MINUTES

STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

December 6, 2023

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Chairman Jim Bryson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

State Architect Ann McGauran called the roll and a quorum was established with the following members in attendance:

- Commissioner Jim Bryson, Chairman
- Commissioner Christi Branscom
- Commissioner David Salyers
- Chief of Staff Christina Temple, designee for Secretary of State Tre Hargett
- General Counsel Alison Cleaves , designee for Treasurer David Lillard
- Chief of Staff Jennifer Pfeiffer, designee for Comptroller Jason Mumpower
- Derita Coleman Williams
- Senator Jack Johnson
- Howard Gentry
- Dr. Logan Hampton, arrived 9:07
- Clay Good
- Steve McDaniel

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes from the July 9, 2020 meeting was made and seconded. At a roll call vote all members of the Commission voted aye and the motion passed.

3. Public Comment: No public comment requests received.

4. New Business

A. Consideration of Music City, Inc.'s Plans for New Year's Eve Celebration and Request for Use of Capitol Grounds

Deana Ivey, President and CEO of the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation. The Music City, Inc. Foundation produces New Year's Eve Live, Nashville's Big Bash. This event has successfully been held at Bicentennial Capitol Mall since 2016 except for 2020 during the pandemic. They have a strong relationship with State Parks, Department of General Services, Capitol grounds and Tennessee Highway Patrol and appreciate their partnership. This Commission has granted permission to access the Capitol grounds for the past seven years. They have gotten it down to where they do not have any issues and there were no problems last year.

As a live event the Big Bash attracts about 200,000 attendees and generates as much as $38 million in direct visitor spending. The event hires vendors across Middle Tennessee. Nearly 100 vendors that employ 13,010 Tennesseans. As a tv special it has even more significant impact. They partnered with CBS for a five-hour special that will reach millions of viewers and generate the kind of marketing and advertising neither the City nor the State could buy. CNN will also broadcast the music note drop at midnight.

The Department of Environment & Conservation has renewed their contract to hold Big Bash at Bicentennial Park for the next two years with an option for a third year.

- This request includes the following:
  - Lighting the Capitol cupula red;
  - Permission to shoot fireworks for less than 3 minutes with approximately one thousand 3-5" shells being shot from the observation deck on Capitol Hill at midnight; and
  - Reservation of the Capitol grounds for the time frame as appropriate for the set-up, tear-down, and the event to ensure limited access on Capitol Hill and protection of Capitol property using the same measures as last year.
- NCVC is prepared to repair and replace any necessary items.

Motion: Ms. Ivey requested the Capitol Commission to approve the use the Capitol grounds for two years with the option for a third year. The Chairman moved this request, and the motion was seconded.

Vote: At a roll call vote the Commission voted unanimously and the motion passed.

B. Capital Project Update

Deputy Commissioner John Hull with the Department of General Services and Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Murphy gave an update on six capital projects. The projects included were:

1. State Capitol Landscape Upgrades and Retaining Wall Repairs
   (SBC #529/005-01-2013)

2. State Capitol Window and Roof Repairs
   (SBC #529/005-01-2022)

3. State Capitol Conference Room Audio-Visual Replacement
   (SBC # 529/005-02-2022)
   - Commissioner Bryson asked if the rooms will be closed during the renovation period. State Architect McGauran replied that they plan a staggered closing so that all three will not be offline at the same time. This is why the construction duration is so long. A big part of what they are doing especially in the Executive Conference room is to make it better for budget hearings and larger live streaming events that need to occur. The goal is to be mindful in getting that work done when those rooms are less used.

4. War Memorial Building Exterior and Interior Renovations
   (SBC# 529/090-01-2021)

5. Legislative Plaza Renovations (and Motlow Tunnel)
   (SBC # 529/045-01-2022)
   - Commissioner Bryson asked where the new entrance to the Capitol is in relation to the conference center. Assistant Commissioner Murphy replied that in real life they are in the center of the building on the east side of the Legislative Plaza building underneath the bridge connection with TPAC. Commissioner Bryson asked where that is on the drawing. Assistant Commissioner Murphy replied underneath the main concourse lobby is the museum store and if you follow to the Legislative Plaza area there are grand stairs. Currently there are two small stairs that go down, these will be the more prominent entrances that will get you into the visitor's center.

- Steve McDaniel recognized Ms. Ashley Howell, Executive Director of the TN State Museum as attending and has a great interest in this.
- Commissioner Jim Bryson recognized Mr. David Carpenter, Facility Manager of the Capitol as attending.
- Commissioner Jim Bryson confirmed that the Legislative Plaza won't be as slick as it is currently. Assistant Commissioner Murphy replied that was correct and that is one of the goals.
- State Architect McGauran stated that this Commission has a Monuments and Memorials Master Plan and there are a number of those that sit atop of the War Memorial Plaza area. These are being thoughtfully considered in the new design.
- Comptroller Mumpower asked about the parking and if arrangements have been made. Deputy Commissioner Hull replied that arrangements have been made and they have communicated with those who park there. They have been relocated to different places.
- State Architect McGauran stated that the plaza is used a lot for people who protest or want to be heard and asked what the plan would be for those. Deputy Commissioner Hull stated that he's not sure they can tell them where they need to go but that the TN Tower Plaza is the closest place with a view of the Capitol in the background. They are working with the Department of Safety to make sure they can secure the area around.

6. Old Library and Archives and Supreme Court Building Renovation
   (SBC # 529/074-01-2023)

5. Old Business

Commissioner Bryson thanked all the members for attending. The Commission had not met in quite a while and many of the member made quite a trip to be there for the meeting. He thanked everyone for their time and dedication to the Capitol and Capitol grounds and the history of this great State. He thanked them for being diligent and responsible about taking up their responsibility.

There being no further business, at a roll call vote all members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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