



LMDC JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE MEMORIAL TOUR  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2002 5:30-7:30PM 1 LIBERTY PLAZA, 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **LMDC Board Members – Lew Eisenberg, Tom Johnson**

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs Tara Snow opened the meeting and gave welcoming remarks. Ms. Snow then asked members and ex-officio members of the LMDC Advisory Councils to introduce themselves.

After the introduction, LMDC President and CEO Lou Tomson asked the meeting attendees to observe a moment of silence. Mr. Tomson then made some introductory remarks about the memorial tour, with special thanks to LMDC Board Member Tom Johnson and Families Advisory Council Members Ann Johnson, Lee Ielpi, and Paula Grant Berry for their participation in the tour.

Tom and Ann Johnson briefed the attendees on the Shanksville Flight 93 Memorial and the Pentagon portion of the trip. They said that the three sites of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks are forever bound together and ways to link them should be considered. The locations are symbolically connected: being the heartland, financial, and military centers of America. As a result of the LMDC visit, the Pentagon and Shanksville will join a dialogue in exploring some possible connections among the memorial sites.

Lee Ielpi then discussed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The memorial was designed with four simple criteria: It must include all the names of soldiers killed or

missing, be apolitical, be harmonious with the site, and facilitate a healing process. Mr. Ielpi stated that rather than trying to avoid controversy, we should expect that it is a part of a democratic and transparent process, and usually will result in the right decision. He pointed out that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial endured great controversy and in the end, critics and the general public have embraced it.

Next, LMDC Vice President for Memorial, Cultural and Civic Programs Anita Contini updated the audience on a number of other memorials that were visited on the trip. Some highlights included: viewing the WWII Memorial during its construction; the Lincoln Memorial as a potent symbol of freedom being the site of many historical events such as Martin Luther King's *I have a Dream* speech; the Jefferson Memorial being clearly visible from the White House to serve as a reminder to future Presidents of their obligations; and the Korean War Memorial employing statistics engraved in stone to document those lost. Ms. Contini asserted that memorials come in various sizes, representing a broad range of people and events. Some were magnificent in scale while others were powerful because of their intimacy. She said that the approach and sight lines to a memorial are as much a part of the experience as the memorial itself.

Subsequently, Paula Grant Berry spoke on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Ms. Berry stated that a memorial and a museum might have separate roles in telling a story. She said the design of the museum building and the experience of moving through the site helps tell the story of the Holocaust. She further stated that controversy was part of how memorials and museums of significance become defined.

Afterward, Ms. Snow talked about the Oklahoma City National Memorial. It uses a chair to represent each person lost. It shows that a memorial can be designed to be adjacent to busy streets and yet be quiet and reflective. The memorial has two visual experiences -- one during the day and another at night. Lighting at night transforms the view of the memorial. A museum store offers objects of remembrance and the income generated supports the museum and the memorial.

Ms. Contini then briefed the attendees on the Civil Rights Memorial and Rosa Parks Museum. Points come across included for memorial messages “the simpler, the better,” and “a memorial is a mandate.” In conclusion, Ms. Contini summarized the lessons learned from the various memorials visited as discussed before.

After the presentation, participants of the meeting joined the discussion about the memorials. Items discussed included the relationship between size and content of a memorial. It was discussed that we might want to separate the WTC memorial from a museum on the site. The memorial could express strong, simple messages and the museum could fill in the details on the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and other items. Ways to manage anticipated crowds of visitors and commuters in Lower Manhattan to the future memorial were also discussed.

Ms. Snow thanked participants for attending, and adjourned the meeting.