
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Minutes of Meeting April 26, 2001
(APPROVED July 9, 2001)

Commissioners in attendance:

Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano
Senator Ted Stevens (Alaska)
Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii)
Senator Pat Roberts (Kansas)
Senator Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Representative Mac Thornberry (Texas)
Representative Jerry Moran (Kansas)
Representative Dennis Moore (Kansas)
Mrs. Susan B. Harris
Mr. Alfred Geduldig

Commissioners not in attendance:

Representative Leonard L. Boswell (Iowa)
D. David Eisenhower

In attendance: Brig. Gen. Carl Reddel (USAF, Ret.), Dr. Michael Richman, and representatives of the General Services Administration: Melynda Clarke, Director, Agency Liaison Division; Lesly P. Wilson, Senior Assistant General Counsel; Kathy M. Archer, and Gina Brown-Harris. Also in attendance: George H. Lowe IV, Mark Davis, Kim Rullman, Howard Baulekie, and Drew Ross.

- Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- Welcome by Sen. Stevens. He spoke of the significance of the big task ahead for the Commission in its efforts to prepare an enduring memorial for President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- Chairman Siciliano noted that because of the statutory requirements for bi-partisan chairmanship, Sen. Roberts had resigned as vice chairman. When the floor was opened for nominations, Sen. Roberts nominated Sen. Inouye, who was approved by unanimous vote.

- Chairman Siciliano opened the discussion by briefly reviewing the 1986 statute, Public Law 99-652. It has many provisions that will have to be satisfied.

Ms. Clarke pointed out that in view of the fact that employees cannot be hired with executive branch status it is permissible to hire employees as consultants. This procedure, hiring consultants for the near future, was agreed upon for the near term until such time as further legislative action can be obtained. Ms. Clarke then described the efforts of GSA to identify appropriate office space.

Sen. Inouye said that the FDR Memorial Commission hired personnel as Federal employees.

Sen. Stevens moved to authorize operative authority for the chairman in a resolution as follows:

“To plan for a national memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower the Chairman is authorized, using funds appropriated under Public Law 106-79, to secure temporary offices and to hire interim program and administrative consultants to develop procedures and concepts for the Commission. The Chairman is authorized to –

- 1) appoint an Executive Director who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate of pay for Level V of the Senior Executive Schedule;
- 2) appoint and fix the compensation of such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of P.L. 106-79, in accordance with chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

The Chairman is further authorized to use funds under P.L. 106-79 to compensate Commission members for travel and other expenses, as authorized by law, incurred while performing duties related to the Commission.”

The resolution was approved on a unanimous vote.

- Discussion followed in regards to the possibilities for a memorial, i.e., bricks-and-mortar or a living memorial in the form of an operating program or scholarships (comparable to the Fulbright program).

It was agreed that the group should spend some time discussing the shape and scope of the memorial before pursuing funding. In this connection, Mr. Geduldig expressed the complexity of the task, noting the need to define what characteristics of President Eisenhower the Commission wished to memorialize. Sen. Stevens illuminated the many facets of the man: international, military, domestic leader, President, and university president.

Sen. Stevens expressed the idea of creating a notable attraction, using as an illustration the Kennedy burial site in Arlington National Cemetery on the other side of the Potomac. While the Mall is a preeminent location, it comes with much effort that may prolong the project. He noted there appears to be space along the other side of the Potomac near the Marine Memorial and recommended that we investigate this possibility. Sen. Stevens said the memorial should be easily accessible to the public.

Chairman Siciliano expressed his thoughts about the kind of architect represented by Frank Gehry.

Dr. Richman noted that the area across the Potomac is designated as Area 2, which has lower restrictions. He noted there was space near the proposed World War II memorial, although it is in Area 1 and comes with the greater restrictions.

Sen. Inouye, former Co-chairman of the FDR Memorial Commission, noted some of the concerns encountered:

- family members and their objections;
- fund-raising can't start until you have a place and a concept.

Sen. Roberts spoke of the Kansas delegation's interest for the Commission to consider Abilene, Kansas, as the appropriate site. He noted that the Old Executive Office Building is now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

- Sen. Inouye asked that the minutes and materials be promptly furnished to the commissioners in time to prepare before the next meeting. In this connection, he observed that it would be useful for the Commission to actually tour the proposed sites.
- Sen. Stevens proposed and it was agreed that the next quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, July 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the Senate Appropriations Committee room in the Capitol with dinner provided.
- Ms. Clarke reaffirmed that the Commission currently can only hire consultants, not employees under the Federal compensation system. Chairman Siciliano indicated that General Reddel was willing to be employed as a consultant supported by Dr. Richman. Sen. Stevens said that the authorization he proposed this fall would take care of this situation.
- Mr. Geduldig agreed to oversee the public relations efforts of the Commission. Sen. Stevens offered the support of his communications director.
- The meeting was called to a close at 3:30 p.m.

(Approved July 9, 2001)