

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 4, 2023

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The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission met via Video conference, at 1:00 p.m. EDT, Tammy Stidham, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

TAMMY STIDHAM for the National Park Service  
EDWIN FOUNTAIN for the American Battle  
Monuments Commission

JOSEPH IMAMURA for the Architect of the Capitol  
THOMAS LUEBKE for the Commission of Fine Arts  
DAVID MALONEY for the Mayor of the District  
of Columbia

PAUL McMAHON for the Secretary of Defense  
MICHAEL SHERMAN for the National Capital  
Planning Commission

KRISTI TUNSTALL WILLIAMS for the General  
Services Administration

CHRIS WILSON for the Advisory Council on  
Historic Preservation (Observer)

ALSO PRESENT

CORY CROWLEY, Executive Vice President, National  
Medal of Honor Museum Foundation

DANIEL FOX, Senior Advisor, Commission of  
Fine Arts

ANNA LAYMON, Executive Director, Women's  
Suffrage National Monument Foundation

BLAKE MOORE, United States Representative

CLAIRE SALE, Project Manager, AECOM

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Welcome and Opening Remarks  
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H.R. 2717, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless Service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor Recipients  
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Adjournment

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 1:01 p.m.

3 MS. STIDHAM: -- second meeting of  
4 this year of the National Capital Memorial  
5 Advisory Commission. I want to thank the  
6 Commission on Fine Arts for hosting his meeting  
7 on the Zoom platform (audio interference) Dan Fox  
8 of CFA, who is helping us manage the meeting  
9 today.

10 We couldn't have done it without you,  
11 so thank you so much.

12 My name is Tammy Stidham and I'm here  
13 representing the Director of the National Park  
14 Service at this meeting. Present for today's  
15 meeting are Michael Sherman representing the  
16 chairman of the National Capital Planning  
17 Commission, Joseph Imamura representing the  
18 Architect of the Capital, Thomas Luebke for the  
19 Chairman of the Commission on Fine Arts, David  
20 Maloney representing the Mayor of the District of  
21 Columbia, Kristi Tunstall Williams representing  
22 the Administrator of the General Services

1 Administration, Paul McMahon representing the  
2 Secretary of Defense, Edwin Fountain representing  
3 the Chairman of the American Battle Monuments  
4 Commission, and representing the Advisory Counsel  
5 on Historic Preservation is Mr. Chris Wilson.  
6 Mr. Wilson participates with the Commission in a  
7 non-voting advisory capacity.

8 Also with us today are staff from NPS,  
9 which are Laurel Hamming, our Acting Memorial  
10 Program Manager, along with Michael McMahon, our  
11 acting Commission Secretary and Legislative  
12 Affairs Specialist for the National Park Service,  
13 National Capital Region.

14 So a little bit of an overview for  
15 today's business. As most of you know, we are  
16 here today. This Commission was established by  
17 the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 and is  
18 required by that act to advise the Secretary of  
19 Interior, the Administrator of the General  
20 Services Administration, and the Committees of  
21 Congress on the establishment of commemorative  
22 works in the District of Columbia and its

1 environments and to provide its views to  
2 appropriate committees of Congress when the  
3 committees are considering legislation to  
4 authorize commemorative works for the District of  
5 Columbia and its environments. The act also  
6 requires the sponsors of authorized memorials to  
7 consult with this Commission regarding site and  
8 design concept proposals.

9 Today we have four agenda items;  
10 actually three total items to our pieces of  
11 legislation on the same topic. The first item  
12 will be H.R. 2717. It's the Hershel "Woody"  
13 Williams National Medal of Honor Monument  
14 Location Act. Then we will do a site -- we will  
15 hear a site selection proposal presentation for  
16 the Women's Suffrage National Monument Site  
17 Selection, followed by H.R. 1318 and S.886, both  
18 of which are Women's Suffrage National Monument  
19 Location Act Bills.

20 All of our supporting materials for  
21 this meeting can be found on the National Park  
22 Service web page, which is

1 parkplanning.nps.gov/ncmacoctober2023. And one  
2 of the staff will be putting that in the chat for  
3 anyone who needs it.

4 If You're not scheduled to speak today  
5 but would like to make a comment on the site  
6 assessment or on any of the legislation  
7 presented, there's an opportunity to raise your  
8 hand and be promoted as a speaker after each  
9 agenda item.

10 The Commission offers members of  
11 Congress who wish to testify the courtesy of  
12 allowing them to share their testimony whenever  
13 they're available regardless of where we are in  
14 the agenda, so there may be some deviation from  
15 the agenda as members become available and we  
16 bring them in.

17 So onto our first item, which is the  
18 Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor  
19 Monument Location Act, which is H.R. 2717, which  
20 was introduced by Representative Blake Moore, who  
21 is here with us today.

