

MINUTES
STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION
February 20, 2020

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Chairman Stuart McWhorter called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

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

- Commissioner Stuart McWhorter
- Commissioner Christi Branscom
- Commissioner David Salyers
- Secretary of State Tre Hargett
- Treasurer David Lillard
- Comptroller Justin Wilson
- Senator Jack Johnson
- Representative Matthew Hill
- Howard Gentry
- Hallerin Hill, via telephone

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McWhorter asked for one revision to be made to the September 1, 2017 minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes from the September 1, 2017; November 9, 2018; and December 18, 2019 meetings was made and seconded. At a roll call vote the Commission voted unanimously and the motion passed.

3. New Business

Commissioner McWhorter stated that there are folks present to speak related to item C, the discussion of Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust. He reminded the commission members and audience that no vote would be taken on this item but requested that those individuals planning to speak only speak for three minutes. A group of individuals can combine their time and have one speaker for that total time. He stated that the commission are trying to keep comments into a certain timeframe but wants everyone to have the opportunity to speak. Commissioner McWhorter stated that there are some Legislators here to speak and their time would not be combined because they all want to speak individually.

A. Location of Monument to Unborn Children (Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-8-305) as requested by Senator Bowling and Representative Dunn

State Architect Ann McGauran stated that there has been a recommendation committee for this item that included Senator Bowling, Representative Dunn, Executive Director of the Arts Commission, Executive Director of the Museum, State Architect, Facility Manager of the Capitol, and members of the Department of General Services. This committee was formed to determine an appropriate location for this monument. The recommended location is along Charlotte, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, in front of the Capitol on the East side. This is in line and in keeping with the Holocaust Memorial and the Middle Passage Memorial which seems to be appropriate. The location that is proposed would be along a new path in the Capitol Master

Plan project that we will learn about later in the meeting. The recommendation committee is requesting approval for this location for the Monument to Unborn Children.

Commissioner McWhorter stated that the members have photos of this location and that this is an action item to approve the location of the monument.

Treasurer Lillard asked if Senator Bowling or Representative Dunn, who are in attendance, would like to be heard on this issue. Commissioner McWhorter asked if either one would like to speak. Representative Dunn stated that they were supportive but didn't need to speak unless there were questions.

Motion: A motion to approve the location for the Monument to Unborn Children was made and seconded.

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

B. Approval of new exterior ground mounted LED light fixtures for the Capitol

State Architect Ann McGauran stated that Brian Wilson with the Department of General Services was present to speak to this item. State Architect McGauran stated for context that in 2014 the Capitol Commission approved replacement of the exterior lighting around the Capitol. The installation was delayed because at that time the proposed fixture replacements were felt to be too large for the location. Technology has improved and now there is an appropriate replacement for these fixtures.

Mr. Wilson stated that there is a project to replace the Capitol lights and there was a mockup last night. They are looking at the results of how the lights reflected up onto the Capitol. There is a four-week construction time. Once they have approval from today's meeting they will confirm the correct location and illumination for the lights, there are currently twenty-four that will go around the Capitol building, and order the fixtures. Then the installation will take about two weeks. The lights will be the LED lights, new technology indicated by State Architect McGauran.

Motion: A motion to approve the new exterior ground mounted LED light fixtures for the Capitol was made and seconded.

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

C. Discussion of Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust (No vote will be taken)

Commissioner McWhorter stated that those advocating for the rotation of the bust will speak first and then those in favor of keeping the bust in its current location will speak.

