

MINUTES
STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION
November 3, 2016

1. Introductions / Roll Call

Chairman Larry Martin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. State Architect Peter Heimbach 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
- Comptroller Justin Wilson
- Whitney Goetz on behalf of Treasurer David Lillard
- Representative Curtis Johnson

- Senator Jack Johnson (absent)
- Dr. Reavis Mitchell (absent)
- Howard Gentry (absent)
- King Rogers (absent)
- Tammy White (absent)

2. Approval of Minutes from the May 4, 2016 Meeting

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

3. New Business

A. YMCA Civic Engagement Benefit Dinner

Beverly Revo and Brandon Oliver presented the request stating this was a major fund-raising dinner that benefits 2,000 high school students by giving them first-hand experience in government. It is an outreach program raising scholarship dollars for students across the state to be able to be part of this program. Commissioner Martin stated that it was a good program and they have had good success. Secretary Hargett asked David Carpenter if he had any objections, and Mr. Carpenter responded that he did not. The Commission voted to approve the request as presented.

4. Old Business

A. Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation Plans for New Years Eve Celebration

Butch Spyridon, President and CEO of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation, presented a request for use of the Capitol grounds for the New Years Eve fireworks display. Referring to his letter to the Commission dated October 25, 2016, Mr. Spyridon discussed the fireworks set-up, limited access on Capitol Hill, protection of Capitol property, insurance and supporting maps. Comptroller Wilson asked if he was satisfied that all safety measures had been addressed, and Mr. Spyridon replied “yes”, he was. When asked if anyone from the State Fire Marshal’s Office was present, Director Chris Bainbridge was recognized and reported that the SFMO had reviewed the plans which appeared to meet code. Comptroller Wilson asked if they had gone with the same set of questions to the Metro Fire Department, and was told that they had, and responses were the same.

Commissioner Oglesby discussed the responsibility of clean up after the event. Mr. Spyridon stated that they would accept all responsibility for cleaning up and would make good on any ancillary expenses. Peter Heimbach added that there are costs that are associated with the Departments of General Services and Safety providing facilities support for this event and that the NCVC has agreed to reimburse any of these costs, should they occur.

Thad Watkins, General Counsel for Department of General Services, informed the Commission that representatives from several of the involved agencies were available to answer any questions. Commissioner Martin stated that since this was the first time for this big event, he thought it important for the Commission to hear from them.

Major Mark Proctor, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, was recognized and stated that, after review, they were comfortable with the security plans. He said that Metro police and fire departments do a good job in events like this to protect persons and property.

Rodney Escobar, Director, Treasury Claim Administration, stated that they have reviewed the insurance requirements and made some changes including increasing the general liability limit from \$1 million to \$20 million; adding terrorist coverage for non-certified events; and adding media and cyber coverage.

Assistant Commissioner John Carr, Department of Tourist Development, stated that his Department supports the request of the Nashville CVC. He said that, as part of the State's economic impact, over \$18 billion was generated in the past year, with Nashville responsible for up to 30% of it, and they see this event as a great opportunity. Comptroller Wilson asked if any representative from Metro Government or the State of Tennessee was present in the audience who had objection. Seeing none, Commissioner Martin asked Peter Heimbach if he was comfortable, and Mr. Heimbach responded that they felt everything has been addressed for the protection of the Capitol and its grounds.

Commissioner Oglesby asked about the location of the trailer where the fireworks would be set up and where the primary viewing area would be. Mr. Spyridon stated that the fireworks trailer would be on the observation deck on the north side of the Capitol, referred to as the "lower belvedere", with public viewing from the Bicentennial Mall State Park. After general discussion, the Commission voted to approve the request as presented.

B. Update on Underground Connector and Motlow Tunnel

Natalie Hansen, Executive Director of Capital Projects, reported on the progress of the new underground connector from the Cordell Hull Building to the Capitol and on the work being done in the Motlow Tunnel. She stated they were 92% into the 435-foot run, which is now under the Capitol. She discussed the blasting and excavation work that was ongoing through November, and that the Motlow Tunnel would be ready for Session by December 23. Commissioner Oglesby asked if there will be any blasting in the future. Ms. Hansen replied that blasting will occur on the vertical part for the next three months. When asked about the frequency of those blasts, she said she didn't know, but would find out. The Commission thanked her for the report.

5. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

* * * * *