MINUTES

Tennessee Residence Commission

June 17, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chairwoman Christi Branscom called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present with the following in attendance.

Members Present

Commissioner Christi Branscom, Chairwoman, participated via electronic communication
State Architect Ann McGauran, participated via electronic communication
Executive Director TN State Museum Ashley Howell, participated via electronic communication
Nina Lindley, participated via electronic communication
Thomas Smith, participated via electronic communication
Patricia Junkin, participated via electronic communication
Jane Martin, participated via electronic communication
Carole Anne Orsborn, designee for Governor Bill Lee, participated via electronic communication
Anna McDonald, designee for First Spouse Maria Lee, participated via electronic communication

Members Absent

VACANT

2. COMMISSION DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY TO CONDUCT MEETING USING ELECTRONIC MEANS

Chairwoman Branscom stated that this meeting is being held pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108(b)(2) where a quorum of the Commission is participating by electronic or other means of communication, such as WebEx or teleconference, and not by physical quorum. The law requires that in order for a quorum of the members to participate by electronic or other means of communication, "the governing body must make a determination that a necessity exists." The law further provides that "[s]uch determination, and a recitation of the facts and circumstances on which it is based, must be included in the minutes of the meeting."

The necessity for this Commission to meet using electronic means is that the Commission needs to consider and vote on proposed alterations to the grounds of the Executive Residence, which are time-sensitive and require Commission action before they may proceed. The current public health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 virus has resulted in declarations of a "State of Emergency" by the State and local governments, with the direction that government employees who can do so work from home.

At a roll call vote all members voted aye and approved the use of electronic communication.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE TN RESIDENCE COMMISSION HELD ON APRIL 27, 2016 AS AMENDED BY THE REQUEST OF FIRST LADY HASLAM

Chairwoman Branscom stated that the minutes would be amended for the donation of an urn that was donated. This was to clarify the urn identity and who donated the urn. It was the Fiske urn that was found, refurbished and donated for the garden by the Tennessee Executive Residence Preservation Foundation.

Chairwoman Branscom made a motion to adopt the minutes as noted. Mr. Thomas Smith moved for approval and State Architect Ann McGauran seconded the motion. Ms. Junkin stated that this is the first Tennessee Executive Residence Preservation Foundation gift and asked that to be added to the minutes. Mr. Smith accepted the amendment and moved for approval. State Architect Ann McGauran seconded the motion. At a roll call vote all members voted aye and approved the minutes as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF REFLECTING POND FENCE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE MASTER PLAN

State Architect McGauran stated that the first part of this request is for fencing at the reflecting pond. The reflecting pond has walls and fences on three sides. This request would put a fence across the front of the reflecting pond that faces the front door of the residence. This fence is expected to be wrought iron and has been designed to be in keeping with the other three gates of this walled courtyard.

State Architect McGauran stated that the Master Plan is very traditional and each of the different garden areas have their own unique personality and design characteristics. What might be appropriate for one portion of the garden may be different for another portion of the garden. There are a couple of major garden areas and the reflecting pond is one of the more formal garden areas with a brick wall and wrought iron gates. Beyond is the secret garden that is walled with hedges and has a wood fence door. Next to that is the kitchen garden which has a wood fence around the garden with wood gates. The open lawn is not fenced at all. Then the pool which we will be speaking to a little bit later. The entire property is surrounded by a wrought iron fence that is simple in nature but structural and sturdy, very much a security fence.

State Architect McGauran stated that they studied the details of the fencing. The gate was designed as a simple gate with more decorative fence posts that are designed to be in keeping with the other gates around this garden feature. This gate is a simplified version of the other gates because of the desire to create a clear view to the reflecting pond while still creating a barrier. The primary reason that the First Family requested a gate was for safety. The Governor and First Lady have small grandchildren and the water features are a concern for them. In keeping with the public use of the garden, these are needed and appropriate for general safety, not unique for the current First Family.

Mr. Smith asked if the Commission is required to go to Oak Hill for this or are they exempt from that. State Architect McGauran replied that the Commission is exempt from that. Mr. Smith moved for approval. Ms. Howell seconded the motion.

Ms. Junkin asked for clarification that the other walls are brick. State Architect McGauran replied that the other walls around this garden are brick with iron gates. This fencing is in established landscaping and to put in a brick wall would compromise that establish landscaping, which is why wrought iron fencing was used. Ms. Junkin asked if they considered brick for the posts. State Architect McGauran replied brick posts were considered but was decided against for two reasons. One is the intent to consider whether this fence could potentially be sleeved to be removable, to open it up when they have events and there was also a desire not to obstruct the view of the pond from the front door of the house any more than required.

At a roll call vote all members voted aye and approved the motion.

5. APPROVAL OF POOL FENCE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE MASTER PLAN

State Architect McGauran stated that the pool is utilitarian and is a feature primarily for the use of the family. This will be a simple fence, manufactured product as opposed to something custom installed being mindful of the appropriate place to spend the appropriate dollars.

This fence will be a standard picketed fence system in keeping with the security fence around the grounds. The purpose is simply security and this is a taller fence. This fence and its gates will meet the code requirements for pools. This fence will be priced in both painted steel and aluminum. The look will be generally the same so the lowest cost solution is expected to be selected.

State Architect McGauran stated that the request for the Residence Commission is to approve the style and to ensure it is in compliance with the Master Plan and not to approve whether it is aluminum or painted metal fencing.

Mr. Smith asked if this fence is easily removable. State Architect McGauran stated that this fence is not planned to be removable. It could be removed but they are designing it to be removable because pools, unlike reflecting ponds, have specific code requirements. Once installed they feel confident that it will need to remain in place.

Mr. Smith moved for approval. State Architect McGauran seconded the motion. At a roll call vote all members voted aye and approved the motion.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Branscom asked if there was any other business. State Architect McGauran reported that Dr. Reavis Mitchell, member of this Commission, had passed away and sent her condolences to his family. She commented on his great work serving the State of Tennessee and her citizens.

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn. State Architect McGauran seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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