- Jim Wohlgemuth, member of Veterans for Peace Ch. 089, stated that he represents Veterans for Peace, an International organization of veterans who try to show the world the futility of war. He stated he is personally a Vietnam veteran. Mr. Wohlgemuth stated that he was there with a question. Why do you or any Legislators within Tennessee want to keep the Forrest bust? He stated that you know the history of Forrest and even know the history of the bust erected in the mid '70s, 1970s not 1870s. Not to honor Forrest but to poke a stick in the eye of the African American community in the wake of the Civil Rights Movement and Brown vs Board of Education. That's when it was erected; it's a bust that honors Jim Crow more than it does Nathan Bedford Forrest. So why is the bust so important? Mr. Wohlgemuth stated that he has heard that it is heritage, which makes no sense. Who would want to honor a heritage of slavery and war crime? He stated that he has heard that it is history. Well, if its history then let's put it in a historical museum and outline what Forrest's resume was, a slave trader, a betrayer to the United States, a war criminal, and a head of

the KKK. I'm going to ask you a question, you know the facts already, why would you want to honor a person in a Confederate uniform, in a uniform that was there to disrupt and destroy that flag (pointed to American flag)? Why would you want to keep it here?

- Reverend Dr. Kevin Riggs stated that he and Dr. Chris Williamson will stand together during their time. Dr. Riggs thanked the Commission for discussing this in February like they said they would do at the last meeting in December. Dr. Riggs stated that this is an important conversation that is needed. He also thanked the Commission for clarifying that they are talking about removing, not rotating, and think it is the best approach. Dr. Riggs stated that at the last meeting they asked for a date of when the Commission would start discussing this and now a second request is for a date of when this will be voted on. He stated that they are hoping to leave today knowing that there is a date set in stone where a vote will be taken. Dr. Riggs stated that he is a pastor at Franklin Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee, Williamson County and that he stands here asking the Commission to seriously consider removing the bust. He stated that he has been active in asking for this for a few years now. You have heard the historical reasons of why this bust should be removed but the bottom line is that this particular bust is not part of the history immediately following the Civil War up to the 1920s where the monuments of the Confederate soldiers went up. That thirty-year period was one thing, but this was not part of that, this was something that was commissioned in the late 1970s, as already been stated. It is his understanding that it's the only nonpolitical figure in the rotunda. All the other people represented served in the Legislature or did something at the State level and this is an oddity from that. There is a moral reason for this as well, trying to redeem our past, we can't relive it, we don't need to forget it, but we do need to redeem it. The saying that "this is not who we are anymore" is a positive step to make, so the time is right to do this and simply the right thing to do.
- Dr. Chris Williamson stated that he is the Senior Pastor at Strong Tower Bible Church in Nashville, Tennessee. This year they will celebrate their 25th year as an authentic multiracial congregation, one of few in our city and even around the country. In continuing what his colleague mentioned in terms of when the monuments were put up at the beginning of the twentieth century and even look at what occurred at the placement of the bust in the seventies here in our Capitol. It came on the heel of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, so in a sense it was once again trying to show where the real power lies and not so much of where the country needed to go at that time and still needs to go. Dr. Williamson asked who we are afraid of offending by removing the bust of a KKK grand wizard. Who are we afraid of upsetting by removing this bust? Who has the real power in this city? Is it a select few that still have a "good old boy" mentality or is it the will of the people as a whole? It's time that this Commission considers the majority of people in this community who are offended and even embarrassed by having the bust in the Capitol. It's time we think of the black community that often feels overlooked and disrespected in items like this. Dr. Williamson stated that, as Representative Harold Love shared with him, no one goes to the National Football Hall of Fame to see the bust of a hockey player. If a hockey player's bust is in the football hall of fame it is out of place, it belongs in hockey hall of fame and so to go into the hall of our Legislature here in Tennessee and to see the bust of a man who doesn't belong there is out of place. He stated that some say he was converted at the end of his life, but he is not in that hall because he made a conversion to Jesus Christ. He's not wearing baptism robes or choir robes, he's wearing the vestiges of the Confederate Army, that's why he was placed there, a symbol of hate and division and its past time for it to be gone. We just need the courage and the conviction to remove it because we already have the will of the people. Let's do it.

