

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

MARCH 4, 1988

PRELIMINARY
FOR REVIEW

mailed 3/15/88

The State Capitol Commission met on this date with the following members and staff in attendance:

Chairman Amon Carter Evans
Senator Douglas Henry
Commissioner David Manning
Secretary of State Gentry Crowell
Comptroller of the Treasury William Snodgrass
State Treasurer Steve Adams
Michael A. Fitts, State Architect
Mary Sue Wright, Secretary of State's Office
Russell Hippe, Tennessee Historical Commission
Jim Hoobler, Tennessee Historical Society
Jerry Daniels, Department of General Services
Charles Harrison, Comptroller's Office
Lois Riggins, State Museum
Dr. Jim Kelly, State Museum
John Mesick, Mendel-Mesick-Cohen-Waite-Hall
Charles Warterfield, Warterfield-Goodwin
Jeff Reynolds, Comptroller's Office
Georgia Gaye, State Architect's Office

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Chairman Evans opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and mentioned that he had not received his copy of the rough draft Minutes from the previous Capitol Commission meeting. Other members acknowledged receipt of the draft. He was given a copy and proceeded to read the Minutes for approval.

During the reading, Secretary Crowell asked Chairman Evans if the Minutes were accurate with reference to the statement in the Minutes: "Chairman Evans stated that the chandelier should be hung in Mr. Snodgrass' office for experimentation." Chairman Evans replied "yes". Secretary Crowell asked if handing chandeliers for experimental lighting in Comptroller Snodgrass' office was the recommendation of our consultant. Mr. Mesick said it was recommended that all offices on the first floor have appropriate chandeliers. Upon further questioning by Secretary Crowell, Mr. Mesick said he would recommend placing the one chandelier in Mr. Snodgrass' outer office as the best place to experiment with lighting capacity of the chandelier and he would provide his recommendation in writing. Secretary Crowell moved that the Minutes be adopted as distributed and that all recommendations in the Minutes be followed and that Mr. Mesick be

requested to write a letter to Mr. Fitts with his recommendation that one chandelier be hung in Mr. Snodgrass' outer office.

Senator Henry stated he would like to hear from Comptroller Snodgrass regarding the matter. Comptroller Snodgrass had no comment. Secretary Crowell stated he was not trying to make an issue although the Commissioner hired a consultant to tell them what to do and they should make a conscious decision to follow or not to follow his recommendation.

Chairman Evans stated that the purpose was to determine whether or not the chandelier approach to lighting was appropriate for offices in the Capitol. He said that it was obvious that the chandeliers were historically appropriate but the question was whether or not placement in Mr. Snodgrass' office suite was a true test, based on the fact that it was the darkest office suite.

Mr. Mesick stated that all the offices on the first floor really are of the same size and that the reason Comptroller Snodgrass was chosen is because his office is the darkest and if it works there it will work in all other offices.

Secretary Crowell's motion was passed unanimously. Commissioner Manning questioned the establishment of a standard for lamps. Mr. Fitts stated that he had received a recommendation from Mr. Mesick and would have it available for review by the occupants. Secretary Crowell added that it would be helpful to have the lamps in the offices plugged in and turned on. Mary Sue Wright said that there were insufficient outlets. Mr. Fitts said he would investigate.

Mr. Fitts began the discussion of the proposed Capitol curator. Senator Henry stated that both he and Representative Bragg had initiated discussion of a proposed curator for the Capitol. Senator Henry stated that it had come to the attention of Representative Bragg and himself that there would be available services of one they believe to be uniquely qualified for this position, namely Mr. Jim Hoobler. He said arguments in favor of this position were set out in a three page annexed memorandum from Lois Riggins which he handed out. Senator Henry made a motion that, unless it is in violation of the State hiring laws, that the Capitol Commission recommend that the General Appropriation Bill be amended to provide this position at a point within the salary range of \$23,000-\$25,000 and that the Museum be urged by this Commission to consider the engagement of Mr. Jim Hoobler in that capacity. Russell Hippe seconded the motion.

Treasurer Adams questioned what the curator was going to do and if it was a full-time position.

Commissioner Manning was recognized. He stated that he was forced to leave the meeting but would like to make a couple of statements on another matter. He stated that he would hope the Commission would consider action it takes to be "guidelines" for use of the Capitol. He strongly recommended that whatever guidelines were applicable to the Supreme Court Chamber be applicable to the Legislative Library

and, if agreeable to the Commission, he and Commissioner Whitson would get together and work out details of governmental and non-governmental scheduling of the rooms. Chairman Evans asked that Commissioner Whitson and Commissioner Manning get together and develop recommended guidelines.

Chairman Evans stated that he wanted to respond to Senator Henry, and that it had nothing to do with Mr. Hoobler's qualifications. He said the State Capitol is the State's most significant structure and the curator of the State Capitol does not need to report to anyone but needs to be a czar and be able to tell everyone what they can and cannot do whether they like it or not. Chairman Evans said that any such legislation would not be met with favorable response today but such legislation should be drafted before the Commission goes off half-cocked and recommended some curatorial approach to the Museum. He said the Commissioner needs to try to protect the integrity of the preservation of the Capitol for the future and to do that it is going to take strong legislative work. He said he did not believe the Commission was ready for that and the Commission had not done its homework with the legislature. He said he could not support this move knowing that we are talking about some two to three years away. He said if there was something the Commission could do in the meantime, he could support it. He called upon Mr. Mesick.

