

**MINUTES**  
**Tennessee Residence Commission**  
**April 27, 2016**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Peter Heimbach called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present with the following in attendance.

Members Present

First Lady Crissy Haslam  
Peter Heimbach  
Bob Oglesby  
Dr. Reavis Mitchell  
Patricia Junkin  
Nina Lindley  
Tom Smith

Members Absent

Governor Bill Haslam  
Lois Riggins-Ezzell

Others Present

Alan Robertson  
Christina Barnes  
Mattie Burnett

**2. REVIEW OF COMMISSION'S STATUTE AND POLICY**

It was noted that the policy for the use of the residence has been modified slightly to include some additional information. The revisions were reviewed as follows:

- The reference to the First Lady's Store has been removed as this has become seasonal and only utilized during the Christmas season
- There has been additional information added to Schedule A to provide answers to commonly asked questions
- Schedule C was modified to include additional information and the name changed to recognize that it is a reservation form and rental contract.

The changes were determined to be non-substantive and acknowledged by acclamation by the commission. The date of the policy will reflect the date of the commission meeting.

The Conflicts of Interest policy and Standard of Conduct policy were reviewed with all members present. All members signed and returned the policy form.

**3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF THE MASTER PLAN**

First Lady Crissy Haslam presented the progress of the Master Plan to the commission stating that when they arrived, the house was completed and it was time to focus on the landscaping. Ben Page was selected to provide a revision to the Master Plan which was accepted and approved by the Residence Commission in 2011. The progress of the work was divided into three phases.

The first phase had several components. The entry to Conservation Hall was softened by creating the "Tennessee Forest," a collection of native trees and other plants, in and around the drop off circle. The historic Lilly Pond Garden, original to the time of the house construction, was opened up by removing trees and the area restored to approximate the original intent. Irises that are descendants of plants that were originally cultivated at this site were used in an adjacent garden. The Great Lawn area on the east side was organized with paths and plantings which cover the area where the geothermal well system was installed. Additionally, the Foundation donated an urn for placement at the entry of the Great Lawn. These spaces were created with the intent to provide entertainment areas around the property. Dilapidated buildings were removed along the north edge of the property in preparation for the future phases of work. This work was done with about \$2M raised by the Tennessee Residence Foundation.

The second phase was the implementation of the kitchen and cutting garden. This formal garden was designed in the Colonial Revival style and is a true working garden. The items grown in the garden are used by the cooks in preparation of daily and specialty food at the residence. Additionally, the garden is used to teach groups of school children about food and farming through participation in planting, tending and harvesting. They are also given the opportunity to eat what they reap.

The third phase provided a new greenhouse at the kitchen and cutting garden and created a new "Secret Garden" on axis with the house. The greenhouse was designed to match the style of the main house and provides working and office space for horticulturists and the Master Gardener. The greenhouse is used for seed starting and winter growing of plants for the main garden as well as initial preparation of harvests. The Secret Garden is designed as four quadrants within a gated hedgerow. Each of the quadrants contains a sculpture collected from around the property and represents the four seasons of the year. This intimate space can be used for smaller meetings and receptions and was used for the annual Easter Egg Roll one year.

Phase three completed the primary work of the landscaping as proposed in the Master Plan. In the implementation it was determined that the garden and revised parking area adjacent to the west side of the main house were not going to be done and the large tree proposed in the center of the north entry drive would not be placed. Throughout the implementation of the plan, water management strategies were included such as permeable pavers and water gardens to reduce storm water runoff. The plan, as implemented, creates spaces for aesthetic enjoyment and for entertainment.

An additional benefit was uncovered during the process of replacing and maintaining trees around the site. A level two arboretum has a requirement that at least 60 species be present and, since the property meets that requirement, this recognition is currently being pursued and is on track. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, is also leading educational tours on the grounds.

#### **4. RENOVATION OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE**

The next project at the residence is the renovation of the carriage house which is currently used to house security as well as provide a break area for workers and storage space. There was a question as to whether it should be converted to a guest house and a separate building built for other functions, but the decision was made to maintain its current function. The landscaping around this building and the upkeep of the adjacent maintenance garage will be done separately. The renovation is planned to restore the exterior from an historic standpoint and the interior to contemporary standards.

The project is funded through a State appropriation and will be conducted through State procedures using DGS/STREAM as the procurement agency and to manage the project. Each project also has a user agency which provides guidance on the aesthetic and functional requirements of the project. It was suggested that the First Lady's office would be the most appropriate designee for this function.

Patricia Junkin made a motion to delegate that authority to the office of the First Lady and it was seconded by Dr. Reavis Mitchell. Discussion was had regarding the design ideas and to provide more clarity on the direction of the plans. Dr. Mitchell suggested that materials selected should be done with a bent toward sustainability and historic long term use. It was mentioned that a similar strategy was used for the renovation of the main house. It was also proposed that a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places might be considered and that the work should be done toward that standard whether it was nominated or not. Commissioner Oglesby mentioned that if the project went over budget that it would be brought to the attention of the commission. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned as there was no further business. The members were then lead on a tour of the Carriage House and the grounds.

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