Mendel, Mesick, Cohen, Waite, Hall as consultants to the Capitol Restoration project. A formal motion was then made by Senator Henry and seconded by Dr. Mallette that it be recommended to the Building Commission that Mr. Mesick's firm be hired to function as an expert arm of the Building Commission, the Capitol Commission, and the State Architect's office in the specialized and highly technical field of adaptive restoration. MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Fitts is to provide further specifics regarding the cost of Mesick's consultation at the Building Commission Meeting on July 10.

John Kiser was called upon to explain the concept of the Governor's Suite. He explained, via his renderings which are interpretations of the HSR recommendations, that the concept is one that mixes good contemporary furniture with a few good antique pieces. A discussion followed regarding the appropriateness of the State Seal woven on the middle of the carpet in the Governor's reception area. It was concluded that the seal was a design idea, desirable but not mandatory. It was stated that no action need be taken on this matter at the present time.

Mr. Fitts suggested that a formal adoption of the Historic Structure Report by the Capitol Commission was necessary in order to comply with Senate Bill #1982 which legislates the duties of the Capitol Commission. Commissioner Simons made a motion that the Capitol Commission adopt the Historic Structure Report of the State Capitol as the overall Master Plan for its adaptive restoration and submit it to the Building Commission for approval. She further referred to SB #1982, Section 2 (a) (1) which states that it shall be the duty and responsibility of the Capitol Commission to "formulate and develop a plenary master plan and program for the adaptive restoration and preservation of the State Capitol; including the Building and contiguous grounds[.]" The motion was seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting.