

**Minutes**  
STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION  
April 23, 2012

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**1. Introductions / Roll Call**

Chairman Emkes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum was noted with the following members in attendance:

Members Present

Chairman Mark Emkes, Commissioner of Finance & Administration  
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State  
Justin Wilson, Comptroller of the Treasury  
David Lillard, State Treasurer  
Steve Cates, Commissioner of General Services  
Bob Martineau, Commissioner of Environment & Conservation  
Senator Jack Johnson  
Janie Conyers, private citizen  
Howard Gentry, private citizen

Members Absent

Representative Gerald McCormick  
Norman Hill, TN Historical Commission  
Judy Danner, private citizen

Others Present

Bob Oglesby, State Architect  
Alan Robertson, Assistant State Architect  
Georgia Martin, Office of the State Architect  
Thad Watkins, Department of General Services  
Cheryl Rudy, Department of General Services  
Melinda Parton, Comptroller's Office  
Joy Harris, Treasurer's Office  
Jonathan Rummel, Secretary of State's Office  
Jordan Young, Governor Ramsey's Office  
David Carpenter, Dept of General Services  
Lois Riggins-Ezzell, TN State Museum

Jim Hoobler, TN State Museum  
Nick DePalma, Department of General Services  
Jim Thompson, Centric Architecture  
Peter Heimbach, Dept of General Services  
Rich Cardwell, Office of the State Architect  
Don Reaville, Smith Seckman Reid  
Jose McNeill, Department of General Services  
Abby Lipshie, Department of General Services  
Robbi Stivers, University of Tennessee  
Kim Adkins, Codell Construction  
Don Johnson, Department of General Services

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting**

The Minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were approved.

## **3. Update on Restoration of Liberty Bell**

Assistant State Architect Alan Robertson was recognized and gave a status report on the restoration of the Liberty Bell. He said that after speaking with Hodgson & Douglas, the Capitol landscape architect, and others, there had been a change of direction. He stated that because the bell is located in the historic Jackson Memorial area, it was important that the area not become too eclectic, and sheltering the bell might be a distraction. Therefore, they have decided not to proceed with the shelter covering, but to proceed with maintenance upgrades to keep the integrity of the bell intact. Mr. Robertson added that they were considering using epoxy wood for the yoke, rather than oak, because it would weather better. He said they would like to request approval to not proceed with bidding documents but to finalize and report back maintenance costs for possible implementation through the Department of General Services. Secretary Hargett asked what their time frame was, and Mr. Robertson responded that, if feasible, he'd like to be able to do it while the Capitol renovation project was going on. The Commission approved the request as presented.

## **4. Capitol Renovation Project and Policies During Construction**

Assistant Commissioner Peter Heimbach discussed the Pre-Construction Report dated April 23, 2012 describing the plumbing, electrical and architectural scopes of work. He discussed the project schedule, including the relocation of the Capitol occupants, and use of the Capitol during construction. Commissioner Emkes suggested that a notice would be placed on the State's website for notifying the public of the Capitol's temporary closure. Commissioner Cates offered that Commissioners Whitaker and Martineau be involved as well. The Commission thanked Commissioner Heimbach for his presentation.

## **5. Rules on Use of War Memorial Plaza and Courtyard**

Thad Watkins, General Counsel, discussed the policy and rules for use of the Capitol and other spaces. He said there is an existing policy in place in order to comply with the Sunshine Law that covers just about everything. However, it is a different matter for the grounds as a portion of the grounds will be available during construction. He said they wanted to update the Commission on the duration part of the renovation in order to request that a policy be adopted that non-governmental use of the Capitol and grounds will only be permitted if the Office of the State Architect finds it consistent with the ongoing renovation project. He said they would also notify all the regular users immediately of this six month period so they can make other arrangements. Regarding tours that are arranged through the TN State Museum, he added that they will be proactive by placing a notice on the State's website regarding the ongoing renovation project at the Capitol and who to contact.

At the Commission's request, Mr. Watkins proposed that the Capitol Commission adopt a policy that non-governmental use of the Capitol building and grounds will not be permitted during the renovation project unless the Office of the State Architect determines the proposed use will not conflict with the renovation project. A motion to approve was seconded, and passed without objection.

Mr. Watkins stated there are several groups that ask for the Capitol to be lit a certain color during the year. After discussion, Mr. Oglesby proposed not lighting the Capitol itself, but lighting the cupola instead during the construction period. A motion to approve the proposal was seconded, and passed without objection.

Mr. Watkins reported that the Legislature had passed a bill making it illegal to camp overnight on public properties without specific authorization. He stated that the Department of General Services had been working with the Attorney General's Office, Department of Safety, and others in developing official rules that were presented at the recent public rule-making hearing. He said that comments had been received and were being considered for adoption that would govern general use of the War Memorial Plaza and courtyard. The Commission thanked him for the report.

## **6. Other Business**

Mr. Oglesby stated there was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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