

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
Meeting — July 26, 2007
Strom Thurmond Room (S-238), The United States Capitol
(Approved March 31, 2009)

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Congressional Staff in Attendance:

Howard Bauleke (Rep. Dennis Moore)
Kody Bessent (Rep. Mac Thornberry)
Marie Blanco (Senator Daniel Inouye)
Amanda Cott (Rep. Nancy Boyda)
John Howland (Rep. Todd Tiahrt)
Joel Leftwich (Senator Pat Roberts)
George Lowe (Senator Ted Stevens)
Mark Paolicelli (Senator Jack Reed)
Lea Stueve (Rep. Jerry Moran)

General Services Administration

Len Weiser — Project Executive, NCR
Tom Hodnett — Director, Agency Liaison
Division, NCR
Lesly Wilson — Sr. Asst. Gen. Counsel,
Office of the General Counsel
Wanda Palmer — Mgt. Analyst, Agency
Liaison Div., NCR
Dennis Drake — Dir. of Communications and
Cong. Affairs Liaison, NCR
Donald Sisler — HR (IT) Specialist, NCR
Vickie McFadden — Fin. Mgt. Intern, NCR

DDEMC

Andrew Demetriou, Esq. — Special Counsel
Carl Reddel — Executive Director
Daniel Feil — Executive Architect
Joyce Jacobson — Opers. and Programs Mgr.
Eileen Krichten — Financial Manager
Emily Nye — Cong. Liaison/Project Coord.
Diana Dobrovetsky
Richard Striner

Commissioners Absent:

Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Jack Reed
Rep. Leonard Boswell
Rep. Dennis Moore
Rep. Jerry Moran
Rep. Mac Thornberry
D. David Eisenhower

National Park Service

John G. Parsons — Associate Regional
Director, Lands Resources and
Planning, NCR
Sally Blumenthal — Deputy Associate
Regional Director, Lands Resources
and Planning, NCR
Stephen Lorenzetti — Acting Superintendent,
National Mall and Memorial Parks
Glenn DeMarr — Project Manager, NCR

Others in Attendance:

Mary Jean Eisenhower — President and Chief
Executive Officer, People to People
International
Tom Stillitano — People to People
International
Daniel DeNicola — Vice President for
Development, Eisenhower Institute
Edward Feiner — Director, Washington
Office, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill,
LLP

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m., welcoming Commissioners, staff, and guests. The Chairman observed that John Parsons and Sally Blumenthal of the National Park Service (NPS), both in attendance, had provided powerful support for the Eisenhower Memorial project since its inception. He especially appreciated this support at the conclusion of their careers: both will retire from federal service in January 2008. The Chairman offered a special welcome to Mary Eisenhower of People to People International, Dwight D. Eisenhower's granddaughter.

Chairman Siciliano noted that the last full Commission meeting took place a year ago and that much has been accomplished since then. Specifically, the site for the Eisenhower Memorial has been approved, with no dissenting votes, by the federal regulatory commissions that have jurisdiction. Moreover, Area I approval for the Eisenhower Memorial was granted by unanimous votes of Congress and signed by President Bush.

Currently, a Pre-Design Program study is under way by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP (SOM). The Pre-Design Program has sought input from Eisenhower contemporaries, the Eisenhower Family, the Eisenhower Legacy Organizations, the members of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, Eisenhower scholars, Eisenhower biographers, and others who have investigated his legacy. Chairman Siciliano noted that 2007 has been a banner year for Eisenhower scholarship, with important new books from Michael Korda and David Nichols, along with a documentary film by David Hoffman on Eisenhower and Sputnik.

The Chairman invited comment from John Parsons of NPS and Edward Feiner of SOM. Mr. Parsons congratulated the EMC on site approval, which he termed not only a major accomplishment but "a miracle" in light of the prime location of the site. He stated that the accomplishments of the last two years are cause for celebration. Mr. Feiner called the Eisenhower memorial project a "remarkable opportunity to show appreciation for a remarkable American," whose values could guide us today.

Chairman Siciliano reported that a Memorandum of Agreement had been signed with General Services Administration to establish roles and responsibilities during the process of design and procurement.

The Chairman then turned to the issue of EMC funding, observing that the funds available to the Commission are dangerously low: even after a painful series of lay-offs, the staff activities of the Commission could only continue through the spring of 2008 without additional funding. He expressed his appreciation to Senator Inouye and Representative Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) for seeking a pending appropriation of \$1 or \$1.2 million for the Commission in the Interior Appropriations bill. He stated, however, that this level of funding would only restore the EMC's most basic operations and would not fund design. The Chairman asked Executive Architect Daniel Feil to report in detail on the funding alternatives relative to the timing of design and construction.

Mr. Feil reported that fiscal year 2008 EMC funding of \$1 million would support a very limited amount of work: in effect, the memorialization effort would lose a year. Increased funding at three different levels would enable three successive accomplishments. First, an

FY08 appropriation of \$1.6 million would enable completion of preparatory work for procuring the design team: this would set back the memorialization effort by six months instead of a year. Next, an FY08 appropriation of \$3.35 million would enable selection of a design team, negotiation of the fee, and announcement of the selection to the public. This effort would take approximately 13 months. Finally, an FY08 appropriation of \$5.85 million would enable the EMC to announce a design concept. This effort would take approximately 19 months.

