

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
Meeting — March 30, 2006
Dirksen Senate Office Building — Room 138 — Washington, D.C.
(Approved March 31, 2009)

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent:

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

Congressional Staff in Attendance:

Marie Blanco (for Senator Inouye)
George Lowe (for Senator Stevens)
Joel Leftwich (for Senator Roberts)
Jason Schneider (for Senator Reed)
Lea Stueve (for Representative Moran)

Howard Bauleke (for Representative Moore)
Erin Dowd (for Representative Thornberry)

GSA

Amy Hecker
Doug Pulak
Tom Hodnett

Gensler

Susan English
Rod Mercer
Jeff Barber
Elizabeth L. Riordan

National Park Service

John Parsons
Sally Blumenthal
Glenn De Marr

Others in Attendance

Andrew Demetriou, Esq.
Louis Galambos (Johns Hopkins)
Susan Eisenhower
Tom Stillitano (People to People)
Alan Harwood (EDAW)
Peter Chomowicz
Evan Thompson

DDEMC

Carl Reddel
Daniel Feil
Joyce Jacobson
Eileen Krichten

Emily Nye
Richard Striner
Justin Gilstrap
Christopher Nitti (Intern)

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m., welcoming Commissioners, staff, and guests.

Chairman Siciliano called for approval of the Commission's meeting minutes of September 27, 2005. Upon motion made by Senator Inouye and seconded by Commissioner Harris, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Siciliano reported on the status of Area I approval for the Eisenhower memorial, explaining the statutory requirement for Congress to legislate this approval within 150 days after the Secretary of Interior has submitted the request. After noting that this is the second time the Commission has requested such approval, the Chairman reported that the measure has won the necessary committee approvals in both the House and Senate. Votes in both Houses are pending.

Chairman Siciliano invited Executive Architect Daniel Feil to report on the process of physical memorialization. Mr. Feil reviewed the schedule that he presented at the last Commission meeting, with its critical path method chart and timeline. Mr. Feil observed that as of last September he was recommending simultaneous action on Area I approval, site approvals, and land transfer, looking forward to a site dedication in June 2006. Mr. Feil then reported that in light of the procedural preferences of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), he is now following a sequential approach to attaining Area I congressional approval and agency site approvals, to allow a possible site dedication in August 2006. Formal road closure approval by the District of Columbia and land transfers to National Park Service (NPS) are now projected after design and construction per direction from NPS.

Mr. Feil discussed ongoing work on a Traffic Impact Study and an **Environmental Assessment**, the latter being a new, more extensive requirement from NCPC (replacing the previously required Environmental Analysis). The target date for completion of these two tasks is June, with the goal of seeking site approval from the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in July and a hearing before NCPC on August 3.

Mr. Feil reported that Gensler has validated the projected five and one-half to six-year time span for the design and construction of the Eisenhower memorial. For cost estimating purposes, the total overall cost of the physical memorial was projected to be \$100 million. The project costs in these early years will be for professional services (design management and design itself), which at this stage are typically estimated as a percentage of construction cost. The \$100M figure was selected as allowing for sufficient funds to be programmed for the professional services, given the size of the site and the intended nature and quality of the memorial. It was emphasized that the Commissioners had not yet approved the amount and later on would be addressing the memorial's total cost as part of their review of the memorial's design.

Turning to short-term funding, Mr. Feil recommended that the Commission request \$3 million in supplemental funds for fiscal year 2006, noting that existing funding for work on the physical memorial continues through June only. Mr. Feil also noted that statutory requirements will oblige the Commission to have all construction funds on hand by 2009.

Chairman Siciliano welcomed John Parsons of the National Park Service (NPS) and stated the good news of NPS becoming an institutional partner with the Commission in seeking site approvals. Mr. Parsons replied that the Park Service is delighted to be a partner with the Commission in creating the Eisenhower memorial. He added that the Commission has made great progress in the past four to five months, that the Park Service will join with the Commission in seeking site approvals from CFA and NCPC, that the Environmental Assessment is well under way, and that there is widespread enthusiasm for converting the space at the Commission's preferred site into a presidential memorial. Mr. Parsons explained that the NPS role will go beyond the task of physical maintenance. NPS will also make available historians and park rangers to assist in interpreting the living legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Chairman Siciliano stated that he was pleased that another institutional partnership is being developed with the Department of Education (DOEd). The chairman reported that a memorandum of understanding between the Commission and the Department has recently been signed. Discussions with DOEd have encompassed collaboration on both the physical and living aspects of the Eisenhower memorial.

