

FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
LMDC – 20th floor
October 21, 2004 - 5:00 pm

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MINUTES

After a brief introduction by everyone in attendance, Mark Schaming began the meeting by describing a timeline that will be installed on the viewing fence at the site that will provide visitors with detailed information about September 11th.

The timeline was originally developed as a permanent exhibition at the State Museum in Albany, New York. The exhibition at the State Museum has drawn roughly 2 million visitors. Members of the Family Advisor Council have felt that there is a need at Ground Zero for a better interpretation than the current panels on display by the Port Authority.

The timeline not only depicts the order of the events of September 11th, but also illustrates the location of the towers and other facilities. The timeline is comprised of several photographs, beginning with an image of the World Trade Center Towers taken from Brooklyn. Other images include a scan of the daily newspapers published for the day. There is a graphic in the timeline that depicts the route of the hijacked planes. The timeline display is still being revised for the site; Mr. Schaming is working with Paul Brown of the NYPD and Sal Cassano of the FDNY to find the best images of rescue agencies. The entire evacuation effort will be an important component of the timeline. There may be a brief section devoted to the national experience, which will include photos of the Pentagon. This section will also briefly discuss the planes that were grounded. The timeline also includes an image of Mayor Giuliani and Van Eson. An effective graphic in the exhibition is located towards the end of the timeline which explains the damage to the buildings and how they were situated in the neighborhood after they collapsed. The timeline could also include specific stories from the day such as that of a firefighter who was separated from and eventually reunited with his wife. Mr. Schaming concluded his presentation with a concept view of the three panels of the timeline which will be located along Church Street.

Finally, Mr. Schaming fielded questions and concerns from the Victims Family Council. One family member suggested displaying more photographs of civilians at the site. Another group member suggested that a Ric Burns documentary and a French documentary might provide effective images of civilians. A family member felt that the photos needed to be able to speak for themselves, as many visitors would not take the time to read each individual caption. Another family member felt that a photo of the missing-person signs that were put up that day should be included, as the story of family members' searches during the day needs to be addressed. One family member suggested photos of Housing Department trucks on Houston Street.

Anita Contini then provided an update on the Cultural Complex. The LMDC received approximately 68 design proposals for both cultural facilities. The cultural institutions selected for the site and the LMDC spent a significant amount of time researching architects including site visits to realized buildings. Gehry Partners was selected as the architect for the Performing Arts Center, which will hold the Signature and the Joyce. It was noted that Mr.

Gehry feels emotionally attached to the project; he was very moved by the view of the site from the LMDC offices, and feels fortunate to be a part of the rebuilding effort. Snohetta, designers of the Alexandria Library in Egypt, will be the architect of the second component of the Cultural Complex, which is the Museum Complex. Snohetta is from Oslo, Norway, so several members of the firm will be moving to New York to be close to the construction of the Museum Complex. The LMDC is thrilled to be working with these remarkable people who are very aware of the importance of the site. The LMDC will present a plan for the Museum Complex from Snohetta in early 2005. Ms. Contini then said that she will distribute an LMDC press release regarding Snohetta to the group at the end of the meeting.

Then Amy Peterson, the Vice President for Memorial, Cultural and Civic Development, explained that the associate architect, Davis, Brody and Bond, along with Michael Arad and Peter Walker began the pre-design and schematic design phases that should last through the end of the year. She committed to having the Families Advisory Council discuss aspects of the schematic design, as they are being developed so that families have an opportunity to make comments. This is the first of these meetings where the architects will describe some of the opportunities and challenges facing the Memorial and Memorial Center as they move along in the schematic design phase.

The architects then gave an overview of their work, which is currently at the conclusion of the pre-design phase. The architects showed slides of the Louvre and a museum in Osaka by Tadao Ando, which offer examples of exhibiting exposed foundations beneath buildings.

Family members then made several comments about the design of the Memorial and Memorial Center:

- From inside the Memorial, family members liked the 16' height at bedrock level, and wanted to be able to see the sky and the Freedom Tower.
- The memorial should include unidentified remains.
- The Memorial and Memorial Center should have specific times where it is only available to families.
- The full length of the North Tower footprint should be displayed in relation to the slurry wall.
- Foundation columns should be rebuilt in the Memorial.
- The Memorial and Memorial Center should have connectivity, how visitors experience entering the Memorial from the Memorial Center needs to be well thought out.
- Visitors should have access to the South Tower.
- The South Tower footprint should be just as significant as the North Tower footprint.

- Families should have private space, like the current Family Room at the LMDC, inside the Memorial Center. This space should be open to the public after the families have deceased.
- The Memorial and Memorial Center should be integrated, but should also be able to stand alone.
- There must be a system for accepting offerings from visitors and victim's families.
- Faces of victims' should be in the unidentified remains room.
- The Memorial design should look at footprints holistically; they are the physical remains on bedrock delineated by the box beam columns; the pools are just a symbolic representation of the footprints.
- Try to delineate physical outlines of where towers stood at plaza level
- The public should be able to touch remnants at bedrock.
- The core column from the South Tower should be placed back in its original location.
- The Families Advisory Council should uncover footprints with Sec. 106 parties or separately.
- Preserve what exists at the site now – do not fabricate or obscure what exists now to make it more visible. Keep the raw state at bedrock fully exposed.
- Visitor's offerings should not be cluttered. The bedrock room may be the best place for offerings, not around the pool parapet ("kneeling wall"). Because of the sacredness of this space, it should not be cluttered up.
- Sunlight should reach the bedrock.
- The bedrock level should be cold in the winter to emphasize the emotional power of the site, much like a room at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Berlin which is purposefully cold.
- Family members will want access to specific areas within each footprint.
- Both towers should be treated equally with regards to circulation patterns and presentation.
- Incorporate faces of victims in a place seen by the public. Families would be less inclined to bring photographs if they knew that there were images already installed.

- Family members have a wide range of opinions on the Memorial and the Memorial Center. Many family members will not want to go to the Memorial and Memorial Center.
- Visitors to the site are going to leave offerings at the Memorial and Memorial Center where they feel most moved. It is difficult to control where offerings are left.
- The Memorial is important to family members because the majority of family members will see the bedrock as their loved ones graves.
- The range of ages, races and ethnicities will be evident if the victim's pictures are shown together.
- The Staten Island Memorial was very well done. Everyone involved in planning the Memorial and Memorial Center should visit the Staten Island Memorial.
- Based on a poll conducted by "Knowledge Networks," a majority of Americans want the bedrock to be part of their experience.
- The term "Bedrock Room" is not fitting. The entire bedrock of the North Tower and half the bedrock of the South Tower should be exposed. This would not be a single room.
- Large artifacts like the sphere and façade should be brought back to street level to make site more historically authentic.

Some family members quickly mentioned that a names proposal has been submitted to the LMDC. Primarily interesting to note was that the family outreach led to the following points: a) civilian families offended by badges, b) no random listing, c) want names listed in the tower where loved one worked.

Anthoula Katsimatides thanked everyone for coming and with this, the meeting was adjourned.