



FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2002 5:30-7:30PM 1 LIBERTY PLAZA, 39TH FLOOR
OFFICES OF CLEARY GOTTlieb

Anita Contini, Vice President and Director for Memorial, Cultural and Civic Programs opened the meeting by saying she is honored to be here and looking forward to working with the Families Advisory Council. Ms. Contini mentioned she has been a resident of Lower Manhattan for more than 30 years and she has worked downtown all her professional life.

Ms. Contini mentioned that the draft Memorial Mission Statement was sent to all family members and the LMDC received a number of responses that will be shared with all the Advisory Council members. Ms. Contini introduced Tara Snow, Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs, and asked her to comment on the responses from the families.

Ms. Snow began saying that a total of three hundred twenty nine responses were received and that a lot of family members indicated they would like to have a dialogue with the LMDC. They provided their contact information to receive additional information.

Ms. Snow continued, saying that most of the family members responded very favorable to the Mission Statement. There were just a few comments about items that should not be included, such as "a visitor center", as the word "visitor center" might have conveyed that it was more of a tourist attraction as opposed to a memorial. The LMDC received responses from all over the United States including Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Massachusetts, as well as international responses from England, Spain, Thailand, Puerto Rico and India.

One member of the Families Advisory Council asked if the draft Memorial Mission Statement was sent to only families of victims who were in the towers or to families of victims that were in the planes that hit the towers and all families of victims in Pennsylvania and Washington D.C.

Ms. Snow answered that the mailing was sent to all those on the Mayor's office next of kin list, and also to the Pentagon. Ms. Snow added that if there are other groups that the Families Advisory Council feels that the LMDC should send the family mailing to, to let her know and the LMDC will send them the documents.

One member suggested contacting the airlines so they can forward the family mailing to the Flight # 93 victims' families.

Ms. Snow continued saying that some of the reoccurring comments related to the theme were that the memorial should celebrate the victims' lives, not memorialize the death, that there

should be a non-denominational chapel where families can worship and meditate, that the recognition of the survivors should be included, and that all the victims should be treated equally, whether they were firefighters, traders or waiters. One of the more prevailing comments was that there has to be some individualization of the families, whether it's through names, biographies, videos or some way that the family member can create something where people can find out more about the person that was lost.

Some family members who responded to the mailing commented that the memorial should be only for the victims from New York, not necessarily including the Pentagon and Pennsylvania victims. Some other families' comments were that we should have a 16 acre memorial, or that the towers should be rebuilt exactly as they were before 9/11. Others commented that the footprints of the towers should be preserved.

Ms. Snow also mentioned that some family members thought that the draft Mission Statement was too long. Others thought it should reflect more the cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity of the many people from around the world. One thing that came up quite often was that the draft Mission Statement should send a message about world peace and tolerance. Another comment related to the memorial process was to make special emphasis to reach out to children and get their thoughts on what the memorial should be. There were a few special requests to restore the towers, to continue the Tribute in Light, and to have an international memorial competition to determine what the memorial and the design should be.

One member asked if there is a consensus or if there are many different opinions and if they are supportive of the draft Mission Statement.

Ms. Snow confirmed that the families are supportive of the draft Memorial Mission Statement.

Ms. Contini continued by saying that sixty-four percent of the participants of the Listening to the City event said that the draft Mission Statement was very important to the memorial process. Some suggested that the draft Mission Statement should be more global.

Ms. Snow mentioned that the LMDC conducted public meetings in each of the five boroughs of New York and also in New Jersey. The focal point of the meeting is to get feedback on the draft Mission Statement and the preliminary memorial program that the Families Advisory Council developed. The preliminary program is based on the themes and messages that the families started outlining and are using as a starting point and a basis for discussion to get more public comment and input. Ms. Snow encouraged members of the Families Advisory Council to spread the word about the public hearings, mentioning that the LMDC will be taking ads out in all of the major daily newspapers as well as community newspapers in various boroughs. Family attendance is very important, given that the main subject will be the draft Mission Statement and preliminary program.

It was announced that the meetings would be in the evening and an e-mail with detailed information about the schedule and venues will be sent out to all the family members and organizations that provided the LMDC with their information.

