

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, December 12, 2012

A meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Department of Planning and Development, 444 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Deming Sherman, Wilfrid Gates, Greg Benik, Duncan Johnson, Christopher Thomas and John Sinnott,

Members Absent: Barry Fain, Michael McCormick, Guy Abelson, Seth Handy, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, and Chairman of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning

Staff Present: Christopher Ise

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM, Chairman Sherman presiding. With the absence of a quorum, Chairman Sherman decided to proceed with the meeting, with all approvals to be ratified at January's Commission meeting.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2012

A motion was made by Mr. Sinnott, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the Commission meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

2.2 Acceptance of DRC Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2012 and October 23, 2012

A motion was made by Mr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to accept the DRC meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

3. 2013 CCC Meeting Schedule

Acceptance of the Capital Center Commission's 2013 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benik, to accept the Capital Center Commission's 2013 Meeting Schedule

4. Parcel 7: Providence Station

Proposal to install bollards, fencing and gates as part of Amtrak's security project at Providence Station.

Paul O'Mara and Steve Pugsley, representing Amtrak, appeared to discuss the proposal. Mr. O'Mara explained that federal money has been allotted for security at Providence Station. The project includes the installation of bollards, a secured parking area and fencing along the tracks. The project has been in the works for two years and will need to go out to bid at the beginning of 2013. Weather permitting, work is to begin late March/early April with completion by end of May. The federal grant must be spent by March 31. He noted that the project was reviewed by the DRC and that they have coordinated their efforts with RIDOT. The design has been incorporated in the State's plan for the area surrounding the Station. Renderings were presented. There was a brief discussion regarding the security ratings. These ratings were adjusted for the bollard installation above the garage. Mr. O'Mara explained that the bollards can be removed for maintenance. Also, the new parking area will reduce existing parking in front and on the west side of the building. All work will be on Amtrak property.

Mr. Gates gave an overview of the review by the DRC. He acknowledged that the use of parking on the site is an issue and a concern with Ted Sanderson of the RIHPHC. However, the DRC felt that this is a unique situation and with the nature of 24/7 operations at the Station security and immediate access to vehicles around the clock is imperative. The DRC also felt that the project as presented is a first good step with repairing decaying materials. Mr. Gates commended Amtrak, as a governmental agency, in working with the Commission. Mr. Gates stated that the DRC recommended approval.

Chairman Sherman explained that he spoke with Mr. Sanderson regarding the parking issue and that he was comfortable with making an exception in this case, adding that this would not be precedent setting due to the unique situation. He recognized the need for Amtrak to have parking. Mr. Benik asked if they considered alternatives to bollards, such as planters. Mr. O'Mara explained that they are not suitable for the project. Chairman Sherman appreciates Amtrak working with RIDOT on the plan. A brief discussion followed reading parking lot details. In response to a question by Todd Turcotte, Mr. Ise explained that the Marriot parking area was allowed by the Design and Development Regulations for that particular portion of Parcel 1.

Steve Devine from RIDOT appreciates the parking accommodation, noting that this is a huge first step. He echoed Mr. Gates comments.

The following motion was made by Mr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Thomas: Recognizing the special jurisdictional relationship of this Federal, State, and City facility, and given that Providence Union Station on Parcel 7 is a structure within Capital Center that requires twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week operational security, the Commission hereby approves Amtrak's Station Hardening Project, including the parking area on the east side of the station, as presented. All voted in favor.

Chairman Sherman emphasized that allowing parking on Parcel 7 is not to be construed as surface parking on any other lots unless allowed by the Commission's Design and Development Regulations.

Chairman Sherman announced that the Governor has appointed three new members and he is awaiting letters. No names were announced. He added that one member replaces Glenn Kumekawa who has retired from the Commission. Mr. Gates recommended Staff send a get well card to Mr. Kumekawa.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Christopher Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer