

MINUTES

STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

February 26, 2015

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Commissioner Martin called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. The roll was taken with the following members, or their designees, in attendance:

- Commissioner Larry Martin
- Jonathan Rummel (designee for Secretary Tre Hargett)
- Kathy Stickel (designee for Comptroller Justin Wilson)
- Whitney Goetz (designee for Treasurer David Lillard)
- John Hull (designee for Commissioner Bob Oglesby)
- Commissioner Bob Martineau
- Senator Jack Johnson
- Howard Gentry
- Representative Gerald McCormick (absent)
- Norman Hill (absent)
- Helen "Tootie" Haskins (absent)

2. Approval of Minutes from the December 15, 2014 Meeting

The Minutes were approved as presented.

3. New Business

A. Proposed Monument for Placement at the North End of the Bicentennial Mall Designed to Commemorate 100 Years of Transportation in the State of Tennessee

State Architect Peter Heimbach stated that this request falls under the authority of the guidelines of the *Tennessee State Capitol Campus Monuments and Memorials Master Plan* that was approved by the Commission in December 2014. He said that representatives from the Department of Transportation and others were present to address any questions from the Commission.

Chief Engineer/Deputy Commissioner Paul Degges was recognized. He stated they were requesting approval to install a plaque and time capsule at the Bicentennial Mall commemorating 100 years of transportation in the state. He said that in 1915, State government made the decision to look at transportation statewide rather than by county with the construction of the Memphis-Bristol Highway 1 being the first trans-state highway. Commissioner Degges discussed working with Kem Hinton, architect and designer of the Mall, to find an appropriate location with an educational component and one to give visitors on the Mall a perspective of the distance to the Capitol. He presented the design mockup and discussed possible information to be placed in the time capsule.

Whitney Goetz asked about the funding plans for the project. Commissioner Degges replied that the estimated cost was \$15,000 and they were seeking donations from State employees and business partners in the construction industry. He said their goal was to pay for it completely from donations, but should there be a shortage, they would use some of their agency funds to help pay for it. Jonathan Rummel asked if the \$15,000 included design costs, and if they had any amount of cash in hand. Commissioner Degges responded “yes, it does”, and that donations were starting to come in.

Commissioner Martin asked how the decision will be made on what goes into the time capsule. Commissioner Degges responded that they were in the process of doing research and collecting items, but wanted them to be reflective of 2015 and of people who worked on the transportation system. He said they wanted to get approvals first from both the Capitol Commission and State Building Commission, but will be transparent and let everyone know once they have the items identified.

Jonathan Rummel asked if this was in keeping with the master plan for the Bicentennial Mall. Commissioner Degges said they did not view this as an agency monument, but as a marker for State government representing what the State of Tennessee has set out to do. Peter Heimbach said that, in the design of the Bicentennial Mall, there were guidelines noting the future placement of memorials and those guidelines were incorporated into the Master Plan recently approved by the Commission. Mr. Heimbach added that this will also balance the existing Zero Mile Marker at the south end of the Mall. Commissioner Martineau asked if the south end of the Mall near the State map was considered. Kem Hinton responded that, in front of the map, there are eight pieces of granite, one of which talks about transportation, and they didn’t want to change that. He said that having this permanent, flat marker on the ground would be a better balance for the Zero Mile Marker.

In response to Commissioner Martin’s question, Peter Heimbach explained that a two-step process was used in moving the request forward—(1) that the initial response was in keeping with the Master Plan, and (2) review by a committee involving TN Arts Commission, State Museum, State Architect and two representatives from TDEC. He said the committee met and had concerns about setting precedence for agency-specific markers, so the wording was changed to reflect “100 years of transportation”. Upon this modification, the review committee recommended that this be approved. Jim Hoobler, representing the State Museum, was asked for his comments to which he repeated the concern over setting a precedent, but felt it had been avoided. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the request, which was properly seconded, and passed without objection. The matter would be heard by the State Building Commission at its next meeting.

4. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

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