Chairman Siciliano invited Commissioner Alfred Geduldig to report on the deliberations of his committee on living memorialization. Commissioner Geduldig stated that the deliberations of his committee in regard to the living memorial were guided by a sense of obligation to inform American youth about the life and career of Eisenhower. Mr. Geduldig observed that the idea of a living memorial had been endorsed by the Commission to portray the Eisenhower story as part of the American story — past, present, and future. For example, though Eisenhower was born in a world without automobiles, he created America's Interstate Highway System. Though he was born in a world without aircraft, he created NASA and the space program. The committee has examined different ways to tell the Eisenhower story — not just through static materials such as photographs but also through films and interactive technologies. The committee has approached other groups — the Eisenhower legacy organizations, the Department of Education, Gettysburg College, and Columbia University, among others — to elicit their views in an open process. The committee hopes to make a recommendation to the Commission later this year.

Chairman Siciliano invited Susan Eisenhower to report on the status of the Eisenhower Institute. Ms. Eisenhower replied that she was pleased to report that the Board of the Institute voted six weeks ago to consolidate with Gettysburg College. She stated that this development would be a "great plus" for the Institute by providing an opportunity for an extension of Institute programs aimed at undergraduate and graduate students. Chairman Siciliano offered his congratulations and observed that he had been told the Institute's link with Gettysburg College might not preclude additional affiliations with Columbia University and other entities.

Senator Stevens inquired about the request for a \$3 million supplemental appropriation. Mr. Feil replied that without the additional FY06 funds, Commission

work on the physical memorial would slow down substantially after June 2006. Chairman Siciliano added that the Commission's original request of \$5.5 million for fiscal year 2006 had been cut to \$2 million and then to \$1.7 million, observing that even those funds have not been released by the Department of Defense. Mr. Feil explained proposed funding relative to physical memorialization activity by fiscal years through completion of the project. In response to a question from Senator Inouye, Mr. Feil said that a schedule extension due to a lack of additional FY06 funds would effectively delay the entire project, thereby extending the completion date by that same time frame.

Susan Eisenhower asked for an explanation of the physical memorial timeline for concept design. Mr. Feil replied that a Pre-Concept Design Architectural Programming Study with Gensler would begin in May, 2006, contingent on receipt of existing FY06 funding. Once the architectural program is in place, and with the additional FY06 funds, the design management and design team procurements can begin. The design team can be expected to produce a preliminary concept or visual realization in three to six months. Ms. Eisenhower asked whether the design vocabulary would be modern or traditional. Mr. Feil replied that such a question was premature, while noting that the site's location — not on the Mall but rather across the street from the Mall — presented an opportunity for a design that could be visually iconic. Chairman Siciliano observed that the Commission intended to have high quality design for the memorial.

Ms. Eisenhower stated that she was still not clear with regard to the timing of the preliminary architectural concept. Mr. Feil replied that this development would occur in 2007 if the funding schedule can be maintained.

Senator Inouye remarked that he has been involved in the creation of both the FDR memorial and the Japanese-American memorial. He observed that in many cases memorial designs have evolved from preliminary concepts of the "Grecian temple" variety to something more innovative. He further observed that the Eisenhower memorial, with its site across the street from the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian, may become the most visited site in Washington, D.C. Senator Stevens stated that he shared Senator Inouye's vision, adding that designers must "step out of the box" in their design vision for a national memorial to Eisenhower, a man who "saved the world."

Chairman Siciliano mentioned that he had a discussion several years ago with architect Frank Gehry, who indicated an interest in a possible design of the Eisenhower Memorial. Chairman Siciliano stated that the process of selecting an architect will be a careful and deliberative process, in keeping with its nature as a memorial to a President and as required by federal procurement regulations.

Senator Stevens and Chairman Siciliano discussed the importance of completing the Eisenhower memorial while they and other World War II veterans are still alive. Senator Inouye stated that he and the other Senators serving on the Eisenhower

Memorial Commission will work very hard to secure the supplemental appropriation of \$3 million. Senator Roberts endorsed Senator Inouye's statement.

Commissioner Harris stated that in light of the progress made by the Commission in recent months any lapse in the work of the Commission would be foolish.

Chairman Siciliano reported that Lisa Anderson, the Dean of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, had traveled to Los Angeles to meet with himself along with Commissioners Alfred Geduldig and Susan Harris, Special Counsel Andrew Demetriou, Executive Director Carl Reddel, Executive Architect Daniel Feil, and Evan Thompson regarding the work of the Commission and possible collaboration with Columbia University.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.