- Secretary Hargett stated that Representative Staples wanted a letter from him distributed to the members of the committee. With permission the letter was given to the Sergeant of Arms to distribute.
- State Architect McGauran stated that was all the speakers on the list for removal of the bust. She stated that Mr. Edward Phillips did not indicate a position.
- Mr. Edward Phillips stated that the past two years of his life he has been involved representing the Forrest family with regards of the removal of a statue in Memphis. Mr. Phillips stated that was not there on their behalf, he was there as a Tennessean. He noted that another speaker, Ms. Elizabeth Coker, has ceded her time to him. Mr. Phillips stated that he has always considered himself a Tennessean; although he has spent time in North Carolina, was born in New York, and grew up in Massachusetts, his great-great-grandfather was from East Tennessee. Every single one in his family fought for the Union, he had an anti-slave Baptist preacher in his family, and his third-great uncle, Alan Phillips, was a member of second Missouri cavalry regiment, Merrill's Horses US Army, who fought against Forrest. Mr. Phillips stated that this war was complicated; it was not an easy day in the park. There were no clear distinctions. He stated that it is time for monuments to US colored troops, to Southern Unionists of which the USCT were. He stated that we should explain history, history in this country and throughout the world is good, bad, ugly, indifferent, glorious and horrific. We should be staring our history in the face. The job and duty of a government is to simply place things out and let their informed citizenry take the opinion they are going to take with regard to any object that is in the public purview. We should educate ourselves. Mr. Phillips stated that he remembers when he was in law school in Memphis and this very discussion came up of whether or not the Forrest statue should be removed. One of his closest friends and roommate was from Memphis and they would discuss race, Memphis, about everything and though I could never truly understand or experience what it means to be an African American male in this country, my roommate always thought, being a history major at UT, maybe if I were an African American father I would take my children to what used to be Forrest Park and say to them, see that man on that horse? Some say he was a great military leader, he was, but let me tell you about the other things he did that I disagree with. Let me tell you about the history, educate yourself, empower yourself over the object. Isn't it about empowerment and knowledge and taking things on? Mr. Phillips stated that he also has Confederates in his life, is related to President Obama and they both are related to Robert E. Lee. We are one people, we are intertwined and because we are intertwined we should stop yelling at one another, we should focus on what brings us together as a people and accept our history and work with our history and better ourselves. Mr. Phillips sits back and sees and understands the debate. His great-great-grandmother was Jane Marlow Patterson, her father, Thomas, was his third-great grandfather. At the age of 58, Thomas Marlow joined the First Tennessee, Company A, US Army, and died of disease in 1861. His son, James Alexander Marlow, moved away from Anderson County and moved to Putnam County before the war and was in Seventeenth Tennessee Infantry regiment, Confederate States Army. Thomas Marlow's son-in-law, Clark Patterson, Mr. Phillips' great-great-grandfather was in Second Tennessee US Army and was in the battle of Rogersville, where his son Gaston Patterson was captured by the Confederates. Another first cousin, William Riley Silvey, was also captured. He had been in the Confederate Army, based on the 1862 Conscription Act. An officer from First Tennessee Cavalry recognized him as a deserter and pulled him out of line and executed him. Mr. Phillips stated that his family paid a heck of a price. Gaston Patterson at the age of 23 on February 4, 1864 died in a Confederate prison camp on Bell Isle in Richmond, Virginia on the James River and Mr. Phillips' family had lived on the river since 1619. This was a complicated war, a complicated history. Let's stare it in the face, let's not be afraid of an object, let's

educate ourselves, let's move forward and heal one another. Mr. Phillips stated that Jane Marlow Patterson's first cousin, Joseph Marlow, born in Anderson County, an East Tennessee boy, went to Arkansas as a child, then Texas and was in the Ninth Texas Cavalry regiment and was killed at Corinth in April 1862 serving the Confederate Army, specifically in Forrest Cavalry Corp. Mr. Phillips stated that he had a first cousin who was in Forrest First Cavalry Corp and a third-great uncle who fought against Forrest. That's America. Mr. Phillips stated that he is half Italian with Italian immigrant grandparents, his wife is an immigrant from Russia, she's half Armenian. Think about what happened to the Armenians. We truly are an amazing people and an amazing county. We can learn from our history.

