

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2002

PROGRAM SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Program Sub-Committee of the Families Advisory Council met on June 4, 2002 to discuss how to begin developing a mission statement for the permanent memorial at the former World Trade Center site. The following notes are a record of the meeting.

Christopher Glaisek convened the meeting at 5:45 PM and explained that the first step in developing a permanent memorial is to create a mission statement. Two sub-committees have been set-up to focus on its two components:

1. A Process Sub-Committee to think about how to solicit input from all the stakeholders.
2. A Program Sub-Committee to think about the message(s) and element(s) of the memorial.

Nikki Stern advised that the mission statement should answer four questions:

1. Who is the memorial for?
2. What does it commemorate?
3. What will it say to the future?
4. What will it include?

The group began with a free-flowing discussion of "Who is the memorial for?" Initial ideas were:

- Those who were lost and those they left behind.
- Those who survived.
- Those who came to the rescue.
- Those who offered help.
- Those who come to understand.
- Those who are our future.

Then the group had an open discussion of "What does it commemorate?" Initial ideas were:

- The Event
 - Attack on Democracy.
 - Attack on Way of Life.
 - Attack on Free Society.
- Pulling Together
 - Everyone from the neighborhood, city, and world who helped.
 - Those on the Pittsburgh flight who fought.
 - Determination and commitment to support those who suffered.
- Resiliency of the Nation

- Country held together despite adversity.
- Democratic society can withstand challenges.

Then the group had an open discussion of “What will it say to the future?” Initial ideas were:

- Dignity and the importance of basic human rights.
- Resolve to stay an open society.
- Need to be vigilant.
- Need to be part of the global community.
- Need to be educated about lives of others around the world.

Tom Roger presented an initial draft of a “September 11 Memorial Mission Statement” based on the format of the Oklahoma City Mission Statement. The group began work on rewriting the mission statement, and Nikki Stern offered to collect comments and re-work the draft.

Several major themes emerged as dominant:

- There was an international commitment to help with the rescue and recovery.
- Although there was horrific human loss, after the towers fell, our nation resolved to remain vigilant and protect our citizens, but also to maintain an open, democratic, tolerant society.
- We sustained our belief in human dignity and there was triumph of the human spirit.

Viewpoints about the site itself:

- All 16 acres should tie into the memorial so that when anyone sets foot anywhere on the property, it is recognized as the memorial site. The rebuilt PATH train station should be named the “September 11 Memorial Station.”
- The memorial and its space and all buildings on the WTC site should have restrictive covenants so that anything that is rebuilt will conform to the set standards and requirements of the memorial site and in no way encroach on the memorial itself.
- Footprints of the Towers are sacred ground.

Several ideas emerged relative to possible components of the memorial during an open discussion:

- The Memorial
 - Should be abstract, open air area focused on Footprints
- Private family place
 - Tomb for unidentified remains, away from the public areas
- Children’s place
 - Should include a “children’s’ memorial” as they did in Oklahoma City

Other points:

- When thinking of the memorial space, think in three dimensions; utilize space below grade
- Incorporate the globe
- Interfaith chapel, but not in Memorial

The group agreed to meet again on Tuesday, June 18, to discuss and refine ideas that came out at this meeting as well as the draft documents produced by Tom Roger. Tom Roger and Nikki Stern agreed to help give a report on the sub-committees work to the other sub-committees and the full Families Advisory Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.