

Capitol Planning Commission Minutes  
April 17, 2013  
Wallace Building, Conference Room 2 South (1:05 pm – 1:47 pm)

**Members Present:**

Cathy Brown, Chair	William Dikis, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Isaacson	Carl Voss
Allison Kleis	Scott Weiser
Senator Charles Schneider	

**Members Absent:**

Representative Ralph Watts  
Senator Matt McCoy  
Representative Dan Kelley  
Mike Carroll

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

Lon Anderson, DAS/GSE  
Rick Schnoes, DAS/GSE  
Brant Carr, DAS/GSE  
Charlee Cross, DAS/GSE  
Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE  
Emily Narayan, DAS/GSE

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

Mark Willemsen, Legislature  
Carolann Jensen  
Mark Finkelstein, Jewish Federation  
Judy Blank, Myron and Jacqueline Blank Foundation  
Matt Carlile, Confluence  
Carol Grant

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Cathy Brown followed by roll call and introductions. Jennifer Moehlmann welcomed the new member in attendance, Senator Charles Schneider, and noted that the Commission had another new member, Representative Dan Kelley, who was unable to attend this time due to a scheduling conflict.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2013 Meeting**

**MOTION:** Allison Kleis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Carl Voss seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Recognition of Senator Jensen's Contributions**

Chair Cathy Brown presented a plaque of recognition for Senator Jensen's contributions and for his ongoing care and leadership of the State Capitol Building specifically to Carolann Jensen and her family. Chair Cathy Brown indicated that the family is working with DAS to identify a memorial at the Capitol.

### **Recognition of Members**

Lon Anderson spoke on behalf of Director Mike Carroll. Mike is very appreciative and wanted to express his gratitude to Chair Cathy Brown, Carl Voss and Liz Isaacson for serving on the Commission and for everything they've done with the Commission for the Capitol Complex. All three members' terms expire on April 30.

### **Staff Reports/Project Updates**

#### *Legislative Update*

Lon Anderson reported that the House Appropriations Committee approved the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure fund bill, which included \$50 million for the remodeling of the Wallace Building over a four year period and \$2.9 million for the first phase design of the Historical building. The plan for the Historical Building is to get three or four options and decide whether to tear it down, remodel, and/or scale it back because they don't need as much space as they have in that building now. Moving of the Fleet Building was not included in this version, but hopefully the Senate might consider it. It's a long ways from being done, but there are good things in the bill at this point. Chair Cathy Brown remarked it's exciting that the Wallace Building is getting some attention.

#### *Holocaust Memorial Update*

Jennifer Moehlmann said we're working on signing the memorandum of agreement with the Blank Fund to kick off construction; the wall has been ordered and we have the final design and text which was sent out to everybody via email. Matt Carlile said he has incorporated all of the comments and hopes to get approval today for all of the text. Matt Carlile will be meeting with the people that make the product Friday, April 19 and will take the fully approved text document. Concrete work is planned to be done by early June, the panels will be installed during the last two weeks in June, and the Memorial will be done by the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Yankee Doodle Pops Concert. Carl Voss asked who else had input on the Memorial besides the Capitol Planning Commission. Mark Finkelstein said they have been working with the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum to come up with ideas and the project was discussed at two of the annual meetings of the Jewish communities. Vice Chair Bill Dikis thanks everyone involved and said it'll be a great addition to the Capitol grounds. Judy Blank said she is pleased that the State of Iowa is going to accept this gift.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to give final approval to the memorial, expressing his appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved, and said that it promised to be a great addition to the Capitol grounds. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### *Teacher Boulder Update*

Jennifer Moehlmann reported that the boulder has shifted a little and DAS plans to work with the boulder's sponsors to reposition the boulder in the same area, but leave it slightly buried in the ground, rather than in a raised position.

#### *Grimes Lighting*

Exterior parking lot and sidewalk lighting project is complete.

### *Historical Building*

Contract in place to replace the exterior granite that's been damaged. The remodeling of the interior project is pending funding.

### *Rowhouse*

Charlee Cross reported DAS is working with a developer to relocate the 709 East Locust Street Row House and plans are to move it down the street in July. Scott Weiser said this has been going on for a while and would like to get it over with. Charlee said we're ready to turn it over to the developer by July 8 and it will take about three weeks to prepare to move down Grand Avenue. The Developer is currently waiting on the City and the State Historical Preservation Office to get in writing the verbal commitments that have been made. If 709 Row House is not moved by August 1, it will be demolished. The building at 707 East Locust Street on the west side of the 709 Row House goes away. It has to be disconnected from 709 and demolished and the area backfilled for equipment to be able to move 709. Carl Voss wanted to know what the plans are after the row houses are gone. Charlee said it'll be a grassy area with landscaping bricks to match the rest of the West Capitol Terrace. Scott Weiser said there originally were plans to have a Welcome Center at the 709 Row House and asked for the current status. Charlee said it would cost too much to renovate the Row House to make it ADA compliant and the Welcome Center will likely be part of the Historical Building renovation.

### *Iowa Building*

Bids for demolition are due back for the Iowa Building by May 17. DAS hopes to start abatement in the middle of June and demolition would follow that.

### *Capitol Events*

Jennifer Moehlmann referenced the handout listing the events scheduled on the Capitol Complex. Scott Weiser asked if the Commission had responsibility for events occurring inside buildings as well as outside, and asked if there were criteria for events held within the Capitol. He wondered if it were appropriate to have events like the recent chili cook-off. Jennifer Moehlmann replied that there were rules for the events on-line and events have to be reserved through Nancy Williams, but she will check to see if there are specific criteria. Scott also asked if the Commission had responsibility for security issues and requested more information on the security protocol at the State Capitol, specifically concerning who needed to be screened, the presence of armed guards, and what prevented people from letting other people in through the first floor East and West doors. Chair Cathy Brown said she didn't believe security is directly part of the Commission's responsibility, but the Commission could request a review of the issue – the spirit of it is to raise the question, but not tell people what to do. Jennifer Moehlmann said she would review the security questions with Post 16 and provide that information at the next meeting. Mark Willemsen noted that there is more going on with security than what may be seen and that there are State troopers in the building during session.

### **Other Business**

#### *Comments and Discussion*

Carl Voss said Des Moines Bicycle Coalition is about to publish a new guide for downtown Des Moines which is called "Des Moines Walk and Bike Guide" and includes 16 walks and 14 bike rides. Joan Arnett who works as a Capitol Tour Guide created the walk around the Capitol grounds with 6 of her favorite places where she thinks people should stop and see. The walk is approximately 1.6 miles. There will also be an online version. Chair Cathy Brown added it really supports the Governor's initiative to be the healthiest state to get out and walk. Carl said the timing is good with the dedication of the upcoming Principal Riverwalk.

Senator Schneider remarked that he looks forward to serving on the Commission and thanked everyone on the Commission who is volunteering their time to be involved.

*Overview of Next Meeting*

The Commission will discuss active projects, event criteria, Capitol security, Chair election and sub-committee membership at the next meeting in July. One of the items the site features committee will need to address is the potential B-Cycle station. Next meeting will be July 17, 2013, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (location TBD).

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.