- Mr. Mark Jackson stated that there are two ways to look at our history. What brings him here today is the unhistorical, anti-historical method of presentism. This is the assumption of current moral code and system of values are absolutely right and application of them to the past. Using this standard many of the paintings, sculptures and statues would be classified as now unfit to be on display in our Capitol or its grounds. They could easily be classified as representing slave owners, ethnic cleansers, executioners, murderers, tyrants, racists, white supremacists, homophobes or worse. So many historical figures of Tennessee are now seen as undeserving of recognition or appreciation for their contribution simply because they did not think, speak, act or look exactly like the society of this second decade of the twenty-first century. If our society chooses to approach the past in such an illogical manner we must realize that men today will someday be condemned by future generations because most assuredly our values will not be the same values of the future. Our code of ethics will one day be old and outdated. If the dead could speak their defense would be the same as ours would be; we're gone, we walked with the light that we had and we did the best that we could with what we had when we lived. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 813 is the current effort that gives us an example of this illogical historical approach. It would make the Capitol and its grounds into a competition of monuments pitting Civil War vs Civil Rights. Affixing the offending war memorials with disclaimers, explaining away their significant place in Tennessee history. This process creates a divide by creating my monuments or your monuments. This must not be. There should only be our monuments and our history. In this last decade nationally organized anti-historical organizations have had a stunning success. With each victory they grow stronger and bolder and show no signs of compromise. Anything Forrest just happens to be high on their list today. If he is removed will they be satisfied? Will that be the end of this? I think not and am certain they have a long list of other dead men in their sights. Ladies and gentlemen, we stand here in the Cordell Hull Building, how much longer until the push comes to remove his name from this building? You see, when our society goes down this road and crosses the Rubicon there is no stopping if these efforts are left unchecked.
- Dr. Michael Bradley stated that history has been his passion as well as his profession. He has a Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt and taught history for thirty-six years at a college here in Tennessee. Since retiring he continues to write and research. His latest book on the Civil War will be published this spring by the University of Tennessee Press. Dr. Bradley stated that he would like to encourage the members of this Commission to follow the basic principles of history in accessing this topic. Basically, history notes facts, not emotion, not folklore, not tradition. Dr. Bradley pointed out that although you've heard it said many times, including this morning, that Forrest was head of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) no historian from 1866 until this year has ever produced evidence that this was the case, not one. There are many secondary sources that allege Forrest was head of the Klan but secondary sources are not the basic material of history. History depends on primary sources. There is one primary source and one only that deals with Forrest and the Klan. That primary source is the investigation undertaken by the United States Congress in the 1870's. Nathan Bedford

Forrest appeared before them and testified for two days. At the end of that testimony this committee, which incidentally went on to indict 9,000 people for Klan involvement, ruled that not only was Forrest in no way involved with the Klan, they congratulated him on using his influence to oppose the Klan. This source is the Report of the Joint Select Committee to inquire into the affairs of the late insurrectionary, state report forty-one, part one, pages 6-14 as published by the United States Congress. The leading scholar on reconstruction era at the present time, Eric Foner of Columbia University just retired, and in his book "Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution", Forrest is mentioned zero times. There is chapter after chapter on the Klan; however, Forrest is not mentioned. The latest book on the Klan written by Professor Frantz at Duquesne University, "Ku Klux: The Birth of the Klan during Reconstruction, Dr. Elaine Frantz Parsons, Duquesne University on page 50, says there's no compelling evidence that Forrest ever exercised any leadership or influence in the Klan. Dr. Bradley stated that he therefore encouraged the members to look for facts and would encourage everyone who is interested in history to look to the facts, to the primary sources. Not to things that were said later, not to things that were said by those who were not there but by the eyewitnesses, the primary sources, which is the basic source of history.

