

Minutes of the November 23, 2010
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Members Present: Pat Roseland, Scott Sogge, Duane Baumgartner, Shawn Krull, Rich Grable, Cynthia Matson, Tamara Pier, Eric James, Jean Kessloff and Mike Bender

Others Present: Karen Bulman, Marcia Elkins, Bill Kessloff, Michelle Dennis, Mike Gould, Dr. Ron Reed, Mike Albertson, Mike Kenton, Kris Bjerke

Roseland called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm noting that a quorum of the Commission was present.

Bender moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Krull second the motion and carried unanimously.

Matson moved to allow the public to comment during the meeting. The motion was seconded by James and carried unanimously.

Kenton briefed the Commission on the Case Report and Addendum as distributed. He noted that the effort has been a cooperative effort with the School District, the City and the Performing Arts since the project's inception.

Mattson commented on the Case Report received from the architectural team and the School District regarding the need for the changes to the theater to make the building a viable facility. She expressed her support for the findings contained in the case report and the complete manner in which the architectural team addressed the questions and requests for information put forth by the State Office of History. She voiced her agreement with the findings of the case report.

Krull asked for clarification as to which of the documents is the case report. Elkins reviewed the documents distributed to the Commission identifying the Case Report prepared by Architectural Inc as well as the Addendum.

Pier noted that many of the Commission members had concerns regarding the seating arrangement and proposed replacement seating and asked if any alternatives had been explored. She briefly spoke to the internet research she had done noting the option of providing pads for the existing seating. Kenton referenced a discussion by the School District's Facilities Committee noting that several individuals had been unable to find any companies that complete that kind of work. Discussion continued.

Krull asked if the PAC had conducted a study to determine the percentage of individuals that would not come to an event due to the issues associated with the wood seats.

Reed indicated that no study had been completed; however, individuals have made comments at some of the events held in the facility. Grable commented on how uncomfortable the seats are based on his personal experience.

J. Kessloff expressed her opinion that the purpose of the Commission is to be there to protect the historic resource. She noted that the Commission nominated the building. She suggested that the Commission should consider what the PAC groups need to perform in the building. She suggested that the PAC groups need heating and air, sound, lights, and ADA accessibility and

she expressed her opinion that those were all available in the facility. Discussion continued regarding the seating.

In response to a question from Matson, Kessloff stated that she disagrees with the findings in the Case Report because the report addresses desires not needs. Discussion continued.

Krull expressed support for the changes to the heating and cooling system. He expressed concerns with the findings related to the changes to the seats, the arrangement of the seats and the extension of the stage over the orchestra pit and along the side wings.

Discussion continued regarding the proposed changes and the potential alternatives.

Kessloff asked if the Commission is going to discuss the alternatives included in the comments provided by Dennis.

Mattson suggested that Dennis' comments should be forwarded on to the School Board for their consideration. Pier suggested that as an option the Commission could forward Dennis' comments on with the Commission's recommendation that they disagree with the case report. She noted that she hates to see the discussion become historic preservation versus the theater groups.

Discussion followed regarding the options available to the Commission, the role of preservation in the project, the options explored in the case report, the option of using the same seating arrangement, the option of using the wooden seats or replacement seating similar to the existing wooden seats, the potential re-use of the seats, additional review of the comments included in the case report and the specifications included in the contract for salvaging the seats.

Bender commented on the changes that have been made to the plans for the facility throughout the process to preserve many of the character defining features of the facility and minimize the impacts.

James moved that the Commission agrees with the findings of the Case Report and Addendum as submitted by Architecture Incorporated. The motion was seconded by Matson.

Discussion followed on the discussions with the subcommittee, the full Commission and the School District's architect over the life of the project. James noted that the discussion was not appropriate at this time and asked that the issue of "Reports by Subcommittees" be added as a discussion item to a future agenda.

Roseland requested a roll call vote. **The motion that the Commission agrees with the findings of the Case Report and Addendum as submitted by Architecture Incorporated carried with Mattson, Grable, Sogge, Bender, Roseland, Baumgartner and James in favor and Pier, Krull and Kessloff opposed.**

Roseland adjourned the meeting.