

CAPITOL COMPLEX COMMISSION – MINUTES

- Date: November 8, 2017

OPENING:

- The meeting of the Capitol Complex Commission was called to order by Chair Shouldice at 10:02 AM on November 8, 2017 in the 4th floor Boardroom #410 at 133 State Street in Montpelier.

PRESENT:

- **Members:** Heather Shouldice, Chair; Paul Carnahan, Jireh Billings, Susan Hayward, Rachel Feldman and Christopher Cole, Executive Secretary to the Capitol Complex Commission
- **Also Present:** David Schutz, Tabrena Karish, Jonathan Rutledge, Laura Trieschmann, James Duggan, Eric Rajendra, Susan Allen, Nate Hausman, Kimberley McKee, Alison Friedkin, Anne Watson, Ward Joyce, Laz Scangas, David Frothingham and Sarah McShane.
- **Minutes transcriber:** Judy Bruneau, Department of Building and General Services

CHAIR SHOULDICE:

- Welcome new Commission member Rachel Feldman!
- In order to try and strengthen the relationship between the City of Montpelier and the Capitol Complex Commission, Chair Shouldice and Commissioner Cole met with Mayor John Hollar on September 5th. Chair Shouldice said it was a good meeting.

PRIOR MINUTES APPROVAL:

- Item #1 – Chair Shouldice made a motion to approve the August 22, 2017 meeting minutes with the proposed edit provided by Paul Carnahan. Jireh Billings seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all.

MOTION:

- Item #2 – 120 State Street Building Façade – Tabrena Karish
Paul Carnahan made a motion to accept the proposal of 120 State Street rear building façade changes as presented by Tabrena Karish. Chair Shouldice seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

MOTION:

- Item #3 – Shipping Container Replacement from Redstone to 133 State Street – Flood Supplies – Jonathan Rutledge
- Paul Carnahan made a motion that BGS may move the storage container from Redstone to the back of the lot at 133 State Street for a period of no more than 2 years. Jireh Billings seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Item #4 – Montpelier Complex Homeowner Proposal – Eric Rajendra
The proposal is to restore his 1903 home to its original condition, removing a recently added mudroom. The Commission has asked the applicant to return to the next Capitol Complex Commission meeting to be scheduled for a date to be determined in February with his formal proposal and specifications to seek final approval.

MOTION:

- Item #5 – 11 Bailey Avenue and 15 Baldwin Street Proposals – Alison Friedkin, David Frothingham and Laz Scangas
Paul Carnahan made a motion to accept their proposal as presented and Jireh Billings seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

MOTION:

- Item #6 – Guertin Park; Bike Path Amenities – Ward Joyce and Anne Watson
Applicants apologized for not following procedures seeking approval prior to building their project.
Paul Carnahan made a motion to delay final approval of this project. Applicants are authorized to affix the structure to the fence and address the safety issues. The Commission has asked the applicants to return to the next Capitol Complex Commission meeting to be scheduled for a date to be determined in February with more details and specifications to seek final approval.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION/MOTION:

- Item #7 – The Rink at State Street – Final Report Discussion – Kimberley McKee, Nate Hausman and Susan Allen
Paul Carnahan made a motion to approve the ice rink pilot project for another year. The motion failed for lack of a second.

- BGS Commissioner Cole’s only objection were concerns of safety and the applicants addressed his concerns with a new approach for ice removal at the end of the skating season. Commissioner Cole did not have any objections with the pilot project moving forward for another year.
- Jireh Billings and others had concerns with the aesthetics of the project. Mr. Billings felt the current skating rink does not complement the dignity of the State House. Unless the City of Montpelier has a long-term plan to improve the aesthetics of the ice rink project (a larger rink, updated lighting, a permanent flat structure without a fence), which would probably require a serious investment of funds, he didn’t see the need to approve the pilot project for another year. He and other Capitol Complex Commission members thought that by approving the skating rink for another year they might be raising false hopes because the current design shouldn’t stay on the State House lawn permanently. Rachel Feldman commented that the rink as proposed throws off the essential symmetry of the State House lawn.
- City representatives thought another year of the pilot would be necessary before approaching the City to discuss an improved ice rink.
- The Commission suggested alternative locations such as Montpelier High School or the lawn at the College of Fine Arts for the ice rink.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:

- Item #8 – Update Capitol Complex Commission/City of Montpelier Discussion – Sarah McShane
The City of Montpelier is making progress on the draft MOU, but they are still working on it.
- A copy of the letter that was mailed to the Montpelier property owners in the Capitol Complex by Commissioner Cole, dated September 28, 2017 was given to Ms. McShane. She is going to include this letter in the folder for each property in the Complex that is maintained in the City of Montpelier planning office.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:

- Item #9 – State House Illumination – Christopher Cole
Governor Scott would like to illuminate the State House to support awareness of different issues along with other States who participate in these national awareness campaigns such as autism and cancer, by bathing the Statehouse with a different color to show his support for a few selective events. The Commission had questions, such as:
 - Who would make the determinations?
 - How many times a year would the lighting change?
 - They felt it could get out of hand very easily. (Careful what you wish for).

Commissioner Cole observed that the Statehouse is already illuminated with white light and was of the opinion that the decision to illuminate the Statehouse had been made, this discussion was about temporarily changing the light to support important causes that were in the public interest. Commissioner Cole will communicate the Commission's comments to Governor Scott.

NEXT MEETING:

- The next meeting was not determined at this time, but will occur in February of 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jireh Billings made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chair Shouldice seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Judy Bruneau, on behalf of Commissioner Cole

Approved by: