

**STATE CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2022; 3:00 P.M.
OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
SENATE CONFERENCE RM. 4S.9
2300 N. LINCOLN BLVD.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chip Mullens, Doug Kellogg
Nancy Leonard Chris Morriss
Bruce Fisher James Pickel
Deena Fisher Janet Morrow
C.J. Cavin Duane Mass
Lou Kerr

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Fowler
Charles Moore

GUESTS: Beverly Hicks, OMES Trace Jones, OMES
Andrew McQuade, OMES Jarica Walsh, OK Arts Council
Marissa Raglin, OAC Jonathan Hernandez, State Senate
Karl Kramer, Attorney General's office
Amber Sharples, OK Arts Council (OAC), Executive Director

1. Announcement of filing of the meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meeting Act: [Chip Mullens, Chairman]

Chairman Chip Mullens was advised that notice for this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, and an agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Determination of quorum and call to order: [Chair]

Chairman Mullens called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

3. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes of February 17, 2022: [Chair]

Lou Kerr moved to approve the meeting minutes for February. Deena Fisher seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes;
Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

4. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes of April 21, 2022: [Chair]

Duane Mass moved to approve the meeting minutes for April. Lou Kerr seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes;
Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Morriss, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

Ms. Morriss entered the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

5. Discussion and possible action to consider and approve possible locations for placement of the proposed installation of a *Daughters of American Revolution Plaque* on the Capitol grounds or on the building:[Duane Mass, Capitol Architect, and Curator]

The organization desires to put a marker at all fifty State Capitols within the next four years (July 4, 2026) to commemorate the 250th birthday anniversary of the United States of America. A replica of a plaque from California was shown to the members as an example of what it would look like with the changes made with the Oklahoma State Seal, the State of Oklahoma, and the bottom of the plaque reading: “Presented by Oklahoma State Society *Daughters of the American Revolution* in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.” The main text of the marker reads: “Revolutionary War Patriots. This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, fought valiantly to found a new nation. 1775 – 1778.”

Commissioner Mass reported that the members would approve only the concept of signage by definition of design standards and its text as a marker to let the *Daughters of the American Revolution* proceed forward with the plaque. The final artwork of the plaque and site placement will be proposed at a later meeting to be considered for approval by the Commission.

The Architecture and Grounds Committee met and unanimously recommended approving in concept and approval by the Commission.

James Pickel moved to approve in concept, pending the final artwork. Nancy Leonard seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes;

Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

Ms. Morriss exited the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

6. Discussion and possible action to accept the painting commissioned by Representative Weldon Watson, *1920s Seminole Oil Boom* into the Capitol Art Collection: [James Pickel, Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places]

Unable to attend today’s meeting, Representative Weldon Watson [*1920s Seminole Oil Boom* painting] and his wife Cheryle were at the regularly scheduled Capitol Preservation Commission meeting on April 21, 2022, which was canceled due to the lack of a quorum where the presentation was heard only.

On April 21st, former Representative Watson gave a presentation and shared about his wife Cheryle’s work commissioning of the artwork and the personal connection he has to the painting of his grandfather and father from the Seminole Oil Boom, both of whom were incorporated into the composition of the painting captured in a gold gilded frame. His grandfather was an oil field worker, and his father was raised in oil field camps during the boom era, tributing to Oklahoma’s oil and gas history. Mike Wimmer, the artist of the painting depicting a scene from the Greater Seminole Oil Field, was born in Muskogee and lived in Oklahoma until recently moving to Georgia, where he is a Professor of Illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design. His many works are featured throughout the world and at the Capitol.

Ms. Walsh reported that the painting was commissioned through the Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund. Through his generous support, Mr. Watson, a long-time legislator, brought the early days of oil exploration to the Capitol with his personal connection.

Ms. Walsh passed out flyers of the proposed artwork by Mike Wimmer and reported there was a preview of the painting last week on the House floor. She noted that the “1920s” was removed from the title of the artwork and the title now is “The Seminole Oil Boom.”

Commissioner Fisher complimented the artwork by Mike Wimmer and asked if any African Americans were visual in any artworks depicting the oil boom at the Capitol. Ms. Walsh said the Arts Council would be happy to do some research for Mr. Fisher.