Mr. Mesick stated that, in his experience, he did not know of a "czar" position in a public building in this country. He recommended to Mr. Fitts that it might be prudent in formulating the guidelines, as well as the responsibilities of a curator for the Capitol, to confer with other curators of public buildings around the country. He said it would be the Commission's judgment of what would be politically attainable in Tennessee. Mr. Mesick stated that specialized maintenance crews who are skilled in this type of maintenance should be employed and, in addition, careful recordkeeping was important. He said the curator needs to be a person who has technical abilities plus the appreciation of what is there plus the ability to deal with the environment of Capitol Hill. He said that person should have long tenure. Concerning the usage of the Legislative Library and Supreme Court Chamber, he stated that they should be used like grandmother's front parlor--"not a place for daily usage by anyone, let alone the rough usage of children"--but should be used for stately occasions.

Senator Henry asked Mr. Mesick, in his experience with other State Capitols, where were the final decisions were made in regards to the usage of the Capitols. Mr. Mesick responded that all were different but none were controlled by a curator.

Chairman Evans stated he recalled one other statement made to him by the Governor, "Make due with the monies you got -- there will not be any more anytime soon."

Treasurer Adams asked what would be the duties of a curator.

Lois Riggins responded. She said the Capitol is considered as the Museum's largest artifact. She described the existing archival and

curatorial care of artifacts. The Capitol Curator position would interface with existing curators of the Museum who would support the Capitol Curator.

Treasurer Adams asked about the order of his furniture and when it would arrive. Mr. Fitts responded that he would look into the matter.

Secretary Crowell asked if there was any flexibility without terming the position as a "czar" or Capitol Curator. He asked Ms. Riggins if the Museum had a vacant position that could be changed by terminology to suit her needs. She said she did not have a funded position and that it would only require funding a curatorial position. Treasurer Adams asked Ms. Riggins how would the curator relate to his office. Ms. Riggins said he or she would serve as liaison between the support agencies to see that the needs of the occupants were met within the framework of what was important for an historic building. She said the position should be the liaison dealing with the use of spaces and the arrangements made concerning the use. Secretary Crowell asked Ms. Riggins if she had asked for an improvement position in the upcoming budget. She said her Board supported the position but it was not included in their budget request after negotiations with the Department of Finance & Administration.

Senator Henry stated he would be happy to amend his motion that the Commission recommended that the General Appropriation Bill be amended to provide a position in the Museum in which the Director of the Museum would define to meet those needs with regard to those historic properties in the Capitol which are not adequately being serviced.

Chairman Evans stated this more properly ought to emanate from the Museum than from the Commission.

Comptroller Snodgrass stated he was not prepared to make a decision at this time.

After general discussion, Senator Henry made a motion to defer the item of a proposed Capitol Curator until the next meeting. Comptroller Snodgrass seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Chairman Evans then recognized Jerry Daniels who distributed material prepared by General Services entitled "Department of General Services Procedures for Non-Governmental Use of the State Capitol Buildings and Its Grounds". These guidelines were drafted utilizing other existing procedures as a basis. He discussed the document and the current process for usage of the Capitol.

Comptroller Snodgrass suggested that the Commissioners of Finance & Administration and General Services get with staff and discuss governmental and non-governmental uses so the Commission can have something to review at the next meeting. Mr. Snodgrass commented about the lack of meeting rooms for Capitol occupants. In response to questions by Senator Henry, Chairman Evans said that the Commissioners of Finance & Administration and General Services had been directed to come up with Governmental use policy. Senator Henry asked that Mr.

Daniels suggest to the Commissioners that smoking be barred in the Supreme Court and Legislative Library facilities as a part of the draft and, if it is not acceptable to be included, for Senator Henry to be told why not. After general discussion, Mr. Snodgrass made a motion that the Department of General Services, working with the Commissioner of Finance & Administration, review all these matters with the staffs of the other officers in the Capitol, so that between now and the next meeting, there be a concurrence of recommendations, of if not, alternatives can be identified. The motion was seconded and was approved.

Secretary Crowell made the observation the same meeting room space was available now as before the restoration, not including the Supreme Court and if available meeting space was a problem, it must have come up since moving back into the Capitol because the problem didn't appear to exist before.

Mr. Fitts brought up the issue of the phones in the Capitol. He said that the management committees of the House and Senate had requested the phones be re-installed on the second floor.

Chairman Evans asked if the telephone company was asked to do a facilities management study to find out who has been using the phones. Mr. Fitts stated that he was not aware of such a study. Chairman Evans said he believed that the Management Committee would want to know who was using the phones. Mr. Fitts confirmed that relocatable public phones were planned to be placed on the second floor adjacent to the House chambers. Chairman Evans said that if South Central Bell would do a study to determine the users of the public phones, he would like it because he would like to know who uses them, as he believed the Joint Management Committee would like to know.

Treasurer Adams brought up from the floor the status of the snack bar in the Capitol. Mr. Fitts replied that it was going to be reinstalled as it was before and in the same location with some minor improvements. Secretary Crowell stated he thought we ought to find out who is using the concession; that the space is prime space. Chairman Evans said he was in agreement. Mary Sue Wright voiced her concerns on the lack of available vending prior to 8:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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