

MINUTES
STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION
September 1, 2017

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Chairman Larry Martin called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. State Architect Ann McGauran called the roll and a quorum was established with the following members in attendance:

- Commissioner Larry Martin
- Commissioner Bob Oglesby
- Commissioner Bob Martineau
- Secretary of State Tre Hargett
- State Treasurer David Lillard
- Comptroller Justin Wilson
- Dr. Reavis Mitchell
- Senator Jack Johnson
- Representative Curtis Johnson
- Howard Gentry
- Tammy White
- King Rogers

2. Approval of Minutes from the May 25, 2017 Meeting

A motion to approve the Minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. New Business

A. Governor's Request to Relocate Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust

Commissioner Martin stated the second agenda item was the Governor's request that the Capitol Commission and Historical Commission take the necessary action to move the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust, currently located in the State Capitol, to the Tennessee State Museum.

Commissioner Martin reviewed the responsibility and authority of the Capitol Commission in regards to this matter and provided the following background:

- In the fall of 2015, at the request of the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House, the commission established a policy and guidelines regarding criteria for commemorative works. The policy was adopted November 10, 2015.
- In the 2016 legislative session, the General Assembly amended the then current code for historical preservation laying out a very deliberative process.
- This process requires the Capitol Commission to make a formal request, including a justification for the request, to the Historical Commission requesting a waiver to be allowed to move any commemorative work.

Commissioner Martin provided some context as to why he would be making a motion regarding the Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust, stating:

- In 2015, the Commission’s policy was developed after the tragic events in Charleston, South Carolina and established guidelines for the general criteria for evaluation of works in and around the Capitol; however, no action was taken regarding the bust.
- Under “Miscellaneous Provisions”, provision number 3 states: “Once accepted, the memorial will be displayed in the Capitol building for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Capitol Commission, after which time they may be transferred to the Tennessee State Museum for periodic display within their assigned exhibit areas.” Provision number 3 is the Commission’s path to ask the Historical Commission for a waiver to allow the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust to move to the Tennessee State Museum.
- The recent civil unrest over the last few weeks since the Charlottesville, Virginia incident cannot and should not be ignored.

Commissioner Martin asked “why now” and replied that there has been significant civil unrest over the last few weeks since the incident in Charlottesville, Virginia, which cannot and should not be ignored. Nonetheless, Commissioner Martin stated, that the Commission must thoughtfully consider their action.

Commissioner Martin stated that the Civil War, and Tennessee’s role in it, is part of our history, which needs to be recognized and understood, but not celebrated. Commissioner Martin observed that over 115,000 Tennessee men served in the Confederate army and almost 38,000 served in the Union army during the war, and many on both sides were killed or wounded. Commissioner Martin also observed that every soldier killed, had a family – they gave the ultimate sacrifice – and the loss was real and their bravery should be recognized.

Commissioner Martin acknowledged that General Forrest was indeed a complex man – he was an expert Calvary man, he was obviously brave, he made money as a slave trader, he was active in the Ku Klux Klan, he was charged with the killings at Fort Pillow and was later exonerated, and, late in life, he reached out to the black community, advocating coming together for the common good. Commissioner Martin also acknowledged that we should not consider peoples beliefs, thoughts, and actions at that time without some understanding of the culture and social norm of that time. Commissioner Martin further acknowledged that, today, General Forrest has become, fairly or unfairly, a controversial and divisive figure in our society and among the citizens of this state. Commissioner Martin then read an article from the August 19-20, 2017 weekend Wall Street Journal by Peggy Noonan and also quoted Condoleezza Rice.

Commissioner Martin continued by stating that the Tennessee State Capitol Building should be a place that represents a united Tennessee, rather than a divided one; that those honored at the Capitol should be those who made a measurable impact on the development, growth and well-being of our state and our country. Accordingly, Commissioner Martin stated that he believed General Forrest’s bust should be relocated from the Capitol Building to the Tennessee State Museum, where it can be studied and appreciated in a historical and educational context. Commissioner Martin asked that the decision to request a waiver from the Historical Commission be made today so that this move can happen. Commissioner Martin noted that, as required by law, the waiver process is a long process, but stated that, as the wise saying goes, “A long journey begins with the first step”.

Commissioner Martin then moved for the Capitol Commission to petition for a waiver from the Tennessee Historical Commission allowing the bust of General Nathan Bedford Forrest to be relocated from the Tennessee State Capitol to the Tennessee State Museum. Commissioner Martin stated that:

- There is a material, substantial need for this waiver in light of the historical and otherwise compelling public interests, which should be cited as the basis upon which the waiver is sought.
- The limited space in our State Capitol should be used to honor individuals generally revered, celebrated and admired by Tennesseans, such as Davy Crockett, and not those whose history is generally controversial, divisive and checkered.
- The Capitol should contain only monuments and works that, to those who walk through its halls each day, from senior citizens to school children, honor individuals that contributed to the upward progress of and worked to build a better Tennessee and a better United States. All should reflect the State slogan “America at its best”.
- Divisions of various kinds currently rule our politics and society and present a compelling need for public action that transcends those divisions, that appeals to a higher purpose, and reminds the citizens of Tennessee that we are above all one State, one Nation – we are all Tennesseans and Americans.
- A vote for relocating the bust to the State Museum is a vote for unity and civility and recognition of our history by displaying the bust of this historical figure at an appropriate place. History will surely view it fondly.

Commissioner Martin also moved that the Capitol Commission establish a subcommittee containing three members, including Commissioner Martin, Howard Gentry, and with Commissioner Martineau as the chair. Commissioner Martin stated that the subcommittee would draft the petition for waiver and the supporting report required by statute for submittal to the Tennessee Historical Commission, and that both items will cite as their basis the aforementioned grounds. Commissioner Martin also stated that upon completion of the petition and report, Subcommittee chairman Martineau will furnish copies of the petition and report to the members of the Capitol Commission prior to its publication and filing with the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Item: Relocation of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust from the Capitol to the State Museum

Motion: Commissioner Martin moved for the Capitol Commission to petition for a waiver from the Tennessee Historical Commission allowing the bust of General Nathan Bedford Forrest to be moved from the Tennessee State Capitol to the Tennessee State Museum. Commissioner Martin also moved that the Capitol Commission establish a subcommittee containing three members, including Commissioner Martin, Howard Gentry, and with Commissioner Martineau as the chair, to draft the petition for waiver and the supporting report, citing as its basis:

1. The limited space in our State Capitol should be used to honor individuals generally revered, celebrated and admired by Tennesseans.
2. The Capitol should contain only monuments and works that honor individuals that contributed to the upward progress of and worked to build a better Tennessee and a better United States.
3. All should reflect the State slogan “America at its best”.

Commissioner Martineau seconded the motion.

Discussion:

- Comptroller Wilson stated that in 1973 the General Assembly passed Resolution 54 in the House 87-0 and unanimously by voice vote in the Senate, which showed the intent of the General Assembly to have the General Forrest bust sit where it is now. Comptroller Wilson

also stated that the General Assembly subsequently passed resolutions relating to Sampson Keeble and Davy Crockett. Comptroller Wilson also acknowledged that these are expressions of the General Assembly and that the General Assembly could well have different views on these matters now. Comptroller Wilson expressed concern about exercising the power of the Capitol Commission to reverse the decisions of the General Assembly, noting that the second floor of the Capitol is traditionally the domain of the General Assembly. Comptroller Wilson stated that he believes that the Commission should defer to the General Assembly and does not believe that the current motion is appropriate. Comptroller Wilson stated that he would take the same stance regarding the busts of Sampson Keeble and Davy Crockett.

