

**Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission**  
**Meeting — September 27, 2005**  
**Dirksen Senate Office Building – Room 192 – Washington, D.C.**

**APPROVED MARCH 30, 2006**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Rocco C. Siciliano, Chairman  
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Vice Chairman  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Representative Dennis Moore  
Alfred Geduldig  
Susan Banes Harris

**Commissioners Absent:**

Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Pat Roberts  
Representative Leonard Boswell  
Representative Jerry Moran  
Representative William “Mac” Thornberry  
David Eisenhower

**Congressional Staff in Attendance:**

Marie Blanco (for Senator Inouye)  
George Lowe IV (for Senator Stevens)  
Joel Leftwich (for Senator Roberts)  
Major Claire Steele (for Senator Reed)  
Howard Bauleke (for Representative Moore)  
Bryan Whitworth (for Representative Thornberry)

**GSA—Agency Liaison Division**

Lesly Wilson  
Wanda Palmer  
Matthew Robertson  
Greg Kimmet  
Joel Brunk

**Others in Attendance:**

Andrew Demetriou, Esq.	Rod Mercer (Gensler)	Maria Germano
Louis Galambos	Anne Eisenhower	Peter Chomowicz
Susan English (Gensler)	Mary Eisenhower	
Mary Ann Lasch (Gensler)	Wolfgang Flottl	
	Evan Thompson	

**DDEMC Staff:**

Carl Reddel	Richard Striner	Justin Gilstrap
Joyce Jacobson	Eileen Krichten	Emily Nye
Daniel Feil		Ricardo Da Silva (Intern)

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order, welcoming Commissioners, staff, and guests.

Chairman Siciliano called for approval of the Commission's meeting minutes of June 20, 2005. Upon motion made by Senator Inouye and seconded by Commissioner Alfred Geduldig, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Siciliano invited Executive Architect Daniel Feil to report to the Commission on the process of designing and building the physical portion of the Eisenhower Memorial. Mr. Feil presented a proposed strategic plan for the physical memorial, a plan that envisions its completion in five and a half years. Specific milestones in this plan include site approvals by early 2006, site dedication in June 2006, and completion of the design by December 2008. Mr. Feil expressed optimism in regard to this plan, provided that a good pace in its implementation could be set and maintained. He emphasized the fact that the Preferred Site Study by Gensler found no major flaws in the site that could constitute a hindrance later.

Chairman Siciliano replied that the Commission hoped to set a rapid pace for the project.

Mr. Feil presented a Critical Path Method (CPM) chart developed under the three general sub-headings of "funding," "design team and design management," and "site selection and approval" with a timeline.

Mr. Feil reported that three public site review agencies — the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC), the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the Commission of Fine Arts — must approve the use of the site before design work can begin. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) is scheduled to make a presentation before the NCMAC on November 8. Two preconditions are required for such an agency review: (1) either the Secretary of the Interior (with National Park Service/National Capital Region acting on her behalf) or the Administrator for General Services Administration (GSA) must take the lead in presenting the EMC's proposal to the three review agencies. [The EMC legislation requires a site to be found in the District of Columbia under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.]; (2) the EMC's request for Area I status has been reinitiated and is in process. Area I approval is a requirement of the three review agencies for final approval of the EMC proposal. In this regard, Mr. Feil suggested that a call from Capitol Hill to the Secretary of Interior's office might expedite this process. The National Park Service (NPS) has not yet agreed to represent the EMC to the site review agencies.

In addition to review agency approval and Area I designation, another process is required for site dedication: the consolidation of land at the site under single-agency ownership. Two land transfers will be required. Specifically, the Department of Education (DOE) and the General Services Administration (GSA) must cede their portions of the site to NPS, assuming it will be the final landowner. Concurrently, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation must agree to close the part of Maryland Avenue that runs

through the site and then transfer ownership to NPS. The D.C. City Council must approve this street closing and land transfer after a public hearing. NCPC, moreover, must approve the street closing pursuant to its mission of L'Enfant Plan oversight. NCPC staff has stated that the street closing is permissible as long as the vista down the Maryland Avenue corridor is preserved.

