

MINUTES OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 24, 1995

Chairman Amon Evans called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with the following members recorded present: Senator Doug Henry, State Comptroller William Snodgrass, Secretary of State Riley Darnell, Commissioner Larry Haynes, Dr. Robert Corlew, Betty Gunter, and Janice Cunningham (representing State Treasurer Steve Adams).

Others present included:

Mike Fitts, State Architect
Georgia Gaye, State Architect's Office
Elsie Chastain Smith, Department of General Services
Harriet Howard, World War II Memorial Trust
Russ Faxon, sculptor
Enoch Stephenson, World War II Memorial Trust
Charles Mott, World War II Memorial Trust
Hugh B. Mott, World War II Memorial Trust
Beth Seigenthaler, Seigenthaler PR
John Furgess, Department of Veterans Affairs
Commissioner Fred Tucker, Department of Veterans Affairs
Lois Riggins-Ezzell, State Museum
Jim Hoobler, State Museum
Evadine McMahan, State Museum
Charles Watterfield, Architect
Kem Hinton, Architect

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Chairman Evans asked State Architect Michael A. Fitts to provide a copy of the *Historic Structures Report* to Commissioners Corker and Haynes for their information. Mr. Fitts responded that there were no copies remaining. Chairman Evans then asked Mr. Fitts to get a price for having more copies reprinted and, in the meantime, to provide copies of particular excerpts that would pertain to the issues being discussed for the Commissioners' use. Mr. Fitts responded that he would do so.

WORLD WAR II MONUMENT

Chairman Evans acknowledged the presence of the World War II Memorial Trust and commented he had never been in a room with as much brass.

Mr. Fitts stated that the World War II Memorial Trust had come to him to discuss the proposed location of a WWII monument on the Capitol grounds. He said that after many meetings and discussions, their number one recommendation would be to locate the monument on the Bicentennial Mall. He said that, at the time this meeting was scheduled, their number one recommendation was on the Capitol grounds, but that had since changed. However, they wanted to present their proposal to the Capitol Commission for their information. He then introduced General Enoch Stephenson who stated that their committee had handed him the responsibilities of raising money in honor of the veterans of World War II. He then introduced Charles Mott to present their proposal.

Mr. Mott stated that the World War II Memorial Trust has been chartered by the State of Tennessee as a not-for-profit corporation. The purpose of the Trust is to design and build a memorial to honor all Tennesseans who served, fought, and died for the cause of freedom. He added there does not currently exist a memorial honoring those who served during World War II. He stated that the recommended location for such a memorial is on the Bicentennial Mall, making it very accessible to the public and that the Trust had retained the services of Russ Faxon, sculptor, to work on the design of the monument. He said that the Trust will seek funding from the State as well as from the private sector and their preliminary cost estimates for the project were approximately \$1 million. Recalling the well-known quote, he repeated it as follows: "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it". Mr. Mott stated that it is essential that this memorial be constructed and that Tennesseans begin to have an opportunity to more fully understand why we must never forget.

Kem Hinton, architect of the Bicentennial Mall, was called upon to make a presentation of the proposed location of the monument. He discussed the history walk and stated that their design committee had recognized the importance of the end of World War II and the birth of the atomic age along the walkway which would occur at the 1946 marker. He said that this location was at the intersection of the walk and Jackson Street's original crossing. He said that there was nothing planned for this location at the present time and they could make available a space of approximately 70 feet wide which could be breathtaking and a very moving location for the memorial. He said it would reinforce other things in the Mall but, in itself, would be a very special destination that would have great prominence in the Mall. He added that it would provide shade and comfort rather than be an austere and open space. General Stephenson said that they strongly recommend it.

Secretary Darnell asked about the height of the monument. Mr. Hinton responded that the carillons are about 25 feet tall and that that area of the Mall is fairly flat. Mr. Fitts stated that the problem with the location on the Hill would be access. Secretary Darnell stated that the more attractions you have in the Mall, the more visitors will be drawn to see it. After discussion, Chairman Evans thanked General Stephenson and members of the World War II Memorial Trust for their presentation and commented on the appropriateness of the monument on the Bicentennial Mall.

