

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
Meeting 2/28/02 (APPROVED 4/25/02)

Commissioners in Attendance:

Rocco C. Siciliano, Chairman
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Vice Chairman
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Ted Stevens
Alfred Geduldig
Susan Banes Harris

Commissioners Excused:

Representative Leonard Boswell
Representative Dennis Moore
Representative Jerry Moran
Representative Mac Thornberry
D. David Eisenhower

(In a note to the Commission, Mr. Eisenhower explained that given his absence due to international travel, his sisters Susan and Anne would represent him)

Also in Attendance:

Jonah Siegallak (for Representative Moore), Kim Rullman (for Representative Moran), Erin DeCuir (for Representative Thornberry), Elizabeth King (Senator Reed), Ashleigh de la Torre (Senator Roberts), George Lowe (Senator Stevens)

Anne Eisenhower (granddaughter of President Eisenhower), Wolfgang Flottl, Susan Eisenhower (granddaughter of President Eisenhower), Evan C. Thompson, Drew Ross

National Park Service: John Parsons, Sally Blumenthal, Glenn DeMarr

General Services Administration: Melynda Clarke, Lesly P. Wilson

DDEMC: Carl W. Reddel, Michael Richman, Celesa Gibbs, Eileen Krichten

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed the Commission and briefly summarized three previous discussions with Senator Inouye and Senator Stevens in Washington and California.

Minutes of the July 9, 2001 meeting were reviewed with Senator Roberts moving to approve, and the motion was seconded and approved.

Senator Stevens remarked that with the passing of time the urgency of completing Eisenhower's memorialization was increasing.

Chairman Siciliano noted that he would testify at a meeting on March 1, 2002 of the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC), seeking their endorsement of Area I designation for an Eisenhower Memorial. He stated that the NCMC was one of four agencies with which the Commission would need to meet at various stages of the design and building process.

Chairman Siciliano introduced John Parsons of the National Park Service (NPS), who is also chair of the NCMC.

John Parsons congratulated the Commissioners on an opportunity to build a lasting memorial, a process guided by the 1986 Commemorative Works Act. He introduced Glenn DeMarr, as a Memorials Project Manager for the NPS and Sally Blumenthal, Deputy Associate Regional Director. He noted that 20 memorials are currently in various stages of the design and building process and that the NPS manages 152 memorials in Washington, DC. He emphasized that the NPS's first responsibility is to support every group's memorial effort, but also that the NPS will be responsible for managing the completed Eisenhower Memorial. Mr. Parsons suggested an interactive partnership with a Commission rather than a more traditional, arms-length relationship. He stated that the NCMC advises the Secretary of the Interior and makes recommendations. The Secretary of the Interior then recommends legislation for placement of an Eisenhower Memorial in Area 1, an action that must be completed within 150 calendar days. The Commemorative Works Act stipulates requirements for an Area I approval, primarily that the memorial subject must have preeminent lasting historical significance. The NCMC struggles with two issues: will the memorial be traditional (sculpture, inscription, landscape design, architecture); or more complex (exhibition hall, museum)? Only 14 of the 42 Presidents are memorialized in Washington. He urged the Commissioners to look at existing memorials as reference points to get ideas about size, message, and concept before beginning the process of site selection. Immediately after Mr. Parsons' presentation, the following points were made:

- Senator Roberts stated that Abilene has the Eisenhower museum, boyhood home, and gravesite, which he has an ongoing responsibility to support, and he would not want to replicate the museum.
- Senator Stevens asked what the NPS sees as a realistic timeline for the completion of the Eisenhower Memorial. Mr. Parsons responded seven years, especially since most presidential memorials are federally funded. Chairman Siciliano stated that the Commission would continue its meetings with the NPS staff.
- Commissioner Geduldig asked about the sequence of site, design and associated plans of the overall program. Mr. Parsons responded that the site determination comes first and design follows, with the participation of three congressionally authorized commissions – the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) – to oversee the process. These three commissions must agree unanimously at each review stage. Each commission has veto authority. The NPS's major role at this juncture is to work with and to assist the Commission through these mandatory sessions.

Chairman Siciliano next remarked that the Commission has to date not sought publicity and hopes to continue its work without fanfare. Following approval by the National Capital

Memorial Commission, the Eisenhower Commission's next step will be to develop a memorial concept. To assist this process, he announced that he had met with Louis Galambos, Professor at Johns Hopkins University, and co-editor of the Eisenhower Papers. Professor Galambos is being asked to serve as chairman of a Legacy Committee (which might also include General Goodpaster and others). This small group of highly respected people would prepare a document addressing the key parts of President Eisenhower's life: the presidency, his military career and a lifetime of public service. It is hoped that the Legacy Committee would present a concept paper by the end of 2002.

Chairman Siciliano noted that the Commission staff had begun site examination with the staffs of the NPS and the NCPC and was preparing a preliminary report on six locations. Discussion of sites would be initiated at the next meeting. Finally, beginning the site selection process and proceeding to secure approval from the three principal agencies – the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Memorial Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission – the Eisenhower Commission would begin the process of selecting an architect/designer.

