

Capitol Planning Commission Minutes  
October 17, 2012  
Oran Pape Building, Room B125 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

**Members Present:**

Cathy Brown, Chair	William Dikis, Vice Chair
Mike Carroll, Director	Carl Voss
Elizabeth Isaacson	Representative Ralph Watts
Allison Kleis	

**Members Absent:**

Scott Weiser  
Senator Matt McCoy  
Representative Dennis Cohoon

**Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:**

Steve Gross, DAS/GSE  
Brant Carr, DAS/GSE  
Ben Brackett, DAS/GSE  
Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE  
Tera Granger, DAS/GSE  
Nancy Williams, DAS/GSE  
Emily Narayan, DAS/GSE

**Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting**

Mark Willemsen, Legislature  
Kristi Kielhorn, Legislature  
Theresa Kehoe, Legislature  
Mark Finkelstein, Jewish Federation  
Judy Blank, Myron and Jacqueline Blank Foundation  
Matt Carlile, Confluence  
Steve Ponsetto, DPS  
Todd Misel, ISP/DPS  
Scott Fenton, RDG

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Cathy Brown followed by roll call and introductions. Chair Cathy Brown noted with sorrow the passing of Member Senator Pat Ward on October 15. The Commission appreciated Senator Ward's contributions and agreed that she'll be missed.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Liz Isaacson made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Carl Voss seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 19, 2012 Meeting**

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Mike Carroll seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Site Features Committee Update**

### *DPS Sign Request*

Steve Ponsetto presented the Department of Public Safety's request to reinstall their department specific sign at the East Entrance of the parking lot at the Oran Pape Building. The Department of Public Safety felt it was important their presence be clearly identified because the public sometimes seeks them out for help. The Commission discussed the need for consistency and simplicity in building identification signage as well as the need to communicate Department locations to the public. The Commission decided there should be a standard policy on building signs, but Departments may seek a waiver to the policy from the Department of Administrative Services.

**MOTION:** Carl Voss made a motion that the Capitol Complex should not have department-specific monument signage in front of buildings. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### *Holocaust Memorial Final Approval*

Matt Carlile from Confluence outlined the changes to the proposed Holocaust Memorial, primarily a change in the wall material from stainless steel to concrete and the removal of the rail detail from the sidewalk. Representative Watts asked if they had considered coloring the concrete for the sidewalk or the walls. Matt Carlile responded that they had considered a range of colors but thought plain concrete looks best; they agreed there should be some distinguishing factor, such as texture, for the sidewalk. Chair Cathy Brown felt like they lost plantings in the final version. Judy Blank replied that there were the same amounts of plantings, they were just using different materials because the grasses could have grown too high. Chair Cathy Brown encouraged them to consider a stronger blend of plantings along the sidewalk.

**MOTION:** Mike Carroll made a motion to give final approval to the memorial. Liz Isaacson seconded, then Vice-Chair Bill Dikis amended the motion to include final approval for the text and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Staff Reports/Project Updates**

### *Annual Report*

The Commission reviewed the annual report drafted by DAS and suggested the following revisions:

- adding a statement regarding the passing of Member Senator Pat Ward to the Vision section;
- removing the reference on page 2 to refurbishing the plaque;
- adding the dedication date for the Teacher Boulder; and
- adding a footnote on the FY2013 infrastructure funding request for building repair vs. replacement assessment noting it was changed to focus on relocation of Fleet in FY2015.

The Commission discussed the importance of relocating Fleet to the Master Plan and Chair Cathy Brown requested that DAS take a stronger look at relocating Fleet as it is a priority of the Master Plan.

Chair Cathy Brown stated that she and Vice-Chair Bill Dikis reviewed all of the items in the DAS five-year infrastructure plan for the Capitol Complex and suggested that the Commission leave items that address health and safety, access for disabled persons, and major and routine maintenance to the technical expertise of DAS and the Commission only rank items that address preservation and enhancement of the dignity, beauty, and architectural integrity of the Capitol Complex. One of the DAS items not ranked by the Commission was construction of a new pedestrian tunnel. After some discussion, Chair Cathy Brown suggested that the tunnel be discussed over the next year as part of

pedestrian circulation under the Master Plan. The Commission reviewed the suggested rankings for the FY2014 and FY2015 Infrastructure Requests.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to accept the draft report with the minor revisions as noted. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### *Rowhouse*

Ben Brackett told the Commission that several DAS efforts to move the rowhouse at 709 E. Locust had not been successful and DAS now plans to demolish the 709 E. Locust rowhouse as well as the 707 E. Locust building. DAS plans to put out an RFP for demolition design in the next several weeks with the project to be completed by June 2013.

#### *Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association Project*

Steve Gross said the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association had planted two beds near at the North Entrance of Lot 13 near the Capitol as well as areas at Kasson Plaza near the Oran Pape Building. The Commission complimented the work.

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to issue a thank you letter from the Capitol Planning Commission to the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association for their civic contributions and issue a press release as well. Allison Kleis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Carl Voss requested DAS develop a plan to finish the brick work at Kasson Plaza.

#### *Cherry Blossom Trees*

Steve Gross showed the pictures of the Cherry Blossom Trees that were planted around the Japanese Bell this Spring. The trees did surprisingly well despite the drought and only one was lost. DAS is looking into replacing that tree next Spring.

#### *Historical Building*

The design is completed for the exterior repair work, which is out to bid and expected to be done next Spring. Chair Cathy Brown asked if there were any plans for physical changes to the building and Steve Gross replied plans were limited to a facelift for the atrium at this time.

#### *Capitol Events*

See list attached.

### **Other Business**

#### *Comments and Discussion*

The Commission decided to delay the remaining agenda items until the next meeting in January.

#### *Overview of Next Meeting*

Next meeting will be January 9, 2013, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Capitol Building, Room G19

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.