- Commissioner Martineau supported the motion. He stated that the same legislature had amended the statute concerning how the entities who control those monuments and statues, which is this Capitol Commission, could seek waivers and go through the process. Commissioner Martineau stated that this Commission is following exactly the process the Legislature set up, and that the process starts with the Capitol Commission and goes to the Tennessee Historical Commission through the petition for waiver that would be filed.
- Comptroller Wilson agreed that the statute is controlling, but stated that he did not believe the revision in the statute was enacted for the purpose of moving forward with this waiver request. Comptroller Wilson restated that he believed the General Assembly should have the opportunity to vote on this, since this is really their issue.
- Howard Gentry expressed his hope that the path would have already been cleared and that the Comptroller's concern would have been addressed before today. Mr. Gentry stated that he would like to feel that none of the Commissioners would be placed in a position today of being asked to vote on this waiver request without it having been vetted, and there should be a level of comfort that the Commission is doing what it has the power to do and should be doing.
- Commissioner Martin stated that he would not have made the motion if he did not feel strongly that that this is the proper approach and action to be taken. Commissioner Martin expressed his view that, when taken in light of the timeframes back in 1970 and up until 2016, the most recent action by the Legislature clearly lays out a process for these matters to be considered, and thus the reason for the motion.
- Treasurer Lillard commented that he felt that a more appropriate action than what had been moved today would be to create a process where all items could be rotated into and out of the Capitol. Treasurer Lillard stated that it is important to recognize that what Peggy Noonan was saying in her article was that all heritages need to be represented in a historical context in order for history to be appropriately learned by the present generation. Treasurer Lillard stated that history includes confederate history, union history, history of the slaves that suffered through the horrible and horrific institution of slavery, native Americans, and all of the persons who were oppressed by the practices of that era. Treasurer Lillard stated that this is a key part of our learning today and accordingly is why we should be rotating all of these items that are in the Capitol, not just one of them. Treasurer Lillard also pointed out other incongruities that occur as a result of the Commission's current practices concerning items in the Capitol.
 - With respect to governors, there are eight portraits that are relatively current, dating back to Governor Clement, at the four corners of the main hall of the Capitol. These portraits rotate based on how many Governors ago a person served. So under current practice, when Governor Haslam leaves office, then Governor Clement's portrait will go back to the State Museum to be included in their collections, either for display or the stacks. Treasurer Lillard pointed out that this practice concerning Governor's portraits has existed for a long, long time.

- There are approximately sixteen other portraits of governors that hang on the walls of the great hall of the Capitol on the first floor. These portraits do not rotate and have been in their present place for a long, long time. Governor Haslam is the 49th governor of the State and, Treasurer Lillard commented that this means that many governors, twenty-five governors, will never be displayed in the Capitol, which is inappropriate.

Treasurer Lillard stated that this is one example demonstrating the need to rotate the collection, including everything in the Capitol and including the General Forrest bust at an appropriate time. Treasurer Lillard made a suggestion with regard to rotation, but did not make a motion as one had already been made by Commissioner Martin. Treasurer Lillard asked the Commission to consider in the future the rotation situation because of its great importance to the current issue, as well as others that are lurking.

