

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Minutes
April 20, 2017
3:00 p.m., Room 419C
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State and agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Edmondson
Bruce Fisher
Vickie Hicks
Doug Kellogg
Lou Kerr
Leia Laird
Mariana Lloyd
Duane Mass
Chris Morriss
Chip Mullens
James Pickel
Dan Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Bill Corbett
Nancy Leonard
Joel Kintsel

GUESTS: Beverly Hicks, OMES CAM
Karl Kramer, Attorney General's office
Trait Thompson, OMES, State Capitol Project Manager
Amber Sharples, Ok Arts Council
Alan Atkinson, OK Arts Council
Representative, Gary Banz
Secretary, Rita Aragon
Chris Bliss, Executive Director, My Bill of Rights.org
Barbara Hoebrock, Tulsa World

1. Determination of quorum and call to order. [Vickie Hicks]

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m., by Chairwoman Hicks. A roll call was taken and a quorum established. Ms. Hicks was advised that notice of the meeting had been given and an agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

Ms. Hicks welcomed new members Chip Mullens, James Pickel, Mariana Lloyd and Chris Morriss to the Commission.

2. Open Meeting Act Compliance. [Vickie Hicks]

Ms. Hicks was informed that notice of the meeting had been given, and an agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

Mr. Fisher arrived at 3:05 p.m., after roll call was taken.

3. Discussion and possible action on minutes of the Nov. 16, 2016, special meeting. [Vickie Hicks]

Mr. Mass moved to approve the special meeting minutes of November. Ms. Edmondson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

4. Discussion and possible action on waiving the moratorium on outdoor installations to approve the siting of one Bill of Rights monument. [Duane Mass]

Mr. Mass gave a recap on when the moratorium was placed and approved over a year ago by the Commission until the Capitol renovations are completed for the works of art, monuments, sculptures or other items outside. Since then, an act signed by the governor, SB No. 14, has authorized the Commission or designee to permit and arrange for the placement on the State Capitol grounds of a suitable monument displaying the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States, commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Ross reported the project will be done in two phases. Chris Bliss, the founder and executive director of the non-profit group, "My Bill of Rights.org," placed a Bill of Rights monument on the Capitol grounds in the State of Arizona. Mr. Bliss' organization is working with a local non-profit group that will raise the funds to pay for the monument on the Capitol grounds. The members of the committee are Secretary Rita Aragon, Natalie Shirley and former Representative, and one of the authors of the Bill, Gary Banz.

Once the funds have been raised, the local committee will come back and present some designs before the Commission to decide which design to move forward with and place on the Capitol grounds.

Mr. Mass moved to revise the moratorium to allow for the Bill of Rights monument to be placed on Capitol grounds, as authorized and signed into law by the governor. Mr. Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

**5. Discussion and possible action to approve placement site of the Bill of Rights monument.
[Duane Mass]**

The Commission discussed the proposed location on the east side of the Capitol within the horseshoe area of the parking lot. There was concern about two oak trees within the same area. It was assured that the trees would stay in place and used as an anchor to the monument.

There was discussion and concern about the Christ Thorn Tree that had been transplanted once before from the south side of the Capitol where the 'As long as the water flows' statue stands. Mr. Ross directed the local committee of the My Bill of Rights.org to come back before the Commission with designs that do and do not incorporate the tree. If reasons the tree cannot be incorporated in the design plan, OMES will work to see where it can be transplanted elsewhere on the Capitol grounds.

Mr. Ross stated he is happy with the placement of where the monument will be located and viewed as a point of the east entrance as an educational tool where children can gather and view the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Mass moved to authorize the placement of the Bill of Rights monument within the east horseshoe of the parking lot on the east of the building. Mr. Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

6. Discussion and possible action on waiving the moratorium for a Capitol painting from Representative Earl Sears. [Linda Edmondson]

Ms. Edmondson reported that Representative Sears from Bartlesville, Oklahoma is term limited and had come before the Arts Council wanting to Commission a piece of art for the Capitol Building, to portray cattle ranching in northeast Oklahoma, and to gift it to the State Capitol Art Collection. He has been an ally of the Capitol Preservation Commission and Arts Council through his whole term and hopes that sometime next year during final session of his final term in the legislature, that it would be dedicated in some way and shown off and to be presented to the State Capitol Art Collection and then go into storage for safe keeping until the renovations of the Capitol are over. In order for this to happen, the interior moratorium would need to be waived as done before in past.

The Ethics Commission allows for remaining campaign funds of a legislator to be donated to a private non-profit once they have termed out. Representative Sears has chosen to donate his

remaining campaign funds to the Friends of the Mansion private non-profit organization. The Friends of the Mansion would then carry through with the commission.

Ms. Edmondson made a motion to waive the moratorium on interior artwork for a Capitol painting from Representative Earl Sears. Mr. Pickel seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the commissioning of a Capitol painting from Representative Earl Sears. [Linda Edmondson]

Mr. Alan Atkinson, Director of Visual Arts and Capitol Collection, gave some background on the role of cattle ranching as an industry in northeastern Oklahoma and found that several of the largest and most famous cattle ranches are located in that part of the state. Mr. Atkinson admired Representative Sears' passion for his hometown and noted it hit on a subject that meshed very well with the overall scope of the collection.

The artist chosen for the painting is Ross Myers, selected by Representative Sears as the artist for this commission. Mr. Myers is native to Oklahoma and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Tulsa in 1977. He is known nationally, and best known for his expansive landscapes of the southwestern United States and his native Oklahoma. Myers' paintings can be found in many private collections and corporate institutions. His work has been featured in galleries and museums in Colorado, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma. His oil-on-linen painting Whitetail Deer in Choctaw County is part of the Oklahoma State Capitol Art Collection, located on the fifth floor of the Capitol.

Mr. Atkinson stated that final sketches for the painting will be brought back before the Commission for comments and approval before the commission of art is completed.

Ms. Edmondson made a motion to approve the commissioning of a Capitol painting from Representative Earl Sears by Ross Myers. Mr. Mass seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

8. Discussion and possible action on responding to a citizen complaint filed with the Attorney General's Office regarding the Phillips 66 sign on Capitol grounds. [Vickie Hicks]

Mr. Ross gave some insight on the complaint that came through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. He feels at this time it is not the Commission's issue and is something that his office will look into and address with the citizen when the time comes.

Mr. Ross made a motion that the Capitol Preservation Commission take no action. Mr. Mass seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

Ms. Edmondson, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Hicks, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Laird, yes; Ms. Lloyd, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Mr. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Mr. Ross, yes.

9. Collections Manager Report. [Alan Atkinson, Director of Visual Arts and Capitol Collections]

– Status of collection in storage

Mr. Atkinson reported on the arts in safekeeping after the Commission-approved relocation from the Capitol to a climate-controlled secure warehouse storage place. The warehouse is located 6.5 miles north of the Capitol. He handed out a list of artwork that was relocated, consisting of 59 paintings, seven bronze sculptures and one quilt. There were no incidences in crating and moving the art. He and Mr. Thompson, State Capitol Project Manager, visited the artwork and are happy to report it is all in good shape and they are happy with those taking care of it.

– Protection of murals

He reported the next step will be the enclosure and protection of the murals that are permanently affixed inside the State Capitol Building. Since no major construction work will be happening in the rotunda area for some time, it is still a bit down the road before this will happen.

Report only. No action taken.

10. New Business

None.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Mass made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Kerr seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.