

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Building,
Senate Conference Room 4s.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leonard	Keith Jones	Victor Pozadas
Tracie Chapman	Duke Ligon	Trait Thompson
Brent Gibson	Duane Mass	Nathan Wald
Becky Gooch	Ryan Overholt	Hunter Zearley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristie Buergler
C.J. Cavin
Aaron Cooper

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES	Tanner Delan, Reporter, KFOR
Karl Kramer, OAG	Shawn Ashley, Quorum Call
Amber Sharples, OAC	CPT. Trinity Simmons, OHP
Jarica Walsh, 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: [Nancy Leonard, Chair]

Chairwoman Nancy Leonard 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]

Ms. Leonard called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Welcome/Introductions: [Chair]

Chairwoman Leonard welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Ms. Leonard introduced and welcomed the two new Senate appointees, Becky Gooch and Ryan Overholt, who are replacing Lou Ker and Cliff Brannan. They each shared a little about themselves with the members.

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from Apr. 17, 2025. [Chair]

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

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, abstain; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, abstain, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

5. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from Jun. 30, 2025. [Chair]

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

Ms. Chapman, abstain; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, abstain; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, abstain, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, abstain; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve signage for State Banking Department on the second floor of the State Capitol Building, adjacent to the Treasurer/Banking Cashier window in the East corridor. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Mr. Mass provided commission members with information about the Banking Department's request. He reported that the Architecture and Grounds Committee unanimously approved it, as it meets the signage standards as developed as part of the Capitol renovation and restoration project.

Trait Thompson moved to approve the signage for the State Banking Department as submitted. Nathan Wald seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

7. Discussion and update on revised signage for main front steps to the Capitol, better illustrating the entry area. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Mr. Mass informed the commission members that the Architecture and Grounds Committee has tabled this item for now.

Update only. No action taken.

8. 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 gave commission members a brief overview of the exterior landscaping project plan, which he is pleased with, and reported that the Architecture and Grounds Committee unanimously approved it.

Duke Ligon moved to approve the OMES exterior landscaping project plan as submitted. Victor Pozadas seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye;
Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye

9. Discussion and possible action on approval of language revision to engravings/messaging and the addition of two additional quotes to be engraved, on the Arch Project from the originally approved design, Fall 2024, and changes requested by the Oklahoma National Guard. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass reminded commission members that the preliminary design site development plan for the Arch project on the south side of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex was approved by them on August 15, 2024.

Mr. Mass briefed the commission members on some minor changes made to the concrete path/sidewalk, which are not visible. These are the only modifications to the site development plan since the Commission's approval last fall.

Commissioner Gooch asked Mr. Mass if the last two rows in the south parking lot at the Capitol would serve as the staging area for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) during construction of the Arch. Mr. Mass replied yes.

Mr. Mass updated the Commission on the engravings and messaging for the placards to be displayed on the north and south sides of the Arch, which were presented to them last fall. The text for the north-facing side of the Arch, featuring the Oklahoma 1890 Territorial Militia and the 1895 Territorial National Guard, has not yet been decided by the Oklahoma National Guard.

The text to be displayed on the placards on the south-facing side of the Arch, featuring the Oklahoma 1907 National Guard and the 1947 Air National Guard, currently includes the Medal of Honor recipients, with a decision on additional text for the placard still pending from the Oklahoma National Guard. Once a decision is made on both sides, he plans to bring it back to the Commission later.

Mr. Mass shared the following two quotes attributed to Colonel George Fisher and General George S. Patton, provided by the Oklahoma National Guard, which will be displayed in all caps on the interior walls of the columns.

“Whatever destiny may hold in store for our great country and however long that country’s military history may continue, readers in the future will search long before finding a chapter more brilliant than that written by the quill that was dipped in the blood of the Thunderbirds.”

Colonel George Fisher, 45th Division, WWII.

“Born at sea, baptized in blood, your fame shall never die. The 45th Division is one of the best, if not the best division in American arms.”

General George S. Patton, 1943.

Commissioner Mass, Chairman of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, informed members that the Architecture and Grounds Committee met prior to the Commission meeting and unanimously approved these changes as submitted by the Oklahoma National Guard.

Trait Thompson moved to approve the changes to the Arch, as requested by the Oklahoma National Guard. Nathan Wald seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye;
Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

10. Discussion and possible action on approving conceptual rendering of First Family Residence.

[Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass presented and discussed the proposed conceptual rendering of a new family residence. He informed the Commission that they are only being asked to approve the idea at this stage, with the understanding that the Commission must review final construction documents and detailed plans for final approval before any construction begins.

Mr. Mass, as the Capitol Architect, was asked whether the current mansion is a feasible option for future first families to live in. He responded that the only practical space in the existing mansion for the first family is on the second floor, with the first and third floors designated as public spaces. He expressed support for a new family residence and for converting the mansion and Phillips Pavilion into public spaces for community use, which he considers an excellent idea.