ANDREW JOHNSON STATUE

Mr. Fitts reminded the Commission that the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the placement of a statue of Andrew Johnson on the Capitol grounds. He said the descendants of Andrew Johnson have commissioned a statue to be located outside Greeneville at a National Parks Interpretive Center and they had selected Jim Gray as their sculptor. He said Mr. Gray has offered to produce a duplicate sculpture at a reduced price. Mr. Fitts said the Building Commission had approved the \$100,000 project and combined it with the Capitol grounds portion of the Bicentennial project.

Charles Warterfield was recognized and pointed out on a map of the Capitol grounds the proposed location of the statue. He said he thought it would be wise, considering the relationship between existing monuments, to locate the Johnson statue to the south of the Jackson equestrian statue in about the same relationship as Polk's Tomb is located to the north. He said it would form a natural triangle. Chairman Evans asked if it would interfere with any historic paths and was told "no". Secretary Darnell asked if the Liberty Bell would have to be moved and was told "no". Chairman Evans asked about the size of the statue and was told it was approximately seven feet tall, not including a pedestal. After further discussion, a motion was made to approve the location as recommended by Mr. Warterfield. The motion was properly seconded and passed without objection.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Mr. Fitts distributed copies of a letter that had been received from Senator Cohen regarding a request to have the existing Holocaust Memorial, which is now flush with the ground, raised on some sort of pedestal. He said he thought the request could be accommodated as part of the existing project in the way of a change order. Chairman Evans noted many of these things were put in before the *Historic Structures Report* indicated the historic walkways. Mr. Fitts said they have an existing contract to do walkways and he suggested this request be incorporated by change order. Secretary Darnell moved to adopt the recommendation, Dr. Corlew seconded, and the motion passed.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MARKER

Mr. Fitts stated that the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came to him four years ago with a request for a memorial on the Capitol Hill grounds. He said that the time now is appropriate as the Capitol Hill and Bicentennial Mall projects are under construction. He said they have considered a location on the north slope of the Hill which would be the more appropriate location if the decision is to place it on the Hill. He stated that the designers thought it would be appropriate to be located in the Bicentennial Mall and

that they are exploring such locations. He said they would like to come back after they have discussed the location with the CCC.

Senator Henry asked what would be the nature of construction. Mr. Fitts responded that it would be an obelisk tablet about six feet tall and three feet wide. He said they might consider reducing the size. Senator Henry stated that the CCC is certainly worthy of commemoration, but he suggested putting the monument on the Hill rather than the Mall. Comptroller Snodgrass asked where were they going to draw the line on location of monuments. He asked how this monument relates to the Hill. He asked if they should accept any kind of monument proposed on the Capitol grounds, such as a monument for Social Security, which played a major role in our society. Chairman Evans said that he didn't think anyone had an answer. He said he believed if there was a monument erected to the CCC, the logical place would be on the Bicentennial Mall if they are calling the attention of their relationship to the past and their start. He said it seemed to him that the park atmosphere, as well as educational history aspect, would support the location on the Mall as an ideal place to locate the monument. Mr. Warterfield stated that he felt strongly that the area around the Capitol should be reserved for individual prominent political or military figures. He said the closer you get to the top of the Hill, the more important the figure should be.

Chairman Evans suggested that the CCC people channel their thoughts to the Bicentennial Mall rather than the Hill. Senator Henry said that he disagreed, and not that the CCC was not a significant part of Tennessee's history, but to have a free-standing marker would leave greater events unmarked. Chairman Evans suggested that the Capitol is not an appropriate location, and if they want to seek the approval of the Bicentennial Commission, he would vote "no" on it as well.