22 On April 19th, 2023 and referred to

1 the House National Resources Subcommittee on  
2 Federal Lands, which held a hearing on July 13th  
3 of 2023, and on July 26th, 2023 H.R. 2717 was  
4 ordered to be reported in the nature of a  
5 substitute as amended by a vote of yeas and nays  
6 29 to 0.

7 The legislation authorizes the  
8 National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to  
9 establish a commemorative work on the National  
10 Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor,  
11 selfless Service, and sacrifice displayed by  
12 Medal of Honor recipients.

13 So I understand that Representative  
14 Moore is on, so we will jump to him directly.

15 Dan, can you bring him in?

16 MR. FOX: Yes. Give me one moment.

17 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. Thanks.

18 (Pause.)

19 MR. FOX: He'll be coming in now.

20 MS. STIDHAM: Here we go.

21 Representative Moore, thank you for  
22 joining us. I've already introduced you, so we

1 are ready to hear your testimony as soon as you  
2 are.

3 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Chairwoman  
4 Stidham. I was able to hear the piece that  
5 you've already shared, so it's a honor, yes. And  
6 I agree without saying it the title is quite long  
7 and a little bit of a tongue twister.

8 MS. STIDHAM: It is.

9 MR. MOORE: I ended up calling it the  
10 Woody Williams Bill basically just so I'd know  
11 what my staff was talking about.

12 Before I start, yesterday was a tough  
13 day. It's actually an honor to be presenting  
14 something where Congress does function the way  
15 that it should and properly and presents  
16 something that has been vetted and worked on.  
17 And so emotional tough day and ready to move on,  
18 but we'll leave all that aside and talk about  
19 something that matters to this group.

20 So I really do appreciate the  
21 opportunity to join you to testify on behalf --  
22 for H.R. 2717, again the Hershel "Woody" Williams



1 National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act and  
2 I consider it a great honor to advocate for the  
3 establishment of this special monument on the  
4 National Mall, particularly in the Reserve.

5 The significance of the Medal of Honor  
6 cannot be overstated. It's the highest  
7 recognition for valor in combat. Of over 41  
8 million Americans who have served in our Armed  
9 Forces fewer than 4,000 have received this medal.  
10 The monument we are here to discuss today would  
11 serve to honor those extraordinary individuals  
12 from all walks of life who demonstrated  
13 unparalleled courage, commitment, and sacrifice  
14 for our nation.

15 In the 117th Congress legislation  
16 authorizing the creation of this monument  
17 received unanimous support in the House. You  
18 mentioned the bill as it passed unanimously in  
19 committee. Last Congress it passed 416 to 0 on  
20 the House Floor. That type of bipartisan  
21 momentum carried through to H.R. 2717, which was  
22 approved unanimously as you mentioned in your

1 opening this past July. This demonstrates that  
2 the monument is not a partisan issue in any way,  
3 shape, or form. Rather, it is a unifying symbol  
4 of our nation's highest ideals.

5 The initial proposal stipulated that  
6 the monument be located within 1,000 feet of the  
7 Lincoln Memorial to pay tribute to President  
8 Lincoln who created the Medal of Honor over 160  
9 years ago. In a spirit of compromise we agreed  
10 to remove the specific language, yet it is  
11 important to note that this proximity was  
12 intended to signify the interconnected legacies  
13 of Lincoln and the Medal of Honor, pillars of our  
14 American values of courage, sacrifice, and unity.

15 Our bill represents not just a tribute  
16 to military valor, but also a commitment to the  
17 values that keep our nation united and strong.  
18 It would be a fitting and respectful extension of  
19 Lincoln's legacy and a constant reminder of what  
20 ordinary people can accomplish when united for  
21 the greater good. I urge this esteemed  
22 Commission to strongly consider the merits of

1       situating this monument on the Reserve and I  
2       thank you for your time and consideration.

3                   MS. STIDHAM: Thank you,  
4       Representative Moore.

5                   Do the Commissioners have any  
6       questions for Representative Moore?

7                   (No audible response.)

8                   MS. STIDHAM: Okay. It doesn't look  
9       like we have any questions. Thank you so much  
10      for joining us today. We really appreciate your  
11      time with us.

12                  MR. MOORE: Thanks for the chance to  
13      share. Appreciate it.

14                  MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. Also with us  
15      today is Mr. Cory Crowley, Executive Vice  
16      President of the National Medal of Honor Museum  
17      Foundation, who will testify for the Memorial  
18      Foundation on H.R. 2717. And I see Dan's already  
19      got him moving up.

20                  Hi there, Mr. Crowley. Can you hear  
21      us all right?

22                  MR. CROWLEY: I do, yes. Thanks so

1 much for having me.