Commission members raised questions regarding the timing and urgency of the request, the absence of the architect at the meeting, and anticipated upkeep costs, along with initial confusion about the agenda wording, with some thinking it was for approving the conceptual rendering of a potential new governor’s residence on the Governor’s Mansion grounds.

The Commission’s attorney, Karl Kramer, clarified the wording on the agenda as “approving conceptual rendering” and advised that it is the only item for the commission to consider. Mr. Kramer further advised that the commission was not authorized to approve an idea of whether or

not to add a building to the Mansion grounds as the governor's residence. He again clarified that the commission was only allowed to take action on approving the conceptual rendering that was presented.

Mr. Mass apologized and stated that he assumed a representative from the design team would be present at the meeting, noting that the project is not one in which he has direct involvement. He expressed support for the concept and hopes that before he ends his tenure as Capitol Architect, a new residence on the Mansion grounds will be realized.

The Commission requested that the architect, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, attend the next meeting to provide more information and answer questions about the new residence concept.

A motion by Commissioner Zearley was considered to postpone the discussion until the next meeting, but Commissioner Wald opposed delaying the item. He pointed out that the commission does not meet often and that postponement would slow the process. Wald suggested crafting a motion to allow the project to move forward and questions to be answered, rather than stopping it altogether. Drawing on his construction experience, he explained that delays hinder timelines. He supported moving forward with concept approval while recognizing that the Governor's Mansion is not a residence for living but should be regarded as a museum. He said the main issue is whether to approve the concept of providing a house for the governor's family on the current grounds, with his primary goal being to reduce conflict by focusing on advancing the idea rather than procedural delays.

Hunter Zearley moved to table this item to the next meeting. Becky Gooch seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion failed:

Ms. Chapman, no; Mr. Gibson, no; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, no; Mr. Ligon, no; Mr. Mass, no; Mr. Overholt, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, no; Mr. Wald, no; Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, abstain. (4 Ayes; 7 No's; 1 Abstention.)

Nathan Wald motioned to approve the conceptual rendering of the First Family Residence, pending or subject to change out of the appearance of the façade. Tracie Chapman seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, no; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, no; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, no; Ms. Leonard, abstain. (8 Ayes; 3 No's; 1 Abstention.)

11. Discussion and presentation on suspension of public areas of the North and East Galleries on the first floor of the Capitol and the Oklahoma Arts Council's plans moving forward.
[Amber Sharples, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council]

Ms. Sharples informed the Commission that the Oklahoma Arts Council has long served as the collections manager for the Oklahoma State Capitol and has also, for more than forty years, hosted rotating exhibitions featuring Oklahoma artists who live and work in the state. She explains that a vacancy for the curator of Capitol exhibitions has prompted a cautious pause while they monitor how federal funding patterns may impact state support for the arts. She notes that the Governor-appointed council will meet on July 15 to discuss the position and its potential inclusion in the FY2027 budget request. Because of the vacancy, the rotating exhibition schedule for the North and East Galleries has been suspended, halting future exhibitions of the current artist slate. She mentions this was communicated in a memo to the members at the end of May, and the plan is to pause, assess funding outcomes (state and legislative funding), and then determine the next steps for resuming exhibitions and securing funding.

Presentation only. No action taken.

12. Discussion and possible action on the election of chairperson of the Capitol Preservation Commission. [Chair]

Nathan Wald moved to elect Trait Thompson as Chair of the Capitol Preservation Commission. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye;
Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

13. Discussion and possible action on the election of a vice-chairperson of the Capitol Preservation Commission. [Chair]

Nathan Wald moved to elect Tracie Chapman as Vice-Chair of the Capitol Preservation Commission. Trait Thompson seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye, Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye; Mr. Wald, aye;
Mr. Zearley, aye; Ms. Leonard, aye.

14. Collections Manager Report. [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]
Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.

Ms. Walsh informed commission members that the final panel, Labor Omnia Vincit (representing northeast Oklahoma) by Lucas Simmons, was installed on the ground-floor rotunda in the mural suite.

Ms. Walsh discussed a topic from the April meeting about how events during legislative sessions affect artwork visibility, using a manufacturer setting up his inflatable shooting range at Claremore Day as an example, performing preventive checks to ensure safety for the display.

Ms. Walsh informed commission members that ongoing humidity issues in public Capitol spaces remain problematic; despite addressing an airflow concern, humid conditions still persist and could harm installed artworks. She provided a video as an example. She plans to present the full risk assessment report in August or October to share findings and recommendations, with continuous monitoring and data collection to protect the artwork and maintain museum standards as much as possible within current working conditions. She appreciates the partnership with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES).

15. Chair Updates and Discussion:

Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building construction and Governor's mansion construction.

Chairwoman Leonard announced to the Commission that this is her last meeting as chair and as a commission member, a position she has held since 2016. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and work alongside others and thanked the members for their support.

16. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Nathan Wald moved to adjourn. Trait Thompson seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.