- Mr. Paul White stated that he is a native of Nashville, Tennessee and for the past 42 years an attorney practicing in this city. He holds an undergraduate degree in history with honors from the University of Tennessee. He has been an avid student of history since learning to read as a child. Amongst other positions he has held, he has been the camp commander of the Joseph E. Johnston Camp 28 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 2006. That camp began in 1973 at the request and direction of the General Assembly of Tennessee, through Joint Resolution 54, to raise the funds to commission and create the bust of Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest that now occupies one of the niches in the Tennessee State Capitol. After a five-year effort it was placed in the Capitol building in 1978. The Senate Joint Resolution was sponsored by Senator Douglas Henry who, at that time and until his death, was a member of Camp 28. Mr. White stated that he has submitted, to the Commission, and asked that this be made a permanent record of the proceedings of this Commission, a brief that is more extensive than he has time to cover today. Much of what is in the brief was already covered by Dr. Bradley. There are sources cited in the brief if the members want the primary source authority for some of the things that Dr. Bradley mentioned and that Mr. White will mention as well. He stated that he would be remised if he did not make clear the point regarding the instructions from the General Assembly in that Joint Resolution. It notes that Tennessee's greatest Military hero on the Federal side during the War Between the States was Admiral Farragut and duly noted that a bust of Admiral Farragut was already in place in a niche on the second floor of the Capitol at that time. The Resolution sought balance in terms of Tennessee's divided Military history of the War Between the States and went on to identify General Forrest as Tennessee's greatest Military hero on the Confederate side. That is the reason that the bust was created and placed in the Capitol. It was to balance a Union Military bust with a Confederate Military bust. The life and career of Nathan Bedford Forrest is a complicated one and offers many challenges to historical interpretation. Today, General Forrest is viewed as a controversial figure. We cannot have at this time and in this setting a full debate of those challenges. In closing, Mr. White urged that the Commission consult the brief that he filed and look at those sources that are cited.
- Mr. Gene Andrews stated he is a native Nashvillian, not a carpet bagger that has moved down here to change our history, although that has happened. Mr. Andrews stated that he was asked to speak as a former combat officer. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the 3rd Marine division that served in the Northern part of Quang Tri province in Vietnam, fought below the

demilitarized zone and sent out west toward the Laotian border Vandergrift Combat Base. Mr. Andrews stated that he wanted to try to refute some of the misinformation that's been told about Forrest and some of his military operations specifically the military operation at Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River in April of 1864. This is a lie and political propaganda to consider that a massacre. First of all that's a bad definition. Mr. Andrews stated that a massacre is a total wipe out, a total annihilation with no survivors. He stated that according to Captain Fergusson of the United States Navy that arrived after the battle there were 226 prisoners taken by the Confederates. There were another 130 that were too seriously wounded to be moved and Captain Anderson and part of Forrest's escort came back the next day and helped load the wounded Federal soldiers onto a steamboat and took them to the hospital in Memphis. Therefore Mr. Andrews stated that the story that it was a massacre is an out and out lie that was propagated by politicians in Washington to rev up anti-South sentiment toward the end of the war. In the spring of 1864 there was no clear-cut victory. We know, unfortunately, how the war turned out but it wasn't a done deal by then. The north needed to boost recruiting, they were bringing in boatloads of Irish and German recruits to fill out the ranks of the Federal Army. There had been draft riots all over the north in the summer of 1863 and they needed to do something to boost recruiting and improve the war effort in the north so Forrest was a scapegoat for this. And to bring in the fact that there were USCT (colored troops) at Fort Pillow only helped turn up the animosity toward the southern soldiers. Mr. Andrews guessed you could say that Nathan Bedford Forrest was one of the first victims of a racial hoax in this country and that's what the Fort Pillow so called massacre was about. It was not a massacre, General Forrest offered a chance of surrender to the Fort, they were untrained soldiers because the only officers with any Military experience had been shot by Confederate snipers at dawn when the battle started. At 3:00 General Forrest sent in a flag offering the soldiers a chance to surrender and it was refused. That is the Military history; Mr. Andrews hoped the members would take that as factual information.