Mr. Feil further stated that federal funding is most efficient and appropriate for the *design* of the Eisenhower Memorial. Funding for the actual *construction* may be split through a public-private mix. Depending on funding, construction might begin as early as 2011, with completion in 2013.

Chairman Siciliano stated that the timing of these events was of personal concern to him and to Senators Stevens and Inouye because of their age: they had all served in combat under Eisenhower during World War II. They would like to see the completion of his memorial during their lifetimes.

Chairman Siciliano reviewed the options and the historical precedents for federal funding of construction. He noted that construction of the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and Theodore Roosevelt Memorial were funded 100% by the federal government. Comparatively, the FDR Memorial was funded 89% by the federal government, and the Washington Monument and Kennedy Center received 75% and 65%, respectively.

Chairman Siciliano, Senator Inouye and Senator Stevens expressed their interest in private fundraising. Commissioner Geduldig asked whether EMC budgetary planning had made allowance for such an approach. Mr. Feil replied that the staff recommended using EMC funds to pay for a Fundraising Feasibility Study. Executive Director Carl Reddel affirmed that the staff recommends such a study as the next logical step in the memorialization effort.

Mr. Feil observed that delays in the memorialization project will result in increased costs, noting that the rate of inflation in the construction industry was higher than the overall rate of inflation. He stated that delays in construction would raise the cost of construction by \$6 million to \$9 million for every year of delay.

Senator Inouye observed that it took the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission thirty years to reach the point that the EMC has reached already. He added that a major source of delay in the case of the FDR Memorial was a succession of twenty designs that were developed and then rejected. Senator Inouye noted that the fiscal year 2008 appropriation of approximately \$1 million for the Commission was pending in the Interior appropriations bill in both houses of Congress and that he and Senator Stevens would seek continuing support in the Defense appropriations bill for the memorialization effort. Senator Inouye expressed the hope that the EMC can avoid the debacle of repeatedly-rejected successive memorial designs. He commended Chairman Siciliano for working closely with the Eisenhower Family, whereas the FDR Commission had not achieved a productive relationship with the Roosevelt Family.

Chairman Siciliano confirmed that extensive consultations with the Eisenhower Family had taken place. He noted that consultations with all interested parties in the course of the Pre-

design Program had resulted in a thorough record of the varied opinions on the memorialization. In addition, the online public opinion poll has returned very interesting and useful data on the public view of Eisenhower's legacy.

Senator Inouye observed that the future potential of the Eisenhower Memorial was "spectacular," given its location across from the National Air & Space Museum and the Museum of the American Indian. The memorial site would constitute an "Eisenhower Square" consistent with the L'Enfant plan for the Capital. Commissioner Geduldig observed that it was all the more important for the Eisenhower Memorial to be significant in its own right, given the proximity of such distinguished and popular neighbor institutions on the Mall.

Chairman Siciliano observed that the EMC's important staff-restructuring legislation is moving through the process satisfactorily. Howard Bauleke observed that Commissioner Rep. Dennis Moore had spoken that week to Rep. Nick J. Rahall II, Chair of the Congressional Committee with jurisdiction over the bill, about scheduling a hearing on it.

Senator Inouye returned to the discussion of funding and noted that "earmarking" is an issue in the Senate. He cautioned that in the current appropriations environment funding cannot be guaranteed.

Mary Eisenhower stated that she was impressed by the work of the EMC and stated her gratitude for EMC's consultative work with the Eisenhower Family. She also said that she is pleased to assist the Commission in its memorialization efforts.

The Commissioners present were in consensus that significant accomplishments had been made to date, due to the combined efforts of the Congressional staff, the Commissioners themselves, and the EMC staff. Senator Inouye stated that a fundraising plan was important since appropriations politics were difficult. Chairman Siciliano concurred, but added that a fundraising campaign for *construction* will depend upon the EMC's ability to show the public what the memorial will look like.

Chairman Siciliano reported on planning for the "living memorial" component of the Eisenhower Memorial, observing that the Eisenhower Legacy Organizations, in the course of a June 28, 2007 meeting that was held at the offices of the Eisenhower Institute, had reached a consensus that the "living memorial" to Eisenhower *already exists* through the work of the Eisenhower Legacy Organizations themselves. In light of this consensus, the Legacy Organizations recommend that the Eisenhower Memorial should facilitate their work through on-site and off-site links to their various programs, specifically state-of-the-art electronic links. Chairman Siciliano endorsed this recommendation, as did Mary Eisenhower, who called it a "brilliant solution" to the challenge of living memorialization.

Executive Director Carl Reddel introduced Mr. Stephen Lorenzetti of NPS, who is the Acting Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks. Mr. Lorenzetti stated that NPS is very interested in using electronic links as a "hook" to interest American youth in the use of our national parks. Mr. Reddel also introduced Dr. Daniel DeNicola, Vice President for Program Development at the Eisenhower Institute, who has led the successful restructuring of the Institute.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.