- Commissioner Martin noted that Treasurer Lillard had been very consistent in this position that a rotation policy should be established and recognized that he had brought it up the last time this topic was discussed by the Commission.
- Dr. Mitchell appreciated the motion that was made and the comments by the Treasurer because they included not just removal, but a plan for these historic items on display. Dr. Mitchell stated that he had received many emails from constituents concerned that these items are simply going to be removed and cleared from history. Dr. Mitchell recognized that Dan Pomeroy from the State Museum was present, and stated that one cannot totally evaluate the past by the present or historians will be out of business. Dr. Mitchell asserted that you can show an appreciation of all people who are concerned, not just those who speak out, and the State Capitol should be a great educational facility for children. Dr. Mitchell stated that he appreciated the motion and appreciates the thoughtful concerns of this Commission and the Tennessee Historical Commission. Dr. Mitchell also stated that whatever the action, there will also be thoughtful consideration of those concerns and of the educational value of statues and monuments in the State of Tennessee.
- Commissioner Martineau noted that the motion and comments are to have a specific plan for the Forrest bust, not to remove it and put in a box somewhere. Commissioner Martineau stated that the plan would be to place the bust in a museum where it could be part of a broader historical context fully representing the story of the Civil War and events surrounding it. Commissioner Martineau asserted that the motion speaks very clearly to the consistency of still honoring and recognizing that time in history, but not at the current location, and asserted that a more appropriate place would be the State Museum. Commissioner Martineau further stated, regarding the legislative intent, that clearly at the time the statute in question was passed (in the last two years), the discussion about the future of not only this statue, but others of similar nature around the state, was before the legislature. Commissioner Martineau noted that the Commission's work on procedures for honoring historical works took place at about the same time in 2015, and so, if the Legislature had intended to have a different set of criteria for statues and busts on the second floor of the Capitol, or in the Capitol generally, they could have set up a different procedure than this waiver process or taken that authority away from this Capitol Commission. Commissioner Martineau observed that you never want to speculate too far in interpreting Legislative silence, but stated that clearly that issue was on the table and if the legislature wanted to reserve the right, as they did with their resolution back in 1973, to insure that they alone controlled the destiny of any monuments, pictures and statues on the second floor of the Capitol, there certainly would have been an easy way to do that in the legislative process. Commissioner Martineau stated that this contrary fact, that the process for the Capitol is the same as any other statue that may be in a county courthouse or a park or wherever it might be, says we should follow that same process. Commissioner

Martineau observed that it is just in this case, because the Capitol Commission has that responsibility to seek the waiver, that Commissioner Martin was making the motion.

- Representative Johnson stated that he believed the sponsor of the resolution in 1973 was Senator Doug Henry from Davidson County, and that it passed unanimously in the senate and in the house. Representative Johnson questioned where does this stop? Would the Commission consider next month removing the statue of Andrew Jackson, and then the month after that another bust or another statue? Representative Johnson stated that it was his belief that the Commission is going down a slippery slope with this motion.
- Secretary Hargett offered his thoughts regarding Comptroller Wilson’s remarks about SJR54 in the context of his experience as a state Representative for ten years, and now, as an extension of the Legislature as Tennessee’s Secretary of State. Secretary Hargett suggested that perhaps the legislature considered that the actions the legislature had taken in previous years (on Forrest, Keeble, and Crockett), could speak for themselves. He agreed with the Comptroller and stated his concern that a body comprised of mostly unelected officials could make a decision that could undo the actions of elected officials. Secretary Hargett commented on the considerable amount of thought he had given to the matter of the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust. He stated that while growing up in Lauderdale County not much thought was given one way or the other about Nathan Bedford Forrest. He recalled thinking about the abomination of slavery, observing his African-American classmates and wondering how anyone could ever think slavery was right and how it was indefensible. He commented that not all history is pretty. Secretary Hargett further made reference to the shootings in Charleston several years ago and that someone had referenced the “Forrest bust in the Capitol” to him in context of a conversation. He stated that he had to remind himself where the bust was located. Secretary Hargett stated that, when he is in the Capitol, he focuses on where the state is headed and our state’s successes and accomplishments achieved by working together -- including the unity demonstrated by the political parties and the good things accomplished by working together. Secretary Hargett stated that he felt it important for people to understand when they come to the Capitol that we are not perfect people and how perfect people cannot be found among the busts, monuments, and portraits, or even among those serving in the building today. Secretary Hargett reiterated that the Legislature had made a decision, and every year has had the opportunity to take any one of those monuments down, and still they have chosen not to vote on taking the monuments down since putting them up. He stated that it is important, as Representative Johnson mentioned that the action taken by the legislature was unanimous. And still, no effort has been made by the Legislature to undo the prior actions. Secretary Hargett stated that the Treasurer has been very thoughtful and consistent in talking about a real plan about how we manage portraits, busts, etc. in the Capitol. Secretary Hargett stated that today’s vote is not whether or not to put up a bust anywhere. Secretary Hargett expressed that our beautiful state Capitol building was built by all races, including the labor of both slaves and prisoners. Secretary Hargett noted that all made contributions to our State Capitol building. He suggested we should be thinking of ways to acknowledge everyone’s contribution to the building. Secretary Hargett referenced Peggy Noonan’s article, which the Treasurer had forwarded to him, and stated that we ought to be thinking about how we honor more things and not just what we’re going to do with what we have. Secretary Hargett concluded his remarks by restating his concern for potentially undoing an act that was taken by elected officials in this state, by a group of people, a commission, which is not elected by the people in this state.
- Commissioner Martin stated that he appreciates Secretary Hargett’s comments and the spirit of those comments. Commissioner Martin also stated that he did not relish the opportunity to debate an issue with the Secretary, the Comptroller or Representative

