



## **MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER CONSERVANCY**

Marin County Administrator's Office, Suite 325  
3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California 94903

### **REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2019 DRAFT MINUTES**

Held at Marin County Civic Center, Suite 324A  
San Rafael, California

Members Present: Joan Brown, Sandra Fawn, Lynn Downey, Mark Hulbert, Cheryl Lentini, June Miller, Supervisor Kate Sears, Suki Sennett

Staff: David Speer, Janis West, and Jeff Wong, County Administrator's Office; David Vaughan, Department of Public Works; Bill Schwarz, AIA; Daniel Ruark, Architect

1. CALL TO ORDER: Sandra Fawn, Chair, called the meeting of the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Conservancy to order at 9:24 AM.
2. VOTE ON REAPPOINTMENT OF SUKI SENNETT TO THE CONSERVANCY: Motion to approve reappointment of Suki Sennett to the Civic Center Conservancy was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
3. VOTE ON REAPPOINTMENT OF ANNETTE ROSE TO THE CONSERVANCY: Ms. Rose was absent, and the item was tabled until the next meeting.
4. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Bill Hale registered a concern about the sidewalk around the lagoon being incomplete; and lighting near the Marin Center, which he said has no shields and referred to the Marin County Civic Center Master Guidelines. He directed the Conservancy to the [International Dark-Sky Association website](#), which addresses issues about lighting and its various affects. Mr. Hale said he plans to speak with County Administrator Matthew Hymel about the issue.
5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING: Approval of the minutes was tabled because of inconsistent versions of copies distributed and will be presented at the next meeting for review and acceptance.
6. UPDATE OF THE SEATING MODIFICATION DESIGN FOR THE CDA PLANNING LOBBY: Jeff Wong spoke about the modification design of the lobby area of the planning office. The concept was brought to the Conservancy last year. The computer area of the lobby is not used often since many visitors use personal computers outside of this office and more seating is needed. The plan is as follows:
  - A. Remove the large panel between the computer area and chairs that are directly to the left of the entrance
  - B. Put modular, elongated curved (leatherette) couch in the area for more seating and a double chair set with attached wooden tables in between in the center of the area where the planner counters are.
    - The proposed seating will match the gray Herman Miller chairs and some of the work stations; this will give it a slightly more modern look with the gray/taupe colors, and move away from the bold, darker colors. Customized millwork originally proposed was not cost effective. This option is a less expensive solution.

- C. A concern was raised that the couch be a problem for those who don't want to sit next to one another, and the curve might not allow enough room for sitting comfortably
  - D. The Conservancy members took a tour of the Planning office. They agreed the lighter wood is a better choice
  - E. Motion was made to approve the color 'Putty' as the preferred color to match the tops of the current partitions; and to recommend separating the proposed elongated couch into more sections with attached tables. The motion was unanimously approved.
7. CIVIC CENTER POST OFFICE GLOBE RESTORATION STUDY: David Speer introduced Bill Schwarz and Daniel Rourke (Taliesin-trained architect) who presented information about a study of the original and proposed design of the restored globe at the Civic Center Post Office.
- A. The post office is owned by the Federal government, which is part of the national historic district Civic Center campus, and which leases the space from the County. As part of the lease renewal five years ago the County called for a study of the original historical globe that was destroyed. The post office has funded \$20,000 for the study. Mr. Schwarz was hired to conduct a study of this. The results will be provided to the PO upon completion. There are five more years on the lease; should it wish to not renew the lease, the building would revert to the County. The PO has been there around 55 years but part of our national historic district.
  - B. Mr. Schwarz provided a general overview of its history and historic place in the master plan, the proposed study and globe design
    - 1957 FLW created a master plan and presented it to Marin in 1958
    - On the master plan the post office was designed in another location; when Wright visited and saw the site, the now current site was chosen by designer Aaron Green and the developer.
    - The design was completed in 1961 and was built and opened in 1962.
    - The globe, according to Mr. Schwarz' theory, was to put a global face on the Civic Center with this symbol.
    - The globe was lit as part of a night illumination of the entire lobby, and was affixed to a paned glass panel that was untempered and did crack due to the heat of globe situated against it. It was replaced within six months of the building's opening.
    - The globe disappeared sometime after 1979. Preservation was not thought to be as much a priority back then, and no other preservation efforts were made.
    - Due to the positions of the flag and globe, it was difficult to raise and lowering the flag each day.
    - The glass panel, with a new design that contains some original design will affix differently, and the globe will have LED lighting with less wattage (dozens of small light sources, and edge light).
    - The globe will be hinged so that staff can raise and lower the flag, and is lockable.
    - ADA guidelines were incorporated into the design for wheelchair accessibility.
    - The cost for continents drawn on the globe and for the gold leaf is \$10,000; the entire cost for the globe would be \$57,000.

- Historic information, descriptions, and photos determined the size and orientation of the proposed design.
- C. Mr. Schwarz presented a list of potential changes for the building to restore it to its original design. These include:
- Remodeling (removing) the current partition added a few years ago
  - Change back to narrow doors (there will still be ADA compliance)
  - Change to low emissivity glass (E glass)
  - Restore to original signage
  - Restore facia to monolithic; or perhaps match the blue to the Civic Center
  - Restore arch to brown tones
  - The cost of entire remodel is estimated at \_\_\_\_.
- D. The historic photos from the presentation will be incorporated into the video.
8. MEMBER ITEMS FOR UPDATES:
- A. Joan Brown asked about the status of her request from the previous meeting to change the name tags on displays. Mr. Speer will contact Libby Garrison in Cultural Services to arrange this.
- B. Mark Hulbert said Joyce Ertel Hulbert (“creative partner and wife”) has a show at the Commonweal Gallery in Bolinas that runs through March 25.  
<https://www.commonweal.org/events/joyce-hulbert/>
9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 AM.