

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
Senate Conference Room 4s.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Trait Thompson	Keith Jones	Ryan Overholt
Barbara Braught	Monte Kaul	Victor Pozadas
Tracie Chapman	Elaine Kidd	Hunter Zearley
Aaron Cooper	Duke Ligon	
Becky Gooch	Duane Mass	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

C.J. Cavin
Brent Gibson

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES	Jordan Cox, Survivor Outreach Services
Karl Kramer, OAG	Jarica Walsh, OAC

◆ *Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES); Deputy General Counsel (DGC)*
◆ *Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) ◆ Oklahoma Attorney General Office (OAG)*

1. Announcement of filing of the meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meeting Act: [Trait Thompson, Chair]

Chairman Trait Thompson informed commission members that notice for this meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State and that an agenda had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum: [Chair]

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Welcome/Introductions: [Chair]

Chairman Thompson welcomed members and guests to the meeting and asked the new members of the Commission to introduce themselves: Elaine Kidd, appointee of Governor Stitt; Barbara Braught, Chair of the Oklahoma Arts Council; and Monte Kaul, Interim Director of OMES Capital Assets Management (CAM) and designee of OMES Director David Ostrowe.

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from Aug. 28, 2025.

[Chair]

Duane Mass moved to approve the special meeting minutes for August. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Braught, abstain; Ms. Chapman, abstain; Mr. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Kaul, abstain; Ms. Kidd, abstain; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, abstain; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve Fallen Heroes Christmas Tree, displayed through December, placed at the Southeast wall area of the Hall of Heroes on the 2nd floor, pending House Speaker approval of space. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Duane Mass, Chair of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, introduced the proposal to approve the Fallen Heroes Christmas Tree. He provided background on the tree's history, noting its association with United States Army Survivor Outreach Services–Oklahoma, Vanguard Academy, Broken Arrow Public Schools, and the involvement of high school students. He further noted that the tree will be placed in the same location as last year, in the Hall of Heroes.

Jordan Cox, project manager, provided an update on the project's history and described this year's tree. She reported that the same decorations from last year will be used, with a redesigned arrangement of the red, white, and blue ornaments. She also noted that a tree skirt made of boots will be used to reinforce the military theme.

Commissioner Mass reported that the Architecture and Grounds Committee met prior to the meeting and unanimously approved the project.

Trait Thompson motioned to approve the Fallen Heroes Christmas Tree, to be displayed through December 2025, as presented. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Braught, aye; Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Kaul, aye; Ms. Kidd, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

6. Update and initial discussion on a potential Goldstar family monument near the proposed State Capitol Arch. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Duane Mass, Chair of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, presented items 6 and 7 together, providing updates on both monuments.

Commissioner Mass discussed the Gold Star Families monument, noting that the Gold Star Families Foundation, a private organization, will fund the project through its own fundraising efforts. He emphasized that no public funds will be used and referenced the foundation's efforts to sponsor legislation similar to that of the Native American Warrior Foundation.

Commissioner Mass informed commission members that the monument will be designed and placed in a location that does not overshadow the Arch. He noted that the foundation is currently in the fundraising stage and will write RFPs for artists to design the monument.

The final design and placement of the monument will require review and approval by the Capitol Preservation Commission.

7. Update and discussion on Native American Warrior Memorial by the proposed State Capitol Arch. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Duane Mass, Chair of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, provided an update on the Native American Warrior Foundation's monument. He noted the foundation's fundraising efforts, emphasizing that no public funds will be being used, and mentioned a recent event in Oklahoma City at which a significant amount of private funds had already been raised.

Commissioner Mass reported that the Native American Warrior Foundation is preparing RFPs for artists and requested that a copy be provided to the Commission for review.

The final design and placement of the monument will require review and approval by the Capitol Preservation Commission.

Chairman Thompson reiterated that the final design and placement of the monuments for Items 6 and 7 require review and approval by the Commission before any work on the grounds may begin.

8. Discussion and possible action to approve the schedule of meetings for 2026 at 3 PM.

Feb. 19	Jun. 18	Oct. 15
Apr. 16	Aug. 20	Dec. 17

Duane Mass moved to approve the 2026 meeting schedule as presented. Tracie Chapman seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Ms. Braught, aye; Ms. Chapman, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;
Mr. Kaul, aye; Ms. Kidd, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Overholt, aye;
Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

**9. Collections Manager Report. [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]
Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.**

Ms. Walsh provided an update on the cleaning and waxing of bronze sculptures, including the South Plaza sculptures and the exterior bronze at the Governor's Mansion.

A small patch of damage was noted on the face of the *As Long as the Waters Flow* sculpture, and further research is being conducted.

The Arts Council also cleaned and waxed the bronze portions of the All Veterans Memorial at the Judicial Center.

Ms. Walsh discussed ongoing data collection on humidity levels in the Capitol, noting higher readings than those previously reported by OMES. She provided a comparison of the data, noting differences in levels and emphasizing the importance of monitoring relative humidity to protect the artwork and historic materials.

She reported an incident in which a janitorial staff member inadvertently cleaned a painting with a duster, causing dust to settle on the frame and face of the painting. The Arts Council was informed, and a more thorough assessment is being conducted to ensure no damage has occurred.

The janitorial staff is being trained to avoid touching artwork, and the Arts Council is keeping OMES informed about the situation.

10. Chair Updates and Discussion:

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

Commissioner Mass provided a brief update on preconstruction activities currently underway for the Capitol Arch project, noting that progress is exciting as the long-anticipated effort to honor the Oklahoma National Guard moves forward.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Monte Kaul moved to adjourn. Duane Mass seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.