Ms. Snow mentioned that the second part of the public hearing agenda will be a snapshot discussion of the six concept plans for the WTC site, focusing on the elements, such as the street grid, the treatment of West Street, the skyline, and the memorial area.

Another member of the Advisory Council asked how the LMDC will be processing the feedback received. The member said it is necessary to create a record of the input and to create a report.

Ms. Contini mentioned that comment cards will be distributed to the public at each meeting. This is one way that feedback will be recorded and documented. What will drive the whole memorial process will be the Mission Statement. The program and guidelines will follow, and they will continue to be reviewed.

It was suggested by a member of the Advisory Council that after receiving all the comments from all the families and from the public, the LMDC should consider having a third party revise the draft Mission Statement in a way that could be more global and not change the meaning, incorporating more themes.

Another member of the Families Advisory Council said that the families would like to see the area that is designated for the memorial and what is going to be built around the memorial. Another issue that he would like to discuss is the footprints of the tower, if they will be preserved or not and if they will preserve them above and below grade.

Ms. Contini mentioned that there are many tasks ahead of us. One of them is to inform the public about the memorial process. We have to be very careful and thoughtful in how we educate everyone who is paying attention to the process and we are looking into some ways of doing that. Besides gathering all the input we can from everybody, or the viewpoints from all the stakeholders, we are looking at past memorial projects because there's something to be learned from those. A creative discussion is needed and we need to talk to people who have a completely different idea about how this process can work from a social, artistic point of view. We need to be open to different solutions.

One of the members mentioned that it might be a good idea for the families to go through the hundreds of proposals received as maybe there are ideas to be gleaned from.

Ms. Contini commented that it is necessary to have an international open competition and to do so we need to create criteria, and create a memorial selection committee.

Another member mentioned that there is another parallel process going on, which is the transportation infrastructure. It is important that we recognize its importance to the development and the economic vitality of Lower Manhattan, and work with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to integrate the memorial and the infrastructure needs. So here we have two distinctive things, transportation and memorial, as a parallel process.

Kevin Rampe, Executive Vice President for the LMDC, mentioned that we shouldn't miss the opportunity to listen to independent voices regarding the various ways that these transportation options can play out. The LMDC and the PANYNJ have joint consultants that can come up with some different options.

Ms. Contini commented that she is glad to see the process moving forward. She will propose a meeting with the LMDC planners so a dialogue can be started and they can understand all the issues presented. As a proposed timeline, Ms. Contini mentioned that sometime in September 2003, we should have an idea of the memorial. There are a number of ways that memorials happen. There have been very specific plans or criteria that have been laid out, and there have been conceptual ideas that have been accepted and then those ideas have been put forward. We should be looking to that kind of opportunity with an artistic vision.

Commenting about the transportation infrastructure, one member of the Families Advisory Council said that transportation can be east of the slurry wall or north of the footprints. The subway and PATH stations can be moved north and east from the site, not having them where the footprints were.

Ms. Snow mentioned that nothing has been decided yet. The downtown concourse is a proposal and it is not carved in stone. The only thing that is decided is the temporary PATH station and that will be east of the footprints. In the last meeting we had a discussion about infrastructure below ground. There are infrastructure needs to support an open space, to support the memorial and to support buildings such as a museum.

Chris Glaisek, Director of Urban Planning for LMDC mentioned that there are a lot of technical issues and things cannot be moved from one place to another without proper study, which will affect where things can and cannot be moved to. Once you know what those constraints are, then you can start deciding on where or not to move things and to fit things into the designated space.

Before ending the meeting, Ms. Snow gave an update on the viewing wall, mentioning that a final meeting was held to discuss the various historical panels that show the development of Lower Manhattan. There will be also panels that celebrate the community, the livelihood on the plaza and the life in the area. There will be a panel dedicated to the Sphere and one panel dedicated to the Tribute in Light. There will be a panel with names of all the victims.

A representative from the Medical Examiner's office mentioned that the name of all the victims will be given to Ms. Snow, so there will not be names missing on the panel. The same list will be given to the Mayor's office so the names can be read on the 9/11 one year anniversary.

Ms. Snow thanked all the participants for coming to the meeting reminding all that an e-mail was going to be sent out about the meeting with the families and all the other Advisory Councils to start talking about the draft Mission Statement and the preliminary program. She thanked the participants for attending, and the meeting was adjourned.