Chairman Siciliano observed that preliminary meetings with District of Columbia Councilmember Jack Evans and with D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton have been positive.

Mr. Feil concluded this part of the briefing by suggesting that as site approval, Area I designation, and land consolidation are occurring, the EMC could make its site recommendations to the President and Congress. Mr. Feil further suggested that the EMC send its recommendations and legislative requests to Congress by February, 2006 in the anticipation that all the preconditions for site dedication could be met by June, 2006. If the timeline succeeds, then EMC could announce the site dedication next summer.

Mr. Feil reported that “pre-design programs” — the qualitative and quantitative requirements for the Eisenhower Memorial — should be completed before the procurement of the design teams. He stated that sufficient funding for design and design management in fiscal year 2006 will be necessary in order to keep the process moving.

Senator Inouye had requested some visual images to illustrate the design possibilities at the site. Mr. Feil presented a series of sketches. These sketches envisioned a “welcoming element” placed on the part of the site closest to the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian. Mr. Feil explained that this welcoming element could be supplemented by pavement changes for the purpose of encouraging visitors to walk from the museums to the Eisenhower Memorial. If the Eisenhower Memorial attracted only ten percent (10%) of the visitors to the aforementioned museums, the resulting foot traffic would amount to almost 600,000 visitors per year.

Moving south from the welcoming element across the Maryland Avenue “view corridor,” Mr. Feil showed that a covered element could be built on the current GSA-DOE portion of the site to enable year-round activity.

Chairman Siciliano observed that preliminary discussions of this concept with DOE staff had elicited positive reactions.

Anne Eisenhower asked Mr. Feil to describe the nature of this “covered element.” Mr. Feil replied that the fundamental need was protection from the elements for year-round use; this might not require construction of a building. He also said that a building could be located on this 1.4 acre area of the GSA portion of the site.

Chairman Siciliano observed that a below-grade auditorium might also be constructed on the site. Mr. Feil agreed, observing that most of the site is undeveloped underneath and that below-grade utilities are concentrated on the site's fringes. Turning to the possibilities

of, and constraints to, above-grade construction, Mr. Feil reported that the EMC could build structures up to ninety feet in height on the “build zone” wedges of the site that are bisected by the zones of medium to restricted development.

Anne Eisenhower observed that Mr. Feil’s presentation appeared to be essentially a study of constraints and possibilities rather than a definition of what the EMC intends to build. Chairman Siciliano concurred, adding that the EMC’s study of design possibilities remains preliminary.

Mr. Demetriou asked Mr. Feil to address the basic issues of long-term administration and maintenance. Mr. Feil replied that while NPS has a very good record of maintaining the exterior portions of memorials, the agency has had less experience in, and is not enthusiastic about, maintaining indoor spaces. Mr. Feil mentioned the maintenance “dowry,” representing ten percent (10%) of the design and construction costs earmarked for NPS Foundation. Mr. Demetriou stated that NPS is not in the business of maintaining museums, for which reason a different operating body might have to be created for maintaining the interior portions of the Eisenhower Memorial.

Mr. Feil turned to cost and funding issues, reviewing a number of comparable memorial projects — projects from the recent past, as well as projects under construction or projected for future construction. Comparison figures as to size (acreage) and cost were presented for the FDR Memorial (completed 1997), the National Japanese-American Memorial (2000), the World War II Memorial (completed 2004), the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia (projected for 2006), the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial (projected for 2008), and the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial (projected for 2010). Analysis of these comparables yielded the following estimate for the physical portion of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial: for the four-acre site, the EMC can expect to spend \$40 million per developed acre, of which two acres should be developed intensely, for a total of \$80 million (FY05).

Mr. Feil reported that twenty-five percent (25%) of the total is required in the design phase of the memorial project — for final planning, design, and design management — and should be funded in 2006 to keep to the proposed schedule.

Commissioner Harris asked if a landscape architect would be hired as a member of the architectural design team or separately. Mr. Feil replied that the design team would constitute a professional collaboration clustered around a particular “lead” profession, but including architects, landscape architects, exhibit designers, and graphic designers.

