
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Minutes of Meeting July 9, 2001
(APPROVED Feb. 28, 2002)

Commissioners in attendance:

Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano
Senator Ted Stevens (Alaska)
Representative Mac Thornberry (Texas)
Representative Dennis Moore (Kansas)
Mr. D. David Eisenhower
Mr. Alfred Geduldig
Mrs. Susan B. Harris

Commissioners not in attendance:

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii)
Senator Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
Senator Pat Roberts (Kansas)
Representative Leonard L. Boswell (Iowa)
Representative Jerry Moran (Kansas)

In attendance: Brig. Gen. Carl Reddel (USAF, Ret.), Dr. Michael Richman, and representatives of the General Services Administration: Kathy M. Archer and Trina Crawley. Also in attendance: George H. Lowe IV (Senator Stevens), Marie Blanco (Senator Inouye), Howard Bauleke (Representative Moore), Elizabeth King (Senator Reed), Kim Rullman (Representative Moran), Erin DeCuir (Representative Thornberry), Evan C. Thompson, Drew Ross, and Paul Reddel.

- Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked Senator Stevens for the meeting arrangements.
- Review of minutes, April 26, 2001 meeting. Mrs. Harris moved approval of the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Representative Thornberry. The motion was approved.

The minutes of the teleconference on April 5, 2001 were amended to note that Representative Moore, not Representative Moran, nominated Senator Roberts for vice chairman.

- Chairman Siciliano opened discussion by reporting on two successful meetings on July 9 with oversight agencies regarding memorialization in the capital region. Chairman Siciliano, Gen. Reddel, and Dr. Richman met with Sara Blumenthal, Deputy Associate Regional Director for the Office of Land, Resources, and Planning and with Glenn DeMarr, the Regional Land Use Liaison, in the National Capital Region Headquarters. Messrs. Siciliano, Reddel, and Richman also met with Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Jeffrey R. Carson, Assistant Secretary, and Frederick Lindstrom, Architect, of the Commission of Fine Arts. These meetings provided the opportunity to receive a detailed historical and contemporary survey of memorialization practices and procedures, as well as information on criteria and decision-making of each agency with regards to location, design, and other matters pertinent to the Commission's work.

Chairman Siciliano also reported on a preliminary site tour conducted by Dr. Richman on July 8, noting the excellence and usefulness of the tour as preparation for his subsequent agency meetings. The tour, including more than six potential sites, provided an overview of the range of possible memorial schemes.

The discussion concluded with the consensus of the Commissioners to make site visits, conducted by Dr. Richman, as soon as possible at times convenient to the Commissioners' schedules.

- Chairman Siciliano distributed the unsolicited submission to the Commission by the architectural firm Franck Lohsen McCrery of New York. As an addition to their proposed renovation of Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House, the firm contemplated a "monument" of President Eisenhower in front of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Senator Stevens expressed a concern to keep the Eisenhower family informed and asked if there were any comments or inputs from family members. Mr. David Eisenhower stated that the family is cognizant of the Commission's work but has no specific input at this time.

- Chairman Siciliano spoke briefly about the importance of an NPS-prepared version of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 and its subsequent amendments in 1991 and 1994 made available to the Commissioners at the meeting. He noted that this legislation is the essential legal blueprint for the Commission's work.
- Gen. Reddel described the Commission's office space at 1730 K Street, NW, Suite 410. The offices were secured with GSA's assistance and will use space being vacated by another commission. He noted the professionalism of GSA in successfully coordinating many issues to insure the rapid establishment of the Commission's workspace. The offices will accommodate as many as five staff members, with Dr. Richman and Gen. Reddel currently on contract as consultants in support of the Commission. One administrative/bookkeeping part-time employee will also be placed on contract, with a view towards using intern, volunteer, and other part-time help, pending additional funding for the Commission.

Chairman Siciliano added that currently the Commission possesses no hiring authority for full-time employees. This lack of authority also dictates that the Chairman be involved in, and serve as approval authority for, routine administrative and financial matters. Additional legislation could enable a more efficient execution of the Commission's responsibilities.

- Chairman Siciliano provided an early draft budget request for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 that would be part of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission legislation in compliance with the 1986 Commemorative Works Acts. The proposal included funds to begin program definition, concept development, site determination and design procurement, and the required discussions and meetings with the review agencies. Subsequent discussion of appropriate procedures took note of the inadvisability of using an open competitive design selection process. There was consensus that an invitational or limited approach to selecting a principal designer possessed distinct advantages.

Senator Stevens pointed out that the budget request lacked any provision for inflation or for contingencies, a matter that he believed needed to be addressed in assuring adequate funding for the Commission's work. Mr. Geduldig also remarked upon the lack of funding to implement any Commission communications strategy.

A discussion ensued regarding the funding of past and future presidential memorials. Federal funding measures in support of the Roosevelt memorial were discussed, and mention was made of possible federal funding for the forthcoming Adams memorial. Mr. Geduldig pointed out the usefulness of learning from the experience of the Roosevelt memorialization.

Senator Stevens emphasized the value of learning and benefiting from the comparative lessons to be drawn from the World War II memorial effort. He noted the exceptional high regard of the American public, especially the military veterans, for both General and President Eisenhower, as a special resource for the Commission's work and potentially for its funding.

- Several suggestions were made to assist in defining and managing the Commission's work. Representative Thornberry suggested that a management team be considered to establish priorities and procedures for the Commission. Mr. Geduldig suggested the creation of advisory groups to pursue various areas of activity, including the generation of support and advice for the Commission on matters of business development, public liaison/relations, and historical expertise. It was also noted that the international dimension of President Eisenhower's legacy not be neglected. Chairman Siciliano agreed that we should give these suggestions careful consideration.

- Chairman Siciliano spoke to the importance of each Commissioner thinking about the scope and guiding concepts of Eisenhower's memorialization. He noted the usefulness of the "Preface" prepared by Gen. Reddel and also emphasized the value to the Commission of three studies of Eisenhower:

Eisenhower, by Stephen Ambrose (Simon and Schuster, 1990), an especially fine condensation of his two-volume, *Eisenhower: Soldier* and *Eisenhower: President*.

The Hidden Hand Presidency: Eisenhower as Leader, by Fred I. Greenstein (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).

Eisenhower at War, 1943-1945, by D. David Eisenhower (Random House, 1986).

- The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

(APPROVED 2/28/02)