Johnson, all three of whom he has enormous respect for, nor does he relish taking an opposite view of Senator Doug Henry's actions back in the 70's, a man who he greatly admires and respects in all of his contributions to our State. Commissioner Martin stated that if Joint Resolution 54 were reviewed, one would see that it dealt with the placement of the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust only. Commissioner Martin noted that the resolution did not address whether the bust was there permanently, for five years or whatever, but rather, it simply addressed the placement of the bust. Commissioner Martin stated that he thinks the Legislature, in a more recent action, as referred to in 2015, laid out a very clear process for these matters to be considered. Likewise, Commissioner Martin reminded the Commissioners that they took action in 2015 that laid out how the Commission would handle commemorative work. Commissioner Martin stated that the Nathan Bedford Forrest bust was not excluded in their consideration of commemorative work that could be addressed, and it does not seem to him that this particular commemorative work has been excluded from it. Thus, again, Commissioner Martin expressed his comfort in making the motion made.

- Mr. Howard Gentry stated that it would be nice for everybody to be able to come into the Capitol without thinking about Forrest or anything negative, but that the truth is that we're dealing with this in this time, this day. Mr. Gentry stated that when he was a little boy and went into the State Capitol, there were colored bathrooms and that bothered him – and it bothers him today – it never will leave him, and there were legislative sessions where nobody suggested changing the restrooms until the time called for it and then the restrooms were changed. Mr. Gentry stated that, at 65 years old, he is still bothered that they were there and asserted that the State Capitol should be a place where people have the expectations of fairness and freedom. Mr. Gentry stated that the Capitol is not a museum, but rather, it is a governmental building where our Governor sits. Mr. Gentry asserted that people should be able to walk into the Capitol building and receive what the constitution affords us. Mr. Gentry stated that he was telling this story to share his feelings and out of respect for his grandparents, those who were born into slavery, and out of respect for people who had to endure slavery, which wasn't right, but they still endured it and it never left them. Mr. Gentry stated that the Capitol should be a place that is free of thoughts about slavery. Mr. Gentry asserted that history lessons are appropriate for a museum, and they are not necessary in the State Capitol. Mr. Gentry further acknowledged that our constitution says "we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by the creator with inherent inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness." Mr. Gentry further stated that "to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from consent of the government, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute new government laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness". Mr. Gentry acknowledged that We're in this time, and stated that he is not saying we need to change our government, but that now is a time where we might need to make a change within our government and to remove those things. Mr. Gentry indicated that he believes that today we are in that time and in that place that the constitution states that it's time to move it to give our halls a justice and air of comfort, fairness and happiness and to not be worried about a slippery slope. Mr. Gentry stated he didn't feel like punting, he felt like doing his job, and if later somebody legally says that it's not right, then the Commission will change that. Mr. Gentry stated that he is not here today to pass it on to somebody else, he is here to act.

- Secretary Hargett requested clarification of what exactly the Commission would be voting on, stating that he had heard a motion, but wanted to know exactly what the Commission would be voting on.
- Commissioner Martin stated that the two part motion seeks approval as follows:
 - For the Capitol Commission to petition for a waiver from the Tennessee Historical Commission allowing the bust of General Nathan Bedford Forrest to be relocated from the Tennessee State Capitol to the Tennessee State Museum.
 - For the Capitol Commission to establish a subcommittee containing three members, including Commissioner Martin, Howard Gentry and with Commissioner Martineau as the chair, to draft the petition for waiver and the supporting report required by statute, both of which will cite as their basis the aforementioned ground.

