

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
March 31, 2009
U.S. Capitol — Room S-128 — Washington, D.C.
(APPROVED ON MARCH 25, 2010)

Commissioners in Attendance:

Rocco C. Siciliano, Chairman
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Vice Chairman
Senator Robert Bennett
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Pat Roberts
Representative Leonard Boswell
Representative Dennis Moore
Representative Jerry Moran
Representative Mac Thornberry
D. David Eisenhower
Alfred Geduldig
Susan Banes Harris

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Congressional Staff in Attendance:

Marie Blanco (for Senator Inouye)
Susan McAvoy (for Rep. Boswell)
Howard Bauleke (for Representative Moore)
Liz King (for Senator Reed)
Mike Seyfert (for Senator Roberts)
Tyler Owens (for Senator Bennett)
Michael Seeds (for Rep. Thornberry)

General Services Administration (GSA)

Thomas Hodnett, Director, GSA Agency Liaison Division
Antonio Alonso, Chief Architect, Property Development Division
Bonnie Echoles, Contracting Officer

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC)

Carl Reddel
Dan Feil
Joyce Jacobson
Emily Nye
Thomas Otto
Octavia Saine
Richard Striner
Pepsie Michel
Laura Milazzo
Andrew Demetriou, Esq., Special Counsel

Others in Attendance

Alex Eisenhower, Great Grandson of Dwight D. Eisenhower

James Nellis, Guest of EMC

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., welcoming Commissioners, staff, and guests.

Chairman Siciliano called for approval of the Commission's meeting minutes of March 30, 2006 and July 26, 2007. The Chairman observed that while these minutes had been reviewed and discussed at previous meetings, there had not been a quorum of Commissioners present to approve them. Commissioner Geduldig moved that the minutes stand approved. The motion, which was seconded, passed unanimously.

Chairman Siciliano called the Commission's attention to an important letter, dated March 19, 2009, sent by Sen. Inouye to President Obama. The Chairman noted that the Senate was completing a series of roll call votes and that Senator Inouye would join the meeting shortly. Chairman Siciliano then asked Executive Director Carl W. Reddel to describe developments in the Commission's work within the previous six months. The Chairman noted that selection of a designer for the Eisenhower Memorial was not a simple process. The procedures for selection of federal architects were specified by the General Services Administration (GSA) to comply with the Design Excellence Program selection process.

Executive Director Reddel reviewed the events that followed the Commission's approval of a pre-design programming process, following the recommendation of Executive Architect Daniel Feil. Mr. Reddel noted that the three-volume Pre-Design Program, produced in collaboration with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, was followed by a three-stage designer selection process in partnership with GSA's Public Buildings Service, a process involving thousands of hours of work, stringent and rigorous procedures, and a high level of excellence. Mr. Reddel observed that the Commission staff briefed the staffs of Commission members throughout the process and briefed most of the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Mr. Reddel then requested Executive Architect Daniel Feil to explain these developments further.

Mr Feil stated that one year ago, the Commission voted to move forward with the designer selection process by approving four items. First, the Pre-Design Program was approved. Second, GSA's Design Excellence Program was approved as the process to be used to procure the memorial design team. Third, lead designers were restricted to citizens of the United States. Fourth, a portfolio-based competition was specified.

Mr. Feil noted that the selection process began in August 2008 when the Request For Qualifications was made public on the Federal Business Opportunities website. Forty-four submissions were received and forwarded to an Evaluation Board including private practice peers within the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, information/exhibit design, and lighting design, as well as representatives from GSA and EMC. In October 2008, this Evaluation Board completed Stage One of the evaluation process by reducing the forty-four submissions to a preliminary short-list of seven. The selections were based upon the portfolio of the lead designer and the work of the associated firm as well as a statement of design philosophy.

In December 2008, the Evaluation Board completed Stage Two of the process by reducing these seven short-listed applicants to a final short-list of four teams. These four teams were paid a stipend to prepare a detailed response (design vision) to the pre-design program, not only in regard to the memorial site but also in regard to the thematic issues of memorializing Dwight D. Eisenhower. The applicants were given the choice of premises regarding the closure or the non-closure of the block of Maryland Avenue to vehicular traffic through the approved site. Stage Three included an evaluation by a Design Jury, a special panel of design peers and Commissioner David Eisenhower. The Design Jury reported on the pros and cons of the various design visions to the Evaluation Board. The Evaluation Board selected a design team based on a number of factors and made its recommendations to the Commission.

Chairman Siciliano emphasized that the design visions produced for the selection process would not be made public.

Senators Inouye and Roberts joined the Commission meeting, whereupon Chairman Siciliano called the Commission's attention to the principal order of business, a vote on the recommendation from the Design Excellence process that the firm of Gehry Partners, LLP be the Commission's first choice to design the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, with the firm of Krueck & Sexton Architects as the second choice. The Chairman asked for discussion.

