

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE GOVERNMENTAL MALL COMMISSION

**Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2002
3:30 p.m. , House Hearing Room 3**

Members Present:

Senator Smith, Acting Chair
Leroy Brady
Elliott Hibbs
Norman Hint
Donald P. Keuth, Jr.
William McMullen
David Richert

Members Absent:

Representative Voss
John Clements
Tom Knapp, Chair
Joy Rich
Polly Rosenbaum

Staff:

Nadine Sapien, Senate Research Analyst
Larry Chesley, House Research Analyst

Tape 1, Side A

Senator Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and attendance was noted.

Presentation on Schematic Landscape Design of the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Building Incorporating the Planned Exhibits of the Mining and Mineral Museum

Roger Berna, Planning Manager, ADOA, stated that he would like to introduce Mr. David Brandt to present the landscape design.

David Brandt, Landscape Architect, presented a landscape design plan that was also presented at the last meeting with a few changes. Mr. Brandt stated that they were changing the California fan palms to date palms.

Senator Smith mentioned that date palms are a dirty tree and they attract a lot of birds. Mr. Brandt stated that they do become a maintenance issue. However, the California fan palms have the same issue.

Mr. Richert stated that in the last meeting they had discussed not having any kind of a palm tree and put in a shade canopy. Mr. Brandt stated that he was not at the last meeting and was not given that information. Mr. Richert reiterated that they were looking for a tree that would provide shade. Mr. Brandt stated that there is only a five to six foot strip so to get a canopy tree you would need a 25 to 35 foot spread on the tree.

Mr. Berna stated that they are trying to encourage pedestrian traffic in the back of the building which links to the Capitol Mall on Adam Street. They are concerned about shade trees because the busses use this lane.

Senator Smith requested that they put more study in the type of tree.

Mr. Brady stated that the date palms are one of the lower cost maintenance and their primary growth area is the desert. He stated that they create a sense of gateway. Date palms are easier to maintain than a lot of other palms. He further stated that the shade trees could be put on the north side of the sidewalk.

Mr. Brandt stated that the Mining and Mineral Museum are proposing three new exhibits: a stamp mill, a 13 diameter tire, and a 27-ton scoop. They are also proposing a mural that will have a landscape foreground.

Mr. McMullen stated that he would like to bring this issue to closure. Mr. Smith stated that they cannot vote on the issue because it is not on the agenda. Mr. McMullen stated that they need closure on the vegetation and the color of the mural. Mr. Hibbs stated that they would re-examine the colors on the mural and present it at the next meeting.

Senator Smith asked if wheel chairs would be able to go over the crushed granite. Mr. Brandt stated that it would be at the edges and wheel chairs would be able to get around it.

Mr. Richert stated that the Phoenix Fabulous 4th Celebration was not discussed at the last meeting. He is concerned about having shade trees for the Fabulous 4th.

Mr. Hibbs stated that they need to come back at the next meeting with recommendations to be approved.

Tim Brand, General Manager, General Services, ADOA, stated that the Fabulous 4th needs to have a theater area which cannot have shade trees. That is why they elected to go with the date palms.

Mr. Brand stated that they would be back at the next meeting with a new landscape plan for approval.

Presentation on the Grace Court School Redevelopment

Bob Wojtan, City of Phoenix Community and Economic Development Department, stated that whoever took this project needed to preserve the Grace Court building and rehabilitate it to the City's historic preservation laws meeting state and federal requirements. The rest of the site could be residential, office or retail. It is all part of the Governmental Mall.

Jule Dionne, Developer, presented an aerial entitled "Concept Site Plan" for the Grace Court School (Attachment A). His testimony came directly from the handout. He stated that the property was bound by Adams Street, Van Buren, 9th Avenue, and 7th Avenue. He stated that the property is comprised of ten acres. He stated that Grace School is two floors built in 1911 and approximately 30,000 square feet. He stated that they would build eight foot wide sidewalks and landscape the area. The idea is to replat the site. The renovation of Grace Court School will be done first. Mr. Dionne stated that he needs approval for the general site plan and replat approval. However, it is not on the agenda so it cannot be done at this meeting.

In response to Mr. Keuth, Mr. Dionne stated that it would be a surface parking lot at first. A parking garage would be built later.

Mr. Keuth stated his approval for the project.

In response to Senator Smith, the parking garage will not be seen when standing at different points on the site.

Senator Smith recommended that next month they would get the approval.

Mr. Hibbs stated his approval for the project.

Mr. Keuth stated that possible action should be put on the next meeting's agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Kennedy
Committee Secretary

(Tapes and attachments on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115.)