Commissioner Martin further stated that the other comments made were to share a flavor of what the Commission would be putting into the written petition to the Tennessee Historical Commission.

- Secretary Hargett asked for clarification of whether the waiver and report would not come back for an additional vote, but would come back as a report, and if essentially by taking the vote, this body is turning it over to a subcommittee to act on their behalf.
- Commissioner Martin stated that the subcommittee would simply draft the written petition as required by the process outlined by the legislation that the Legislature passed. Upon the subcommittee's completion of the petition and report, the subcommittee chairman, Commissioner Martineau, would furnish copies of this prior to it being made public and submitted to the Historical Commission. Commissioner Martin noted that the statute clearly requires that the waiver request and report has to be publicly on the website and has to be publicly in the newspaper with statewide coverage of the affected area of the memorial, whatever that memorial is, and at least one newspaper in Davidson County. Commissioner Martin noted that there are very explicit steps that the subcommittee would have to follow.
- Secretary Hargett asked for clarification that the vote today is for the report to be written.
- Commissioner Martin stated yes, the Commission is voting to have that petition put in writing and putting confidence in the three people to draft it. He added that, hopefully, he had shared with the Commission, by virtue of his motion and the two pieces of his motion, a clear and concise flavor of what that petition would say.
- Secretary Hargett stated that he has the utmost respect for the three gentlemen, but wanted to point out that it is a petition that has yet to be written.
- Commissioner Martin replied "correct".
- Senator Johnson stated that, for full disclosure, he voted for the Heritage Preservation Act and, as is often the case, he did his best to read it and understand it. Senator Johnson pointed out that it is a requirement that those who have an interest, including descendants who have an interest, in receiving notice of the petition will be notified of the petition and presumably that notification is so that they can provide comment and be able to come back and provide feedback. Senator Johnson stated that it is his understanding that the feedback will go to the Tennessee Historical Commission and not to the Capitol Commission; and therefore, not only is the Capitol Commission delegating the authority to write the petition to a subcommittee, without any further consideration by the greater body, but they're also opening the door, and in fact asking for, pursuant to the statute, comments from the citizens of Tennessee and those who have an interest, but there will be no further recourse by this body to take action or to further consider those comments. Senator Johnson stated that it was his assumption that those comments would be then considered by the Historical Commission, which also gives him concern.

Vote:

- Those who voted yes were: Commissioner Larry Martin; Commissioner Bob Oglesby; Commissioner Bob Martineau; Tennessee Historical Commission chair Reavis Mitchell; and, private citizen Howard Gentry.
- Those who voted no were: Secretary of State Tre Hargett; State Treasurer David Lillard; Comptroller of the Treasury Justin Wilson; Senator Jack Johnson; Representative Curtis Johnson; private citizen Tammy White; and, private citizen King Rogers.

Motion failed

B. Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation Plans for New Year's Eve Celebration

Commissioner Martineau stated that this is a second request, and commented as follows:

- This was done last year at the Bicentennial Mall State Park. This is a joint responsibility of the Capitol Commission and the day to day operations under the state parks under Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation. We had a successful partnership with the Convention Visitor's Bureau last year. They worked very well with us and all the other state agencies, Fire Marshall and related folks to host a New Year's Eve event for the first time at the Bicentennial Mall, moving some of the activities off of Broadway. Butch Spyridon and his team worked very well with all of our staff. Beforehand they assured us that any damage from any foot traffic or trees that might have gotten damaged while setting up equipment would be repaired after the fact. With all the rain on New Year's Eve they held more than true to their word. The Park Manager was very happy with how the clean-up and restoration, replacing sod that needed to be replaced due to the heavy rains. It was a very successful event and the city was very happy. It was a good partnership with the park. They are looking to expand and build on that this year. Butch will describe their efforts and the national visibility this can get.

