

State Capitol Commission

2015 Annual Report

Background and History

The State Capitol Commission was established by law on April 9, 1986 and consists of seven ex-officio members, two legislative members, and three private citizens. In that same year, the Commission approved a plenary master plan for adaptive restoration and preservation of the State Capitol and its contiguous grounds. The *Tennessee State Capitol Historic Structures Report* continues to remain valid and doesn't need to be updated.

At its January 24, 1995 meeting, the Commission established a policy relative to interior modification to historic spaces that states: "It is the policy of the Capitol Commission that any proposed changes in the material or fabric of the floor, walls or ceilings of the historic upper two floors of the State Capitol must obtain prior approval of the Capitol Commission. Major and minor maintenance of existing materials or fabric requires the approval of the State Architect on behalf of the Capitol Commission."

In 1998, the legislature added the responsibility of the Commission to establish a policy relative to historical commemorative additions and improvements on the Bicentennial Mall and approve such additions and improvements as may come within the policy. The *State of Tennessee Capitol Hill and Bicentennial Mall Guidelines* were implemented in 2002 to address those needs. This was updated and expanded in 2014 to provide guidelines for the entire Capitol and Bicentennial Mall complex. The Commission, since its inception, has acted upon numerous requests for non-governmental use of the State Capitol as well as for the placement of artifacts, memorials and monuments in the Capitol and on the Capitol grounds, including the Bicentennial Mall.

The Commission has met formally 36 times since its inception in 1986, and its members have additionally been notified of all requests to use the Capitol and its grounds.

Calendar Year 2015

The State Capitol Commission met three times in 2015, during February, July and November, for the purpose of reviewing the following items:

- Approval of a monument to 100 years of transportation in Tennessee on the Bicentennial Mall
- Approval of tree marker at the Capitol
- Approval of a Memorial to Warrant Officers on War Memorial Plaza

In addition the Commission created a temporary subcommittee which met three times to develop policy to govern the placement of artifacts in the Capitol. This policy was approved by the full Commission to be a part of the overall policy commenced in 1998.

During the year, the Commission acted on and approved 42 requests for non-governmental uses of the Capitol. These requests range from special events/meetings and ceremonies to rallies/protests and press conferences, along with a variety of miscellaneous uses

Anticipated Activities for Calendar Year 2016

The Commission anticipates discussing the following:

- Ongoing requests for non-governmental use of the areas included under the oversight of the Commission.
- Progress report on any ongoing capital projects

A list of members and meeting minutes may be found at: <http://www.tn.gov/finance/article/fa-osa-scc>