Senator Stevens asked whether it might be premature for the EMC to decide too much right away. Mr. Feil replied that John Parsons of NPS regarded the nine-month plan leading to site dedication as realistic. Senator Stevens discussed the delays that occurred in other memorialization projects due to public opposition, and stated his concern that a protest might be triggered by the EMC’s proposal to close a portion of Maryland Avenue. Mr. Feil replied that the initial response to this proposal from the District of Columbia Department

of Transportation had been positive and that a letter of conceptual agreement is being prepared.

Mary Eisenhower asked whether issues of accessibility will affect the design dynamics since a street would be running through the middle of the Eisenhower Memorial. Chairman Siciliano replied that a street, as such, would not bisect the memorial, since Maryland Avenue would be closed to vehicular traffic. Mr. Feil stated that a four-acre site is quite large — twice the size of Farragut Square — and that multiple design presences would be possible.

Chairman Siciliano stated that Senator Stevens' expression of concern was helpful, and that public exposure of EMC proposals will trigger immediate public responses. It is precisely for that reason that preparatory meetings have already been held with members of the D.C. City Council, DOE staff, and others. Mr. Demetriou pointed out that the Preferred Site Study by Gensler examined a number of potential problem issues such as loss of parking revenue due to the street closure. Pre-emptive solutions have already been developed; in the case of the parking revenue, the EMC staff have been discussing a one-time payment to the District of Columbia government as compensation for loss of expected future revenue. Ms. English, representing Gensler, reiterated the good news of the Gensler Study in regard to site stakeholders: all stakeholders (including NCPC and CFA) whom the Gensler team consulted regard the site as under-utilized.

Senator Inouye stated that he took the concerns of Senator Stevens very seriously. He recalled the delays that were caused for the World War II Memorial due to the opposition of a small coalition. Senator Inouye reiterated his belief that this site is the best possible location for an Eisenhower Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

Senator Stevens expressed some additional concerns about funding, in light of the projected appropriations for relief in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Senator Stevens recommended early publicity for the EMC's recommended site in order to flush out opposition. Mr. Feil mentioned that the presentations to the NCMAC, NCPC and CFA are all public sessions.

Senator Inouye stated that he would support an appropriation to cover the short-term costs of a design review plan with a target site dedication-date of June, 2006. Senator Stevens replied that he saw no problem with such an appropriation, as long as the work could go forward as rapidly as possible. Mr. Feil stated that he hoped to schedule back-to-back hearings with the three review agencies, culminating in February, 2006. While the land-transfer and Area I designation processes would take longer, he expressed the hope that design team funding could be in hand by June, 2006.

Mr. Demetriou reminded the Commission that Congress and the President should be notified of the Commission's progress in a timely manner.

Chairman Siciliano turned to the subject of the "living memorial" proposal from the Eisenhower Institute. He informed the Commission that after receipt of this proposal he

asked for reactions from EMC consultants as well as from three other individuals: Professor Louis Galambos and Commissioners Alfred Geduldig (Chair of the Public Liaison Committee) and Susan Banes Harris (Chair of the Architecture Committee). In light of the comments that he had received, Chairman Siciliano sent a memorandum (dated September 27, 2005) to the members of the EMC (copy appended). Chairman Siciliano summarized the salient points of that memorandum.

Chairman Siciliano reported that Columbia University is interested in participating in EMC's deliberations concerning the living memorial, and that Lisa Anderson, the Dean of Columbia's School of Public Affairs, will confer with him about the issue. Eisenhower Institute Chairman Brent Scowcroft, who earlier this year was awarded an honorary degree from Columbia, has learned that Columbia may rename its School of International and Public Affairs in honor of Eisenhower.

Senator Stevens stated he was very pleased to hear about this development. Chairman Siciliano added that Columbia has essentially put the operations of its American Assembly program – founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower during his term as President of Columbia University – on temporary hold.

Chairman Siciliano asked EMC Executive Director Carl Reddel to discuss the operations and finances of the Commission's consultants. Executive Director Reddel reported that an updated memorandum of understanding with the Commission's agency liaison, GSA, has been signed, and the Commission's request for operational funding is pending in Congress.

There being no further business, Chairman Siciliano declared the meeting adjourned.