

Minutes
Capitol Preservation Commission
Special-Call Meeting
3:00 p.m. – July 31, 2012
Room 412 C
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Meeting Notice was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Ellwanger
Larry Warden
Linda Edmondson
Doug Kellogg
Lou Kerr
Duane Mass
Paul Meyer
John Morrison
James Pickel
Louis Trost

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Downs
Mark Liotta
Trait Thompson

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Beverly Hicks – Department of Central Services
Karl Kramer – Office of Attorney General
Amber Sharples – Oklahoma Arts Council
Clint Stone – Oklahoma Arts Council
Barbara Hoberock – Reporter with the Tulsa World
Abigail Krasno – e Capitol

Determination of Quorum and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ellwanger. The roll was taken and it was ascertained that a quorum was present.

Discussion and possible action on approval of design and placement of a new outdoor grill at the Governor's Mansion

Chairman Ellwanger opened the meeting, and stated that everyone had been provided prior to the meeting with information regarding the proposed item (pictures, maps, etc.) John Morrison presented the Commission with an updated (Fourth) schematic approved by the Governor.

The floor was open for discussion. Chairman Ellwanger stated that his first reaction regarding the grill was that it was inappropriate to place the grill adjacent to a historic home and then have to build a wall to screen the grill. He suggested that it would be more appropriate to place the grill next to the pool and pavilion. This is a public area specifically for entertaining.

Ms. Edmondson questioned the use of the grill. Will this be for big events, for the First Gentleman's use, for the chef's use? Mr. Mass related that for the past 4-5 years there has been a grill adjacent to the back door of the house, and his understanding is that this will be used for the house. Speaking from practical experience, his concern is that if the grill is placed by the pavilion and is used by the house, it will eventually wind up adjacent to the back door. And to screen it would make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Vice-Chairman Warden also related that his understanding is that this is a short-term item. Mr. Morrison confirmed that this is a short term item. The Governor has expressed interest in having a permanent, stone-based grill built in the future.

Chairman Ellwanger expressed that anything permanent should be built away from the home. However, Mr. Morrison reiterated that this is strictly for the first family's use, and that the screening wall outside the back door would be beneficial for hiding other items (utility items, etc.).

Ms. Edmondson was of the understanding that the approval was for building a grill. Rather, the approval is actually for building a screening wall adjacent to the back door that would hide some unsightly items as well as the grill.

Vice-Chairman Warden questioned why this project needs to be done before Septemberfest when this is strictly for the first family's use. No immediate answer was available.

Ms. Edmondson asked Mr. Pickel if this project had been discussed at a Friends of the Mansion meeting. Mr. Pickel stated that the project was not discussed in detail. The Friends of the Mansion are generally approached to see if there are funds to pay for certain improvement projects. His understanding regarding this project is that it is being requested specifically for the convenience of being right at the backdoor, and could even possibly be for the First Gentleman.

Mr. Pickel feels that the height of the wall is what would challenge the integrity of the building. Mr. Mass agreed, and feels that the scale of the wall has become too tall. If it were a little over counter height, then it would be more of a landscaping feature. However, there is concern about using the top of the wall as a countertop, which could potentially destroy the top.

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Mr. Pickel remarked that this concerns the east façade of the house. The marble where the grill is currently is in horrible condition. The Commission may want to address redoing the landscaping, etc. on the east façade of the house, even if it increases the price of the project.

Mr. Mass felt that if the landscaping would be done along with building the wall, the project could be a positive feature.

Mr. Mass asked Mr. Pickel about the possibilities of going back to CLS and asking about changing the project to reflect landscaping and a shorter wall. Mr. Pickel replied that it might take someone of more authority to get the change approved.

Chairman Ellwanger took issue with the fact that this project was brought before the CPC less than the required 14 days in advance of a regularly scheduled CPC meeting. If the Commission were to deny this project at this time, the whole process would be set back. He stressed that these issues need to fall within the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Mr. Mass made the following motion: That the Commission accept the project as presented in its fourth configuration (as presented at the meeting by John Morrison – copy of plans on file) with the following considerations: 1. That the screen wall material be cast stone block (to match the Phillips Pavilion); 2. The height of the screen walls should be at least 1 foot shorter than indicated in the original project (which would make it no more than 3 ft. 6 in. tall); 3. There should be two screen walls only, with no returns to the building; 4. The pavers used in the project are to be Pewter in color as defined by the proposal and not Antique Pewter; 5. And that as Capitol Architect, Mr. Mass is to oversee the project based on the recommendations of the Commission.

Ms. Edmondson seconded the motion.

Mr. Trost wanted to make it clear in the minutes that no public funds are being used. The project will be paid by the Friends of the Mansion.

A roll call vote was taken: Linda Edmondson-yes; Richard Ellwanger-yes; Doug Kellogg-yes; Lou Kerr-yes; Duane Mass-yes; Paul Meyer-yes; John Morrison-yes; James Pickel-yes; Louis Trost-yes; Larry Warden-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.