



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMORIAL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2002 5:30PM 1 LIBERTY PLAZA, ROOM 3901

Tara Snow, Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs, began the meeting by saying that this is the first time that all of the Advisory Councils have met in one room. The meeting attendees then introduced themselves for the record.

LMDC Board member Tom Johnson offered welcoming remarks and introduced Anita Contini, who recently started at the LMDC as Vice President and Director of Memorial, Cultural, and Civic Programs. Anita discussed the agenda for the evening, which is a review of the preliminary memorial process, and stated that the memorial is first priority, and it must coincide with site planning. The Families Advisory Council Preliminary Memorial Mission Statement and the preliminary program elements have been a starting point for this discussion. She discussed the Mission Statement and some of the questions and comments that have arisen thus far with respect to the statement. Initial discussions have focused on the formation of a memorial selection committee and an international design competition. She went on to say that the Families Advisory Council members feel that it is important to set a deadline for the memorial design, and we are looking at September 2003 for an anticipated deadline. Ms. Contini then asked a member of the Families Advisory Council to say a few words. The member emphasized how important it is for the families to hear from other stakeholders and urged participants to be candid and honest in their remarks.

Chris Glaisek of the LMDC then gave a presentation on memorial precedents around the world, including the USS Arizona memorial, various holocaust memorials, the Civil Rights memorial, Oklahoma City, the Vietnam memorial, and others.

Ms. Contini then asked another member of the Families Advisory Council to say a few words. This member expressed appreciation for the sensitivity others have shown to the families, and then emphasized the importance of hearing from others about their thoughts regarding the memorial. She pointed out that many of the families feel strongly about the preservation of the footprints, and that they want to hear from others on their thoughts about this, in addition to hearing from them about the street grid, the entire site, and other planning issues.

Ms. Contini then opened up the discussion to all members. One attendee expressed sympathy to all of the families, and emphasized that economic recovery is important. He questioned if the memorial will drive the timeframe in terms of other rebuilding.

One family member pointed out what the footprints mean to families. Many families believe that the footprints mean not only at grade, but also below ground to the bedrock, where many remains were found. Another family member pointed out that although some families do feel that way, others do not; even amongst the families there is disagreement on what is meant by the

footprints. Another family member pointed out that very few people have received true remains, and so for many of them, they feel that the remains are at the site.

An attendee pointed out that an integrated process is critical – the memorial and the site planning should be together. The beginning of next year in terms of memorial timeline is excellent and in conjunction with the RFQ.

Another participant commented that residents will be living in the memorial, people who live downtown are pioneers and have committed to staying downtown. It must be a living community, and it is important to talk about conceptual ideas for the memorial in terms of what the families want.

A family member mentioned that families submitted a plan early on with their priorities, and the guiding principles talked about sacred ground. We must discuss dedicated acreage because if we are going to build a memorial, we have to know where that ground is. This participant also agreed with the living memorial concept.

Another attendee asked when the memorial committee will be decided.

An Advisory Council member asked if the LMDC has had discussions with people in Oklahoma City about their experience. Ms. Contini answered that she has started discussions with them.

Another Advisory Council member asked how the families felt about the Tribute in Light, and if there will be an interim memorial during the rebuilding process. One of the families discussed the Viewing Wall, which will serve as a temporary memorial.

Another attendee said that we have to remember that the event itself has to be memorialized in addition to memorializing the people that died. We want the world to know what happened to America that day. An attendee said that global democracy and freedom must be acknowledged and that the memorial must pay tribute to this.

A member of the Families Advisory Council said that the families felt that the memorial should have international recognition, convey ideas of renewal and hope, and be a serene, optimistic place. Another attendee said that perhaps they could add to the mission statement what the WTC meant to people – explain what is represented globally.

A participant said that safety issues and environmental concerns must be considered, and that restoration of the street grid must be viewed as integral in the process. A Museum at site will help with the living memorial.

Another attendee said that the memorial mission statement speaks to what everyone has said so far.

Another attendee said that given the magnitude of the event, the planners want an integrated process (memorial and other planning). This should not happen apart from each other. People

want something tremendous, and they want process to be open and inclusive. How does Ms. Contini see these things working together?

An attendee said that the Mission statement should have the word “remember” in it – the history of the event must be told.

The memorial will require space to accommodate visitors and some families want a space to inter the unidentified remains at the site.

Another attendee said that Wall Street Rising did a survey and 9 out of 10 respondents said they want more cultural institutions.

A participant stated that we need to focus on a sustainable community - what is needed to enhance the area and keep it going? This is an opportunity to be environmentally conscious and do something amazing. The site should be part of the community and help build the lives of other people.

A participant from the Residents Advisory Council said that green space is critical but there is a question regarding the use of open space – the residents want to have open space that can be utilized.

Another participant said that it would be fitting to have some form of memorial at the top of whatever goes on the site to preserve the view and to dedicate this to those who saw this view every day and who were at the top when they died.

A member of the Families Advisory Council said she would like to hear from the arts community, because when she hears talk about restoring the 24/7 community, she doesn't think it wasn't there to begin with, therefore to what extent can it be restored? Another participant said that there was a 24/7 community and there was art – the WTC plaza was active 4 months out of the year with performances and other activities. There was also a greenmarket there.

A representative from Pace University said that they would like an educational institution – similar to the Woodrow Wilson center – to bring world leaders to Lower Manhattan to educate kids and adults and bring people to the area. Education should be considered as the plans develop.

On participant said that in terms of transportation, people need to keep in mind that NJ residents would shop at the WTC and use public transportation – this was important for those without cars.

A family member said that we need to preserve the footprints down to the bedrock – his son was found 40 ft. down. He is confident that there will be a fitting memorial, but he has concerns about the rest of it. The lease will constrain what others will get. He is not happen with the on-site program and the advisory councils need to work on this. He is also appalled by the vendors who are selling September 11th items, and if they complain enough, maybe they can get rid of them.

Another attendees said that cultural uses are critical – we have historic sites and museums now, when we are asked to tell the history we must remember this dark time.

A participant said that we must consider the legacy of the event and must create a new American image and legacy of healing, diversity, spirit, and harmony.

An attendee stressed that the residents of the area want to look for positive ways to memorialize the victims.

A participant said that the LMDC should have more meetings that bring together the advisory councils.

Ms. Contini then thanked everyone for attending and encouraged participants to contact the LMDC if they have other thoughts and comments in the future. She then closed the meeting.