Kem Hinton was recognized. He said that one of the features in the Mall is the history wall, on the west side, and on the east side will be landscaped areas with flowers, bushes, trees and a park-like setting. It might be a good idea, he said, to carve out a small area in that the CCC had a hand in the development of parks. Chairman Evans stated that that area was not under the Capitol Commission's auspices and they would have to take that up with the Bicentennial Commission. Senator Henry made a motion that the Capitol grounds was not an appropriate setting for monuments of this type and, after properly seconded, it passed unanimously.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE COMMISSION MEMORIAL STATUE

Mr. Fitts stated that a memo had been received from the Woman's Suffrage Commission stating they plan to raise \$200,000 for a statue commemorating all women. He said they suggested two locations for such a statue: First, on the spot overlooking the Legislative Plaza presently occupied by Senator Carmack's statue; or, secondly, in the State Capitol, on the second floor open area in the hall at the top of the stairs outside the House Chamber. Senator Henry said that he thought it outrageous to suggest that Senator Carmack be taken down. Chairman Evans said he didn't believe

they were ready to discuss this issue. He said that his sense of this issue at the moment was that it was not an appropriate marker for the Capitol grounds. He said that maybe it was, and maybe he would change his mind. He then said he would appoint a sub-committee to look into this request further. After further discussion, no formal action was taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Evans stated that he had received a call from Jim Hoobler that the Clerk of the House has become an interior decorator in some of the offices. He asked Mr. Fitts if it was within his oversight to make recommendations to these people for offices that surround the Chambers. He asked Mr. Fitts if painting the walls in the Clerk's offices could be harmful. Mr. Fitts responded that if a paint was used that did not allow the stone to breath, there was risk of damaging the stone. He added that paint would make it more difficult to clean the stone at such time that work was to be done.

Chairman Evans commented he wasn't as concerned about the color of paint as long as it was the proper paint. He did say he had a personal objection to the border used because it was not a period border. He said he did think there should be some suggestion about staying within certain parameters. He said he was looking for advice. Senator Henry suggested that the Chairman take this issue up with Speaker Naifeh. Comptroller Snodgrass said he would further suggest that the State Architect contact the House Clerk with regard to the matter. He said the Commission has an interest and responsibility in the Capitol and that the Chairman has been authorized by this Commission to contact the Speaker.

Lois Riggins-Ezzell was recognized and stated they would like to go on record that when a wall is painted prior to the time it is restored, it should be within the oversight of this Commission whether that wall should be painted. She said the State has gone to a great deal of trouble and money to restore these walls and that some statement should be made by this Commission for walls that have never been treated. Mr. Fitts suggested that a policy be developed such that if the material or fabric of a floor, walls or ceiling was proposed to be changed, it would require Capitol Commission approval. Comptroller Snodgrass suggested that even maintenance items were supposed to be communicated with Mr. Fitts, as State Architect. Mr. Fitts said there is not a written statement or policy that requires prior approval. Mr. Warterfield commented that the Capitol Commission has, in effect, if not explicitly, approved the Secretary of Interior Standards when it accepted the *Historic Structures Report*. He said that painting and wallpapering walls that were stone, contradicts those Standards. Chairman Evans then read the following as a proposed policy statement:

INTERIOR MODIFICATIONS TO HISTORIC SPACES

"It is the policy of the Capitol Commission that any proposed changes in the material or fabric of the floor, walls or ceilings of the historic upper two

floors of the State Capitol must obtain prior approval of the Capitol Commission. Major and minor maintenance of existing materials or fabric requires the approval of the State Architect on behalf of the Capitol Commission."

Senator Henry mentioned that it was very important how the new Governor and Speakers were approached. Chairman Evans said that they were not trying to twist anybody's tail, that the *Historic Structures Report* laid the law down when they adopted it, which the legislative body did. Senator Henry asked the two Constitutional Officers if they believed that the simple adoption of the proposed resolution was the most effective way to bring this about. Secretary Darnell said he thought so. He added that the Speaker is the logical person with whom the Chairman should discuss the issue. Comptroller Snodgrass said he didn't have any hesitation to adopt the policy. Senator Henry moved to adopt this policy as previously read by Chairman Evans; Secretary Darnell seconded the motion. Comptroller Snodgrass commented that all other agencies must contact the Commissioner of Department of Finance and Administration or General Services before having their offices painted. The motion passed without objection.

There being no further business, Dr. Corlew moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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