Commissioner Pickel reported that the Art Standards Committee met and unanimously recommended approval of the painting into the Capitol Art Collection and for approval by the Commission.

James Pickel moved to approve the Seminole Oil Boom painting into the Capitol Art Collection. Nancy Leonard seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes;

Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

Mr. Cavin entered the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

7. Discussion and possible action on review and approval of the design concept for the Bronze Bust of The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt for the Hall of Governors in the Oklahoma State Capitol: [James Pickel, Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places]

Ms. Walsh reminded the Commission this project was acted on in February 2022, where the members approved the concept of the creation of the bronze bust of Governor Stitt and the artist selected, John Rule, based out of Minco, Oklahoma. The Governor and First Lady selected Mr. Rule to create the bronze figure. The request at this meeting is to move forward with the bust’s design concept.

Commissioner Pickel reported that the Art Standards Committee met and unanimously recommended approval of this design concept for the bronze bust of Governor Stitt.

James Pickel moved to approve this design concept for the bronze bust of Governor Stitt. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes;

Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

8. Discussion and possible action on review and approval of the design concept for select artworks for the Art in Public Places Project at the Oklahoma State Capitol: Oklahoma Boots by Lisa Sorrell: [James Pickel, Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places]

Ms. Walsh reported that the project, budget, and artist selected, Lisa Sorrell, based out of Guthrie, Oklahoma, was approved by the Commission in December 2020. Ms. Sorrell is one of the premier custom boot makers in the United States. The idea was based on fifty state boots that the ACME Boot Company commissioned in the 1950s. There are no current records of Oklahoma boots in

any known collection. A sketch of the design concept and the color study were presented to the members at the meeting. The top of the boots was described as having the state flag, the Capitol, and various state symbols, including the scissor-tailed flycatcher, black swallowtail butterfly, honey bee, watermelon, and strawberry. The wingtip (toe) includes the “46” from the original state flag, the state wildflower, Gaillardia pulchella (Firewheel), and the state reptile, Collared Lizard (Mountain Boomer). The back strap covering the back seam is an oil derrick, and the heel has the state gospel hymn, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.”

The boots will be displayed on the ground floor and west hallway, joining the area's other pre/early statehood and western heritage artworks.

Commissioner Pickel reported that the Art Standards Committee met and unanimously recommended approving the design concept, but not without discussion on the price. Ms. Walsh made known that the total budget for this project is around \$14 thousand, which includes the artist fee of \$12 thousand.

James Pickel moved to approve the design concept and budget of the Oklahoma Boots. Nancy Leonard seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Ms. Fisher, yes; Mr. Kellogg, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes;
Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Ms. Mullens, yes; Mr. Pickel, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes.

9. Collections Manager Report: [Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places]

Update on the Capitol Reinstallation Plan: Ms. Walsh made known that the Arts Council is preparing for the reinstallation of the artwork to enter the Capitol. Many works have been accepted into the new Betty Price Art Gallery (BPAG) on the second floor. Currently, the gallery is the staging area for the reinstallation of the artwork. The BPAG is expected to open in the fall once the artwork has been installed. A question was asked if the original artwork would go back to the exact locations. Ms. Walsh informed the members the art would be shown somewhat differently, in a chronological, thematic progression throughout the building, starting at the visitor’s entrance, working up through the fifth floor, moving through time, and with specially curated selections. Chairman Mullens asked if a presentation of the process could be given at a future meeting.

10. Chair Updates and discussion:

Board member status: Commissioner Kellogg announced his retirement to the members and said this would be his last meeting as a member. He expressed his sincere appreciation for serving on the Commission since 2008 as the State Capitol Building Superintendent. The Commission members conveyed their gratitude to him and his excellent service in maintaining the building and as a public servant throughout his tenure.

Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building construction and Governor’s mansion construction:

Commissioner Mass reported they are close to finishing the Capitol renovation and hopes the project will be wrapped up and finalized for a dedication ceremony in October. He reported he

heard that the American Institute of Architects (AIA), who recently gave tours of the Capitol building, said that in all the years they have been giving building tours, they had never experienced a crowd of so many interested in taking a tour. The expectation was to provide a tour every thirty minutes and instead were occurred every ten minutes. Many accolades were given by those who attended.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Commissioner Pickel made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mass seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.