- State Architect Ann McGauran stated that Lieutenant Colonel Ron Hartley originally asked to speak but was unable to come and sent a letter.
- Mr. Doug Jones stated that he represents the Sons of Confederate Veterans but he also stands there with a career that's been involved with heritage protection on both sides of the aisle. In 2003 he created Friends of Fort Negley when nobody was interested in Fort Negley. Three years ago the mayor at the time was going to give away half of Fort Negley. They filed a lawsuit with the Tennessee Historic Commission and were able to stop it. Chairman Mitchell was involved in it and they were able to stop it. Mr. Jones stated that he stands on both sides of the aisle about protecting history. He brought a copy of T.C.A. 4-8-101 for members and read "It is the duty of the department of general services, through the commissioner acting with approval of the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, to take care of and preserve the second floor...". This act was passed in 2010. The legislature created the Capitol Commission in 1986. Under Tennessee law a specific statute controls over a general statute. The Capitol Commission is charged with setting policy for the Capitol but this is a specific statute that says the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House have control of the second floor. Mr. Jones also brought for the members a copy of a certified transcript for the MTSU filed petition asking that the ROTC building named Forrest Hall be changed. There was a full trial on it in front of the Historic Commission and the Historic Commission voted 15-7 not to change the name. Why did they do that? Why is that bust up there? There has been no scholarship, since that bust was put up there, which indicated that General Forrest's military career has changed. It hasn't, in fact Mr. Jones stated that he would argue that General Forrest's military reputation is even greater today. Mr. Jones apologized that he disagrees with some of the

previous speakers. Tennessee had the second most battles in the Civil War. The Civil War was the bloodiest war in the history of this country. There were boys from Minnesota, Alabama, USCT troops that all died right here and the idea that we're going to erase this is very troubling. We want to protect history. As stated before history is ugly. Forrest was wrong about slavery but his military career is unparalleled in Tennessee history and Mr. Jones asked the Commission not to move the bust.

- State Architect McGauran stated that Ms. Elizabeth Coker is present and that Mr. Phillips took her time to speak.
- Ms. Coker stated that she would still like to speak. Commissioner McWhorter replied "sure". Secretary Hargett confirmed that she yielded her time to someone else. Ms. Coker stated that she would keep it brief. Secretary Hargett stated that with respect she has already yielded her time. Ms. Coker stated that if there are opportunities in the future she would like to speak. Secretary Hargett stated that he has no problem with that but for today she did yield her time.
- State Architect McGauran stated that the next speakers are the members of the Legislature.
- Representative Sabi 'Doc' Kumar represents District 66 of Robertson County which is immediately north of Davidson County. Representative Kumar stated that they are a conservative society. He has been in the community for forty-three years and they have received him well and that's why he has stayed. This is a rural conservative community that has very basic values. They have received him well in the sense that this is his third term and he usually gets about 78% of the vote and does very well when President Trump is on the ballot. The community has also been kind to him because he is a surgeon in the community. He has operated on a lot of people and they have family, friends and church members that get to know him. Consequently, they give him a pass on most things. They do not tell what he should be doing, usually but some do. Usually they respect his opinion in a way that they will ask what he thinks even on controversial issues. This is a blessing to be in a community that trusts him. Except on one matter, the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust. The feeling is "Doc, don't let them move it. It is history." We have heard passionate words describing why some want to keep it and why some want to move it. On both sides there are reasonable people. It is heritage, it is cultural respect, it is family lines, it is family heirlooms, that is one thing he gets in his community and most in the legislature on the republican side gets from their community. He also gets, as he walks by one of his best friends in the legislature for whom all have a great deal of respect, Representative Johnny Shaw. He looks at it and says, "Doc, this fellow enslaved my forefathers, it hurts me." Representative Kumar stated that he respects Representative Shaw and he has to balance that with what he hears in his community. There are passionate, reasonable good arguments on both sides. He stated that their responsibility is to honor history. To realize what history means to us. It has been said and everybody knows that those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it. Let us tell the story of the history as it is, and to do that Representative Kumar proposes to add a monument of comparable size and presence to the same area that celebrates a civil rights hero. We will be able to give the Capitol a presence of a museum, which it already almost is, that will tell the story of the Civil War and a Civil War hero. Yes, there was cruelty; there is cruelty in each war, but move from that. After the Civil War there was unification of the country, there was reconstruction, there were further struggles in that there was also the Civil Rights Movement. So let us add a Civil Rights hero to the mix whether that if this is your statue, this is my statue. No, it's not that. The idea is to unite, it is our history. Let's look at it together in that sense. To that effect Representative Kumar has filed House Joint Resolution 813 to reflect the will of the General Assembly that such an addition that also honors the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil Rights heroes will unite us. That is his hope. His expectation is also that this joint