Butch Spyridon stated that the event had required a learning curve, as the event had moved from lower Broadway to Bicentennial Mall. Mr. Spyridon further commented as follows:

- It came off as good as it possibly could. There was great cooperation from all the State departments and that was very much appreciated. The event also received worldwide publicity out of that. The Capitol as a backdrop made a dramatic view. They have drawn the interest of national television going forward. We are here to ask for permission to use the Capitol grounds again to shoot fireworks. We'll follow the same procedures we did last year. We'll put a fence up to keep the public out. The Fire Marshall and the Nashville Fire Department were engaged and appropriate State police as well as Metro police. There were about three arrests out of 100,000 people at the Bicentennial Mall and they had about twenty arrests downtown on lower Broad. By moving the event it became a much safer event. There was a great response from the neighborhoods, the State departments and from the attendees. We'd like to do this event again and follow the same procedures and assure you of our cooperation. I can even add that we damaged a light pole last year and when we went to replace it we had the State Parks go ahead and buy some more so that they'd have them in stock for the future, whether we did the damage or somebody else did. It's that kind of partnership that we look to move forward with. We won't cut and run, we're going to be around for a long time.

Motion: Commissioner Martineau moved for the Capitol Commission to approve the Music City Midnights group's request of the event described in the materials much like last year. Motion was seconded.

Discussion: Comptroller Wilson asked if the Department of General Services was satisfied that there were proper procedures in place. Commissioner Oglesby replied “yes”.

Vote: The Commission voted unanimously and the motion passed.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Capital Projects

i. Capitol Cupola Restoration

Construction is being done by Rock City Construction. Rock City is a father/son company and the father worked on the interior/exterior updates sixty years ago. Construction is scheduled to be complete May 2018. Work includes restoration of metal cresting; replacement of upper level copper roofing; window restoration; and repair and cleaning of historic stone.

ii. Cordell Hull Renovation

The work is being done by Skanska Construction. There are eleven total floors in the building. This building will be the home for the House, Senate and Comptroller. The move in date is November 1, 2017. There are seven committee rooms. The Senate will occupy one floor. The House will occupy two and a half floors. The Comptroller’s office will occupy two half floors and one full floor. Legislative support staff will occupy three floors.

iii. Connector & Parking Garage

The connector will be complete December 15, 2017. The connector is 390’ in length and is 90’ below the current Motlow elevator shaft. There was a lot of blasting and the last blast was January 20, 2017. The width of the connector is 11’ 9” but does widen out to 13’ 6” at the three vestibules. The parking garage will have 150 spaces and will be available on January 9, 2018. The work in the garage will be completed by the end of February 2018.

iv. Tennessee State Museum

The Tennessee State Museum is scheduled to be complete in May 2018. The exhibit will be complete in August 2018. The scheduled opening date will be in October 2018.

v. State Library and Archives Building

Construction is scheduled to start in December of 2017 or early January 2018 with a planned completion by the end of 2019 and an opening of 2020.

Discussion:

Commissioner Martin thanked Natalie Hansen for the update and stated that there is a lot of good activity going on.

Senator Johnson stated that he had the privilege of touring the new Cordell Hull Building and wanted to say that it is gorgeous and really turning out nice. Senator Johnson also stated, on behalf of the General Assembly, that it will be a marked improvement over current space and wanted to express his gratitude, not only for the members and their staff, but that this space will be much more accommodating to the general public and our citizens and those we represent to be able to come in and participate in their government and see their elected representatives. Senator Johnson further applauded everyone who has played a part in this project.

Commissioner Martin thanked Senator Johnson for his kind comments. Commissioner Martin stated that he has also had the opportunity to tour the building and it is beautiful and well done, and will serve the Legislature well.

State Architect Ann McGauran wanted to make the Commission aware that the Farmer's Market is planning on converting the north and south loading docks into entrances. They have submitted the plans to the State Architect's office and they have been approved to proceed with the work.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Martin introduced Ashley Howell. Ms. Howell is the new Executive Director of the Tennessee State Museum.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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