Senator Stevens then asked John Parsons how he might help expedite the entire memorial process. In his response Mr. Parsons concluded that any major memorial effort takes time, commitment and perseverance.

Anne Eisenhower stated that she was unclear as to what kind of memorial was anticipated. Chairman Siciliano responded that the Commission did not know at this stage of deliberation. He pointed out that the Commission had received an unsolicited architectural proposal of a statue of President Eisenhower in front of the Old Executive Office Building at the July 9, 2001 Commission meeting. Chairman Siciliano emphasized that he and the Commissioners are open to all ideas and suggestions.

Commissioner Harris asked Chairman Siciliano for an elaboration on Anne Eisenhower's question concerning the nature of the memorial.

Chairman Siciliano responded that it has not yet been determined what the memorial will be. As mentioned earlier, the Legacy Committee would be charged with developing a concept that will describe President Eisenhower as a multi-faceted public servant. He mentioned a document (included in the meeting packets and dated May 7, 1947), which Eisenhower wrote about memorials and memorialization for World War II when he was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Chairman Siciliano noted the need to schedule future meetings. He suggested the next meeting be held in Washington in April or May and in Abilene in June. Possible locations for an August or September meeting could include Gettysburg, Denver, and the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Mr. Siciliano introduced Evan Thompson, mentioning that Michel Richman had taken Mr. Thompson on a site tour. He recommended that each of the Commissioners arrange for such a tour with Dr. Richman.

The Chairman next reviewed the three Public Laws relating to the Commission, noting the first (Public Law 106-79, October 25, 1999) established the commission with \$300,000 administrative support, the second (Public Law 107-67, November 12, 2001) included an appropriation in the amount of \$1.75 million, and the third (Public Law 107-117, January 10,

2002) included \$2.6 million in the Department of Defense bill. He stated the need to seek legislation to authorize the Commission to hire employees as opposed to consultants. He added that additional staff will likely be needed over the next two to four years and said that a fuller discussion of memorial funding would be raised in another meeting.

Mr. Geduldig asked if the current legislation was for administrative support or funding of the memorial itself. Chairman Siciliano responded that it was for administrative support and the hiring of consultants and experts through the various phases of the memorialization process.

Chairman Siciliano remarked on the sound financial condition of the Commission office stating that current operations had just about used up the original appropriation and stated that the new appropriations are solely for administrative costs. He expressed the view that he would like to see federal funding for the memorial itself and was optimistic about the timetable of five to seven years if the memorial is federally funded.

Chairman Siciliano remarked on the difficulty of scheduling meetings with all twelve of the Commissioners. He asked for the creation of an Executive Committee consisting of himself, Senator Ted Stevens, and Vice Chairman Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Commissioner Geduldig moved to add Representative Dennis Moore to the Executive Committee. Mrs. Harris seconded, and the motion to create the Executive Committee was approved.

Commissioner Harris asked the Chairman what the Commission could do to keep to the seven-year timetable and possibly reduce it to five years. The Chairman replied that a key element would be a good project manager.

Chairman Siciliano next introduced Susan Eisenhower. Ms. Eisenhower thanked the Chairman for the invitation and for the overview he provided. She stated that she would not speak for the family but rather for the various organizations founded by or named for her grandfather, and that Anne Eisenhower would speak on behalf of the family. She said that for the first time each of these organizations had joined together in preparing a proposal for a memorial. She also noted that what President Eisenhower wrote about memorials may not necessarily apply to himself. The proposal calls for a "living" memorial (example: the creation of a Woodrow Wilson Center-type institution). It might also include a specific property for World War II museum space. Remarking on the humble origins of President Eisenhower and his gratitude for the opportunities offered to him, she stated that providing opportunities for future leaders would be a fitting means of memorializing him.

The Chairman introduced Anne Eisenhower. She thanked the Commission for including the family in this meeting and stated that the family desires a continuing relationship.

Senator Inouye, speaking to the importance of the Eisenhower family's involvement, noted that the Roosevelt Memorial required over 40 years to complete. He indicated that he considered involving the Eisenhower family to be essential. He restated Senator Stevens' earlier comment that we want to be around for completion of the memorial and that keeping the project on schedule means involving the family.

Senator Stevens agreed with Senator Inouye's remarks, noting the importance of having a consensus among all parties involved.

Chairman Siciliano noted that the Commission's offices would have to relocate within several months and that he and staff members had been looking at possible new space at 1629 K St.

The Chairman reopened the discussion of future meeting dates. Several members noted particular months in which they would not be available; it appeared that June and September would be acceptable.

Senator Stevens asked whether other nations would be asked to participate in plans for the memorial. Senator Inouye said that he believed that other nations, such as Great Britain and France, would expect to participate.

Sally Blumenthal was recognized by the Chairman. She stated her willingness and that of the NPS to assist. Senator Stevens emphasized the necessity for active participation of the NPS for eventual success .

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

(Minutes Approved April 25, 2002)