resolution will receive bipartisan support in the legislature. Based on the people he has talked to in the committee so far, he is very hopeful that it will have bipartisan support. Representative Kumar respectfully defers to the Commission as far as the details of this proposal and how far it is implemented. He hopes that this effort will unite us. This is his sincere hope and prayer. Let us do that, let us complete the circle of history, let us tell the full story so that people coming to the Capitol will have an experience that is really a museum experience that tells the story from Civil War to Civil Rights and the heroes on both sides that we have.

- Representative Harold Love Jr. serves as State Representative here in District 58. Representative Love acknowledges the history of the Sons of Confederacy and many others who have spoken. There is also another history that is often overlooked. That is the history of kidnapped Africans and their descendants. Representative Love told a story about a woman named Myra Woods. The 1880 census lists her as living in Dalton, Georgia with her husband and children. One son named Samuel who was from a previous relationship, not a marriage. The 1870 census lists the same son, Samuel, as working for the Olive family here in Tennessee. Samuel had a son who was born in 1892 and then that Samuel had two sons born in Nashville in 1919. One son went to Pearl High, TSU and in 1968 was elected as a State Representative in the Tennessee General Assembly. Representative Love then shared that what he had not mentioned about Myra Woods was that Woods was her married name because her original name was Myra Love but she wasn't married to Mr. Love. She was owned by him and she had a child by him. So when we talk about slavery often times we don't have a face to put on it that is in modern day. Here stands before you the face of a descendant, not just randomly named but by facts in the census. Facts that say that Myra Love was a slave, Sam Love was a slave, Sam Jr. wasn't, Harold Sr. wasn't, Harold Jr. isn't and yet Harold Jr. has to work in a building where every day Representative Love sees a former slave owner as he gets off the elevator to go into the House Chamber to vote for bills that affect every Tennessean. So, when we talk about history, we talk about the effects it has on those who lived through it, don't discount his experience. He's not discounting yours. Factually the census reports these incidents. Representative Love stated that he was not there to talk about Forrest's military history or what may be listed as a massacre. He was there to talk about the fact that cannot be disputed. Forrest owned slaves and the fact that Representative Love's great grandfather was a slave and his great-great grandmother was a slave and more so that his great grandfather was a slave in Tennessee. Forrest may have owned Representative Love's great grandfather. He knows his great grandfather worked for the Olive family. So when we talk about facts, his Ph.D. is in administration, so when he talks about administration he talks about the fact that are we going to, on the second floor of the Capitol, where we honor legislators and on the first floor of the Capitol, where we honor Governors, are we going to lift up persons who have neither served in the congressional U.S. Senate seats, State House, State Senate seats? Is that administratively how we should carry on? Representative Love says no. We don't want to discount that history. Folks will say it's not our place to deal with history because we didn't cause those problems. In his other profession he pastors a church and he is reminded of a man named David. When he became king there was a plague in the land. David prayed to the Lord and asked why there is plague in the land and the Lord said because King Saul tried to wipe out that man's whole family. David said, but I didn't do it, I wasn't king. The Lord yes but you're king now and you need to fix it because you have the power now to fix what was done in the past to somebody else. Representative Love asked the Commission to consider his position. Don't forget about Myra Love and her child, who on the census lists his race as mulatto which means one Caucasian parent and one Black parent. The census required them to factually list it that way. Don't forget about Myra Love. Don't forget about Sam

Love. Don't forget about Sam Love, Jr. Don't forget about Harold Love, Sr, who also from 1968-1994 had to walk those halls. Yes, the vote that was taken in 1973 he voted for it. He also had to deal with getting money for his University, getting money for his district. On the last day of session, we don't know what was said to him about his vote for this bust that was needed to make sure that his school, Tennessee State and Fisk and American Baptist College and Meharry Metropolitan, got their money that year. We don't know but what we do know is the Forrest bust is probably best served in the State Museum so everybody can appreciate the history. I leave you again; because I don't want you to forget her, because Representative Love never will forget Myra Love, Sam Love, slaves, owned, his ancestors.

