

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, August 28, 2013

A special meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 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, Michael McCormick, Barry Fain, John Sinnott, Seth Handy, William Kite and Melvin Bilezerian

Members Absent: Guy Abelson, Councilman John Iglizzi, Greg Benik, Martha Werenfels, Duncan Johnson, Christopher Thomas, 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 12:08 PM, Chairman Sherman presiding.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2013: Mr. Handy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sinnott, to approve the meeting minutes. All voted in favor

2.2 Acceptance of DRC Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2013 and April 30, 2013: Mr. Gates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sinnott, to accept both meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

The agenda order was changed.

3. Parcel 14: Marriot Renaissance (Masonic Temple)

Proposal to install a new canvas awning over the restaurant entrance on the Francis Street elevation of the building.

Steve Petrucci, from L.F. Pease Company, appeared to discuss the project. A computer generated image of the proposed awning was presented. Mr. Kite asked for clarification on the proposed location of the poles supporting the awning. Mr. Petrucci explained that the awning will be mounted to the inside of the arch and flare out, with stanchions mounted on the platform. Mr. Sherman noted that the DRC met on-site to discuss the design. Mr. Gates stated that the DRC looked at various awning iterations, noting that this solution became more exciting and reflects the design of the main canopy on the building. He added that the design preserves the views of the State House when exiting the restaurant and that the Commission should approve the awning with the caveat that the applicant should repair the damage to the building when the previous awning was removed

Mr. Gates made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to approve the awning as presented. The approval was made with the proviso that the damage to the building, due the removal of the previously approved metal canopy, must be repaired. All voted in favor.

Mr. Fain arrived at 12:18 PM.

4. Station Park

Proposal to plant a memorial tree for Nelson Mandela in Station Park.

Chairman Sherman noted that the applicant, Ray Rickman, was not present. He explained the Commission is reviewing the location and the species of tree, adding that any signage or marker for the tree is being deferred to subsequent meeting. Mr. Gates gave a brief overview of the two DRC meetings held regarding this proposal. He explained that a Red Oak was selected and will be placed in a location out of the Francis Street view corridor. Mr. Gates noted that columnar Maple trees currently exist along the Francis Street edge. He recommended that the new tree have a 5"-6" caliper and that Mr. Rickman return to the Commission in one year with any proposed signage that marks the

significance of the tree. He added that the DRC felt comfortable with the proposal and that the tree will not take away any potential use of the park. The DRC recommended approval. Chairman Sherman noted that RIDOT agreed to the planting. He explained that he is concerned with the next group that wants to plant a tree in the park, but felt that this proposal has sufficient importance and is symbolic in nature. He made it clear that this would not be precedent setting.

Mr. Gates made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to approve a Red Oak in the proposed location with the proviso that due to the unique circumstances of the proposal, the granting of the proposal shall not be precedent for planting of other trees in Station Park. All voted in favor.

At this time, Chairman Sherman briefed the Commission on the proposed parking expansion by the State at the State House. He explained that he has been in conversations with the City's Law Department and a possible injunction by the City. He noted that he would convene a meeting with the Commission if necessary.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM.

Christopher Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer