

## CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, September 9, 2015

A meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. Municipal Building, 444 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

#### 1. Roll Call

Members Present: Deming Sherman, Wilfrid Gates, Barry Fain, William Kite, Sam Bradner and Enrique Martinez

Members Absent: John Sinnott, Martha Werenfels, Luis Torrado, Dorene Conlon, Ethan Colaiace, Councilman John Iglizzi, and Chairman of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal & Planning

Staff Present: Christopher Ise

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM, Chairman Sherman presiding.

#### 2. Meeting Minutes

**2.1 Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2015:** Mr. Fain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kite, to approve the meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

**2.2 Acceptance of DRC Meeting Minutes of January 20, March 17, April 21, and May 19, 2015:** Mr. Kite made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fain, to approve the meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Chairman Sherman noted some membership changes to the Commission. He announced the passing of Guy Abelson, the resignation of Michael McCormick, who took a job in Seattle, and the resignation of Duncan Johnson, who resigned due to health reasons. He added that Greg Benik and Seth Handy are no longer on the Commission. He stated that he would draft four resolutions, which he will issue with consent. Mr. Gates made a motion endorsing Chairman Sherman's action. Mr. Fain seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chairman Sherman stated that he has been reappointed as Chairman for another 4-year term.

3. **Election of CCC Vice Chair:** A recommendation was made to elect John Sinnott Vice Chair. Mr. Gates made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kite. All voted in favor.
4. **Election of DRC Vice Chair:** Mr. Gates made a motion to formalize William Kite as Vice Chair of the DRC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradner. All voted in favor.
5. **DRC Reappointment:** A recommendation was made to reappoint Lucie Searle as an advisory member of the DRC. Mr. Bradner made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kite. All voted in favor.
6. **FY2016 Budget:** Chairman Sherman noted that \$20,000 has been set aside for the State House parking study, which costs \$40,000. He reiterated that the Commission has agreed to pay half the cost.
7. **Designation of Service Provider/Legal Services:** A motion was made by Mr. Bradner, seconded by Mr. Kite, to extend the existing legal services contract with Roberts, Carroll, Feldstein, & Peirce, Inc. for a new, two-year term, due to expire on June 15, 2017.

Chairman Sherman noted that the design services contract with Goody Clancy has expired and will not be renewed. A discussion ensued. Mr. Martinez and Mr. Gates recommended that the Commission not go into contract with a firm, but rather hire a consultant on an "as needed basis." It was agreed to compile a list of consultants.

**8. Francis Street and Memorial Boulevard Intersection Safety Improvements**

Request for approval of proposed safety improvements.

Dan Waugh, from RIDOT, and Joe Wanat, from VHB, appeared to discuss the project. Plans were presented. He added that the illustrative plan shows the Mr. Wanat gave a project overview, noting that the team has met with abutters and stakeholders. Mr. Wanat explained the plan includes a loading landing for trucks, plantings, wider sidewalk on the east side of the street, pedestrian scale ornamental lights, replacement of span wire with ornamental mast arms, cat tracks, curb extensions and bumpouts for crosswalks, and to extend the wall at the mall corner. Mr. Wanat noted that they have met with the utilities and are working on the final plans. He added that construction is to start spring 2016. In response to questions by Mr. Gates, Mr. Wanat replied that the Omni Hotel is on board with the plan, and that the Downtown Improvement District has agreed to take responsibility for trash. Maintenance of the landscaping still needs to be worked out, and Mr. Gates commented that the landscaping needs irrigation. Mr. Gates concluded that RIDOT has cooperated with the request to keep the views open to the State House, widened the sidewalk, incorporated smaller light fixture bases, and improved traffic and pedestrian flow. He recommended approval of the project. Mr. Martinez asked if any other alternatives were explored. Mr. Wanat explained that other options were considered. A discussion followed regarding the width of the sidewalk. Mr. Fain asked if there were any lighting concerns at night. Chairman Gates noted that the additional light fixtures are evenly spaced and be sufficient. Mr. Wanat noted that a lighting consultant reviewed the plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Fain, to approve the plan as submitted. All voted in favor.

Chairman Sherman took a brief poll on changing the Commission meeting time. The consensus among the members was to keep the meeting time at 12:00 Noon.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business, Mr. Fain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 PM. Mr. Kite seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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Barry Fain  
Secretary/Treasurer