

Minutes of the Hall of Records Commission Meeting
January 20, 1982

An informal meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held in Annapolis at the Courts of Appeal Building on Wednesday, January 20, 1982.

The following members were in attendance:

The Honorable Robert C. Murphy
Chairman, Hall of Records Commission
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
of Maryland

The Honorable Louis L. Goldstein
Comptroller of the Treasury

The Honorable William S. James
Treasurer of the State of Maryland

The Honorable J. Max Millstone
Secretary, Department of General Services

The Honorable Anne S. Perkins
House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly

The Honorable Julian Lapidus
State Senate
Maryland General Assembly

Also present were:

Edward C. Papenfuse, Secretary
Hall of Records Commission
State Archivist and Commissioner of
Land Patents, Archives Division, HRC

Earl Seboda, Assistant Secretary
Department of General Services

Jonathan E. Moxley, Project Administrator
Board of Public Works, Special Projects
Department of General Services

Gregory A. Stiverson, Asst. State Archivist
Archives Division, HRC

Art Morey, Architect, Project Manager, VVKR, Inc.

Bruce Rich, Project Architect, VVKR, Inc.

The purpose of this informal meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was to review the preliminary design concepts for the new Archives facility developed by the architectural firm of VVKR, Inc.

Dr. Papenfuse introduced Art Morey, Project Manager, VVKR, who provided an overview of the site of the proposed archives building and explained the steps taken to date by the firm in developing a proposed architectural design. Mr. Morey, in response to an inquiry from Treasurer James, explained that the windows in the building, at least in part, would be operable to permit air circulation. Mr. Seboda added that for the last year or so the Department of General Services has had a policy of requiring operable windows in all new State construction. Treasurer James also expressed his concern about flat roofs on buildings. Mr. Morey explained that the roof would have sufficient slope for required drainage.

Mr. Morey then introduced Bruce Rich, the project architect. Mr. Rich explained the floor plan of the building and demonstrated work flow with a model that could be disassembled to reveal the progressively lower floors of the building. Mr. Rich emphasized that the model only indicated massing of the structure, and that final design considerations for the exterior facade and interior spaces had not yet been determined.

Dr. Papenfuse, using scale drawings and the building model, explained how the building would work functionally, noting that the interior space is laid out in a very efficient manner to achieve the three goals of security, preservation, and access.

Treasurer James and Judge Murphy emphasized the need for ample parking adjacent to the new building to eliminate the necessity of patrons crossing Rowe Boulevard. They also asked that the parking area be attractively landscaped.

Comptroller Goldstein requested that the architect specify brick that could be produced in Maryland. The architects assured the Commission that the exterior specifications could call for brick that would be produced within the State.

Senator Lapidés noted that he generally approved of the design, although he wished that such buildings could be designed through competition to solicit alternative designs from a wide range of architectural firms.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the 35-foot setback as proposed was adequate.

On the topic of the vista of the State House as one approaches town on Rowe Boulevard, Treasurer James noted that the building would help shield some of the unsightly buildings on Navy property adjacent to the building site. He commented that the transitional role of the building will be dependent upon the exterior design. Treasurer James asked that the Commission be permitted to approve the exterior design at some point in the future when final decisions on the design had been made. He added that the quality of workmanship is as important as design in determining if the building will be functional as a safe and secure archives.

Secretary Millstone agreed that the architects should make another presentation to the Commission when the plans are further developed, but added that any design must be kept within the 8.9 million existing appropriation so that it is not necessary to approach the General Assembly for additional construction funds. Dr. Papenfuse pointed out, and the Commission unanimously agreed, that while additional construction funds will not be sought, it is anticipated that a supplemental request will be required to secure the compact mobile shelving that is an integral part of the design of the proposed building.

Secretary Millstone said that he would investigate the possibility of securing land for parking from the Navy. Treasurer James asked that we first explore the possibility of providing additional parking on our own land, including diagonal parking slots along the access road to the new building.

Treasurer James moved that the siting, massing, and design concept, including the foot print of the building as presented, be approved, reserving to the Commission the right to review at a future date the following aspects: roof design, exterior facade design, windows, flooring, and on-site parking. The motion was approved without dissent.

This informal meeting of the Hall of Records Commission adjourned at 4:30 p.m., with the minutes to be approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.

Robert M. James
Edward J. ...