Executive Director Reddel observed that the Commission staff, in collaboration with GSA, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Park Service (NPS), and other agencies, had pushed this process to completion with a level of momentum unequalled in other memorialization efforts. He noted that additional financial

resources were now essential if the Commission is to keep up this degree of momentum.

Chairman Siciliano noted the presence of guests from GSA, including Antonio Alonso, Chair of the Evaluation Board and Bonnie Echoles, Contracting Officer, who could vouch for the integrity of the selection procedure. Daniel Feil observed that the designer selection process of GSA's Design Excellence Program is rigorous, fair, and open. He noted that in addition to himself, two members of the Commission, Messrs. Siciliano and Eisenhower, had served on the Evaluation Board. He noted that two other members of the Commission, Alfred Geduldig and Susan Banes Harris, served as observers during the Evaluation Board's deliberations. He also noted that Commissioner Eisenhower was the only person to serve as a member of both the Design Jury and the Evaluation Board.

Senator Reed joined the Commission meeting.

Senator Roberts moved the adoption of the following resolution in keeping with the staff recommendation:

WHEREAS, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission was authorized under Public Law No. 106-79 (October 25, 1999) and constituted by the President of the United States to plan and build an appropriate permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, to further its mission, it is necessary at this time for the Commission to select a design team to develop concepts, designs and architectural plans for the Eisenhower Memorial;

WHEREAS, the Commission's Executive Director and Executive Architect were directed to manage a design competition, through the General Services Administration Design Excellence Program, for the evaluation of qualified design teams and the development of a recommendation for the selection of a first choice design team and a second choice design team; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the recommendation and been briefed by the Executive Architect and the Chairman on the selection process and recommendations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Commission endorses the recommendation to select Gehry Partners, LLP of Los Angeles, California as the first choice team and

Krueck & Sexton of Chicago, Illinois as the second choice design team for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

Senator Bennett joined the Commission meeting. Chairman Siciliano welcomed the Senator — the newest member of the Commission.

Commissioner Geduldig observed that the selection process was competitive and rigorous with a blue-ribbon Design Jury and Evaluation Board composed of world-famous designers, architects, landscape architects, lighting designers and information designers devoting many hours to make their recommendations. He further elaborated that Frank Gehry is the world's most accomplished architect, the "Frank Lloyd Wright of the modern era." Commissioner Geduldig stated that the other finalists were also architectural firms of high rank and that the selection was a tribute to the hard work and good judgment of the Commission and the Evaluation Board.

Representative Moore seconded the motion of Senator Roberts.

Commissioner Eisenhower stated that as a Commissioner and a member of the Eisenhower family he could vouch for the integrity and excellence of the selection process. He further stated that he found the quality of the site and its possibilities overwhelming. He joined Representative Moore in seconding the motion.

Commissioner Harris, Chair of the Commission's Architectural Committee, observed that as a Commissioner active in the selection process she found it a marvelous experience to meet the members of the Evaluation Board and Design Jury. She stated that the design teams dug deeply into the legacy of Eisenhower; some even traveled to Abilene. She stated that the selection itself had been difficult because all of the finalists were so good.

Chairman Siciliano called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously at 3:35 p.m.

Chairman Siciliano noted that news of the Commission's decision was embargoed until 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at which time a press release would be issued by the Commission's staff and GSA would notify Gehry Partners.

Chairman Siciliano observed that \$19 million of federal funding will be necessary to pay for the design of the memorial, which will take two years. A combination of federal and private-sector funds will be needed to pay for construction. The

Chairman informed the Commission that he is forming a committee to assist in the work of raising funds for construction.

Senator Inouye stated that this is exactly the right time to spend money on the Eisenhower Memorial. He observed that the Nation is now looking for evidence of success and victory in American history and that Eisenhower represents success and victory. He stated he will do everything he can to support the work of the Commission. He said it was important to build the memorial "while we old men are still around."

Senator Bennett observed that President Lincoln supported the completion of the Capitol Dome during the Civil War for the inspirational value of the project. He stated that surviving World War II veterans will not be around indefinitely, and that building the Eisenhower Memorial "is something we clearly ought to do."

Senator Inouye added that the funds involved in the memorial project are minor compared to the many dollars that currently figure in budgetary deliberations.

Executive Director Reddel thanked the staffs of the Commissioners for their assistance, noting that the productivity of the Commission's small staff had been "exponentially increased" through the high quality assistance and superb support of the Commissioners' staffs.

Senator Inouye observed that this moment constitutes "D-Day" in the work of the Eisenhower Commission, adding "and now the action begins."

Commissioner Eisenhower stated that the contributions of Executive Director Carl Reddel, Executive Architect Daniel Feil, and Chairman Rocco Siciliano had been extraordinary, and that he found the memorialization process "thrilling."

Senator Inouye moved the adjournment of the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Without objection, Chairman Siciliano declared the meeting adjourned.