- Senator Joey Hensley represents Senate District 28 of southern Middle Tennessee, Maury, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Wayne and Perry Counties. Maury County is the home of the Sons of Confederate Veterans headquarters and museum. Senator Hensley wanted to speak because he has three ancestors that fought for the Confederacy. William Kilpatrick was a private, Ed Holbrook was a private and William Cooper was a Lieutenant. One of them died during the war, one was a prisoner of war. Senator Hensley stated that when he sees the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust he think about him representing those hundreds of thousands of soldiers that fought in the war, Confederate soldiers, Union soldiers. I think why were we in the war? Our counterparts back in the 1860s voted for our State to leave the Union and then we were invaded. Most of these soldiers, like his ancestors, didn't own slaves. Nathan Bedford Forrest did before the war. After the war he converted. You've heard some of the things he's done, about the history back then, about Fort Pillow how the propaganda made it look like it was something that it wasn't. Those soldiers fought, 95% of them didn't own slaves. Senator Hensley's ancestors were just poor sharecroppers. One died, right after the war, of TB that he had contracted. He left a wife and five kids and lived on somebody else's farm as sharecroppers. When he sees the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust, he thinks of his ancestors that fought for the Confederacy. They didn't want to fight. They fought protecting their homelands and their families. Most of the soldiers fought because they were invaded and they were protecting their homeland. Senator Hensley stated that he thinks we should keep the bust there, not so much for him but for all those other Confederate soldiers that fought and their names are not listed anywhere but when he see this bust he thinks of all those hundreds of thousands of soldiers. It was a terrible time. It was a terrible war. We look back on history and we wonder why they had to fight a war but it happened. Many soldiers, many people died. Many people in the south suffered during the war. After the war it took many years to get to the place where we are today. He thinks leaving the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust there is a reminder of all those other soldiers that fought. Senator Hensley encouraged the Commission to leave the bust so that we can think about history. History is what it was, we can't change it.
- Commissioner McWhorter thanked those in attendance for sticking to the allotted time but most importantly for being respectful of each other. There is a lot of passion on both sides. He and the Commission appreciate that. Commissioner McWhorter stated that at this point he cannot give a date, since there is a vacancy. One individual on the Commission had to resign. Deputy Chief Commander Tyreece Miller submitted his resignation from this Commission as he's been nominated by the Trump Administration for a U.S. Marshall Western District position. As a result, he had to resign from all boards. This leaves a vacancy that the Governor has to replace. In all fairness, because this is a very important topic and issue, the Commission can't and don't want to proceed without having the position filled. The resignation just happened. With respect to both sides and everybody in the room and others that care deeply about this, in all fairness we need to make sure that the position is filled and at that point they can discuss the timing. This concludes Item C of New Business.

4. Old Business

A. Capital Project Update

1. Capitol Grounds Project:

- State Architect McGauran stated that the Commission approved the Capitol grounds project in 2013/2014. The project went on hold in 2015. The project has been restarted and is going out for bid. Brian Wilson with the Department of General Services will speak to what is included in the current project.
- Brian Wilson stated that they are currently in the final stages of design. One of the last pieces was to get the approval of the Monument to the Unborn Children. Since received approval this morning they will move forward with finalizing that portion of the design, getting the necessary approvals needed to get the project moving and going to bid. They anticipate bidding the project around June 2020 with a 365, one-year expected duration for construction. Some of the elements seen in the presentation are tier one and tier two scope. It will all happen as one project but that is the way it was broken down in the Master Plan. Additionally, there are two alternates that will be included in the bid; one for the ADA access to the Capitol garden and another for the Monument to Unborn Children. Depending on the bid results, they hope to get the two alternates in the project. If not, they may seek additional funding to do so.
- State Architect McGauran stated that the money for the Monument of the Unborn Children is coming from private funds so if it gets added to the project then the private funds will need to be added to the project.

5. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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