

**MINUTES**  
STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION  
December 18, 2019

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**1. Introductions / Roll Call**

Chairman Stuart McWhorter called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

State Architect Ann McGauran called the roll and a quorum was established with the following members in attendance:

- Commissioner Stuart McWhorter
- Senator Jack Johnson
- Howard Gentry
- Hallerin Hill, by telephone
- Deputy Commissioner Tommy Chester, designee for Commissioner Christi Branscom
- Karen Simo, designee for Commissioner David Salyers
- Jonathan Rummel, designee for Secretary of State Tre Hargett
- Ashley Fuqua, designee for State Treasurer David Lillard
- J.D. Cressman, designee for Comptroller Justin Wilson

Commissioner McWhorter stated there are two official agenda items. The plan is to vote on these two items. Commissioner McWhorter will then adjourn the meeting and recognize three individuals that have asked to speak to the Commission.

**2. New Business**

**A. Metro Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation Use of the observation deck on Capitol Hill for the New Year's Eve Celebration**

Karen Simo stated that the Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) is seeking approval for the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation (NCVC) to use the Capitol grounds for their 2019/2020 New Year's Eve celebration. This would be the fourth annual approval by the Commission. This event has been very successful.

- This request includes the following:
  - Lighting the Capitol cupola red
  - Permission to shoot fireworks for less than 10 minutes with approximately one thousand 3-5" shells being shot from the observation deck on Capitol Hill at midnight
  - Reservation of the Capitol grounds for the time frame as appropriate for the set-up and tear-down of the event
- NCVC is prepared to repair and replace any necessary items. This has been very successful the previous three years and NCVC is looking forward to hosting the event for the City of Nashville and the State. Karen Simo stated that this has been a great boon for Nashville and the State.

**Motion:** Ms. Simo moved for the Capitol Commission to approve the use the Capitol grounds for the 2019/2020 New Year's Eve celebration. The motion was seconded.

**Vote:** At a roll call vote the Commission voted unanimously and the motion passed.

**B. Reoccurring Approval for Ongoing Annual New Year's Eve Events**

**Motion:** Ms. Simo stated that the Department of Environment & Conservation is currently in the second year of a five year contract with the NCV. Beyond the approval for this year's event there are three additional years in the contract. The Department is seeking approval to use the Capitol grounds for the subsequent three years for the event to be held at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park with the same conditions that currently exist this year.

**Discussion:**

- Senator Jack Johnson stated that the request to delay reoccurring approval originally came from the Secretary of State and he asked if the Secretary had any issues with the current request.
- Jonathan Rummel stated that when he spoke with Secretary Hargett, the Secretary didn't have any issues with this request.

**Vote:** At a roll call vote the Commission voted unanimously and the motion passed.

**3. Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

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