

Capitol Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Building,
Senate Conference Room 4s.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

MEMBERS PRESENT:

C.J. Cavin	Keith Jones	Trait Thompson
Aaron Cooper	Duke Ligon	Nathan Wald
Tracie Chapman	Duane Mass	Hunter Zearley
Brent Gibson	Victor Pozadas, Sr.	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nancy Leonard
Kristie Buerger

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES	Jarica Walsh, OAC
Karl Kramer, OAG	Dr. Erin Latham, OAC
Amber Sharples, OAC	

♦ *Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES); Deputy General Counsel (DGC)*
♦ *Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) ♦ Oklahoma Attorney General Office (OAG)*

1. Announcement of filing of the meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meeting Act: [C.J. Cavin, Vice-Chair]

Vice-Chairman C.J. Cavin was advised that notice for this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, and an agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum: [Chair]

Mr. Cavin called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

3. Welcome/Introductions:

Vice-Chairman Cavin welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from Oct. 17, 2024. [Chair]

Duane Mass moved to approve the meeting minutes for October 2024. Nathan Wald seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, aye; Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;
Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye;
Mr. Zearley, aye.

5. Discussion and possible action on approval of exterior landscaping project plan submitted by OMES for upgrades/repairs/maintenance on Capitol lawn. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Mr. Mass reported that more information was needed on the project, and he continued this item to the Commission's next regular scheduled meeting in June. There was no action taken.

6. Update and discussion on the 45th Division National Guard State Capitol Arch Project. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass provided an update on the status of the Arch project, indicating that it is progressing well. Construction is expected to begin around the conclusion of the legislative session in May. He provided some monument samples that will be used on the Arch for members to examine.

Mr. Mass reported that there have been no changes to the original design, with only minor adjustments to the sidewalk that the Commission had previously approved. Overall, the project remains on schedule, and no significant issues have been reported. More information about the project will be provided at a later meeting.

7. Update and discussion on Native American Warrior Project. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass provided a brief update, indicating that the fundraising efforts are progressing successfully and are on track. Once the funding is secured, the project will be presented to the Commission for final approval.

8. Update and discussion on the railing project at the monumental steps south of Capitol, as requested by the House of Representatives in 2024. The project aims to move forward immediately into final design to be presented to the Capitol Preservation Commission for approval at its next regularly scheduled meeting, followed by construction and installation. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass informed commission members that the design details are still under discussion, with no immediate action planned. The process is on hold until additional information and evidence are provided. Once sufficient information is gathered, it will be presented to the Commission for final approval.

9. Update and discussion on Bill of Rights Monument. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commission Mass updated that he is aware of the project's history, approved in 2019, with the location, design, and artists finalized. However, the site was later repurposed. Currently, the project is on hold, awaiting sponsors to secure funding, finalize their designs, and complete their part before it can move forward.

Mr. Mass recognized the project's potential and remains hopeful it will advance, but for now, it is in a holding pattern and can only stay optimistic.

10. Collections Manager Report [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.

Ms. Walsh provided an overview of the Capitol art collection risk assessment and updated the members on the conditions within the Capitol during legislative sessions, placing particular emphasis on space issues. The large stages and equipment setups often create storage problems, resulting in equipment being positioned in front of paintings. Additionally, events frequently lack adequate space, and staff continuously monitor behavior to ensure the artwork remains undamaged during these events.

There was discussion about the need for a comprehensive plan to manage events in legislative spaces involving the House and Senate, as well as the necessity of updating administrative rules to reflect current space usage and event management practices.

Commissioner Cavin suggested initiating conversations with legislative leadership to ensure proper coordination and compliance with safety standards.

Mr. Cavin mentioned that the risk assessment conducted by consultants identified various safety and management issues.

Commissioner Mass emphasized the importance of maintaining egress and accessibility within the Capitol. He also suggested including a general statement on the OMES form to remind event organizers about the significance of safety and accessibility.

Commissioner Cavin emphasized that the best solution involves a collaborative approach, based on the findings of the consultant's risk assessment, involving the House, Senate, and OMES working together to develop effective solutions for addressing these issues.

Ms. Walsh acknowledged her appreciation for commission members Nathan Wald and Keith Jones of OMES for their partnership in managing events and assisting with the mitigation of risks to the artwork at the Capitol. She recognized the challenges they face and expressed her gratitude for their ongoing collaboration and efforts to ensure safety and preservation of the artwork.

Ms. Walsh informed commission members that the Oklahoma Arts Council is planning for conservation treatments of the South Plaza bronzes, *As Long as the Water Flow* and *Tribute to Range Riders*, in September. These annual treatments protect the patina of the works from weathering and damage.

Ms. Walsh provided an update on upcoming art installations, including the final panel of the *Labor Omnia Vincit* for the ground floor and a new piece for the first floor rotunda. The installation date for the final panel is scheduled for May 18, with the possibility of a low key celebratory event. The first floor rotunda piece commemorating Black History is being created by an internationally recognized artist, with ongoing fundraising efforts underway.

11. Chair Updates and Discussion: [Chair]**Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building.**

Vice-Chair Cavin asked Commissioners Mass and Wald if they had any updates, and both had none to report at this time.

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Trait Thompson moved to adjourn. Duane Mass seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.