2 MS. STIDHAM: Great. Thanks for  
3 joining us. We are ready whenever you are.

4 MR. CROWLEY: Yes. Well, thank you.  
5 I'll echo the congressman's gratitude for  
6 allowing us to be here today and for your  
7 consideration of what we're trying to accomplish.

8 I think you all know that this  
9 monument is part of a long-overdue, in our view,  
10 project to recognize some of our country's  
11 greatest heroes, but it's more than that. What  
12 we're trying to do really is use the values of  
13 the Medal of Honor to inspire future generations  
14 with these legacies of courage and those shared  
15 values, unique human values which underpin the  
16 Medal of Honor.

17 The full project, just to give you an  
18 idea of the scale and scope, is actually  
19 comprised of a national museum which is currently  
20 under construction in Arlington, Texas just  
21 outside of Dallas, as well as a National Medal of  
22 Honor Institute which began programming last

1       spring for current leaders of industry and the  
2       public sector. And we also launched our first  
3       curriculum for young people this academic school  
4       year which is available thanks to broad  
5       partnership with the NFL's foundation in 29,000  
6       schools across the country this year. The  
7       portion of the project though we're discussing is  
8       a modest monument to represent the ideals of the  
9       Medal of Honor in our Nation's Capital.

10               The Medal of Honor, as Congressman  
11       Moore noted, is the country's highest recognition  
12       for valor in combat, but what it really is is a  
13       reminder to us all of what ordinary people can  
14       accomplished when faced with challenge. We're  
15       all born with limitless courage and because of it  
16       we all have the potential to be extraordinary.  
17       It may not be on the battlefield like these Medal  
18       of Honor recipients, but our hope is for this  
19       monument to be a beacon pointing all of us to the  
20       heroes within us, not necessarily something we  
21       perform in uniform, but in our own walks of life,  
22       whether that's in our families, our schools, or

1 our communities.

2 We're often asked at our foundation  
3 how it's possible that in the 160 years that this  
4 medal has existed and since Lincoln created it  
5 it's possible that a monument or a museum or  
6 something to pay tribute to these individuals as  
7 a nation doesn't already exist. And the only  
8 answer we've come up with in these divided times,  
9 again as Congressman Moore noted, is that America  
10 really needs this now more than ever. It's a  
11 unifying national endeavor.

12 In the four years since we launched  
13 this project we've seen it bring together members  
14 from across the political divide with the House  
15 voting 416 to 0 last Congress and the Senate  
16 giving the project its unanimous consent, but  
17 we've also seen it bring together corporate  
18 competitors and generous Americans from across  
19 the country who to date have contributed more  
20 than \$240 million to the combined elements of  
21 this historic effort.

22 The 3,517 individuals who received the

1 Medal of Honor are humble. They're people who  
2 will tell you they were just doing their job on a  
3 difficult day. Most believe they don't deserve  
4 the Medal of Honor, but each of them will tell  
5 you that they do wear it proudly, but they wear  
6 it for those they served alongside, and  
7 particularly those who never came home.

8           Similar to their disposition we hope  
9 to construct a monument in Washington, D.C. which  
10 matches their humility, yet we want it still to  
11 provide a significant reminder to all who visit  
12 of the aspirational ideas represented by the  
13 medal which make our country better each day.  
14 The same values which strengthened Lincoln are  
15 the ones that motivated those who continue his  
16 work of protecting and defending the Republic  
17 today and they're the same values which exist in  
18 the hearts of each of us for whom they risk all  
19 to preserve the Union.

20           We look forward to continuing to work  
21 in close collaboration with you and this  
22 Commission in and the other committees of

1 jurisdiction to further tell America's story and  
2 to celebrate our common bonds on the National  
3 Mall.

4 Before closing I just want to say  
5 thank you so much. This has been a very  
6 collaborative process from the very beginning.  
7 My recollection is we first testified before this  
8 committee in 2019 prior to the introduction of  
9 our initial bill and you've all been very  
10 supportive in helpful helping us navigate this  
11 process along the way. And I hope you've found  
12 good partners in us who are willing to work with  
13 you, learn from you, and make the Mall that it  
14 can be for the American public together. So  
15 thank you very much for your consideration.

16 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Crowley.  
17 We appreciate that.

18 Are there any questions from the  
19 Commissioners for Mr. Crowley?

20 (No audible response.)

21 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. Seeing none,  
22 thank you so much for being here today.



1 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you.

2 MS. STIDHAM: We appreciate your time.

3 MR. CROWLEY: We appreciate you all.

4 MS. STIDHAM: So we didn't have anyone  
5 sign up in advance to testify on the bill, but we  
6 are able to still take public comment from  
7 members of the audience. If you are online and  
8 wish to make a comment or testify, could you  
9 please raise your hand and we will promote you to  
10 a speaker to testify on H.R. 2717?

11 (Pause.)

12 MS. STIDHAM: I'm not seeing any  
13 hands. One more minute.

14 (Pause.)

15 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. So we'll move  
16 onto the next agenda item. I'd like to thank  
17 both Representative Moore and Mr. Crowley for  
18 joining us today.

19 Mr. Wilson, are there any comments  
20 that you would like to add on behalf of the  
21 Advisory Council?

22 MR. WILSON: All I want to say, and

1 you can apply this to all future applications,  
2 from the Advisory Council's perspective we only  
3 consider Section 106 of the Historic Preservation  
4 Act. So once some monument is given legal  
5 permission to locate somewhere within D.C. or  
6 anywhere near any eligible sites, at that point  
7 we weigh in and work with our colleagues at the  
8 NPS, DC SHPO, and all the non-profits, CFA, NCPC,  
9 other agencies as well.

10 So during these proceedings before a  
11 decision is made where a monument will be  
12 located, we pretty much don't have a position,  
13 but we do weigh in heavily once the 106 process  
14 starts. And for example, if one of these  
15 applicants gets approved, what I'll do is provide  
16 updates at these meetings once something is in  
17 flux. Does that make sense?

18 MS. STIDHAM: Yes, absolutely. Thank  
19 you for that. That's helpful.

20 MR. WILSON: So you don't need to ask  
21 me after every application is what I'm saying.

22 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. I will not do

1 that.

2 MR. WILSON: Thanks.

3 MS. STIDHAM: All right. As I stated  
4 earlier, the bill before us today would authorize  
5 the location of the National Medal of Honor  
6 Memorial on the National Mall. As we discussed  
7 previously, the Commemorative Works Act allows  
8 for a memorial of exceptional importance to be  
9 located close to the National Mall within Area 1  
10 as defined by the act.

11 The act further defines a process for  
12 making that determination requiring first that  
13 the Secretary of Interior or the Administrator of  
14 the GSA determine that the proposed subject of  
15 commemoration is of prominence and lasting  
16 historical significance to our country. Based on  
17 that determination Congress must pass legislation  
18 to authorize selection of a site within Area 1.

19 H.R. 2717 would bypass that process  
20 and would authorize the National Medal of Honor  
21 Memorial to be placed within the Reserve which  
22 the Commemorative Works Act defines as a great

1 cross-axis of the Mall which generally extends  
2 from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln  
3 Memorial and from the White House to the  
4 Jefferson Memorial.

5 The act further states that the  
6 Reserve is a completed work of civic art where  
7 the siting of new commemorative works is  
8 prohibited. H.R. 2717 also notes in its findings  
9 justification for placing the memorial in close  
10 proximity to the Lincoln Memorial. While this  
11 speaks to Congress' intent, it is not a  
12 requirement of the law. So I just wanted to  
13 point out that. To that point the Commemorative  
14 Works Act states it shall guide the location of  
15 commemorative works so that it does not interfere  
16 with or encroach on an existing commemorative  
17 work.

18 So with that and the testimony that we  
19 have already heard, I'll hope it up to  
20 Commissioners for comments on this particular  
21 bill on what we've heard today. So who would  
22 like to start? And I will call on you if you

1 don't volunteer yourself.

2 All right. Mr. Sherman?

3 MR. SHERMAN: Yes, thanks, Madam  
4 Chair. First of all, I want to say thanks to  
5 Honorable Mr. Blake Moore and Mr. Crowley for  
6 their testimony.

7 I would be remiss if I didn't mention  
8 that I actually know two Medal of Honor  
9 recipients: Colonel Gordon Roberts who I served  
10 with in Iraq and Colonel William Swenson who I  
11 met here at NCPC during one of his testimonies.  
12 So I salute all the Medal of Honor recipients and  
13 their heroism.

14 I do have a question. It seems like  
15 a foregone conclusion that this memorial be sited  
16 within the Lincoln Memorial grounds, but I guess  
17 my question is were there other sites considered?  
18 One thought, and this is not necessarily a  
19 Commission position, but it is called the  
20 Congressional Medal of Honor. And so an argument  
21 could be made that other sites around Congress,  
22 the Capitol, or even the Grant Memorial could

1 have been considered. So that's just a general  
2 question if other sites had been considered, and  
3 if so, why were they rejected? I'm not sure if  
4 that's Mr. Crowley's the best position to answer  
5 that or maybe someone from the Park Service.

6 MS. STIDHAM: I think Mr. Crowley  
7 would be best as we have not been working with  
8 this memorial on site selection. So if we could  
9 bring -- if Mr. Crowley is still here and we  
10 could bring him back up, that would be great.

11 And while he's coming up I just want  
12 to note that the language regarding Lincoln was  
13 amended in the final bill and that it is in the  
14 findings section. So it speaks to intent, not to  
15 a requirement.

16 But, Mr. Crowley, I don't know if you  
17 heard the question or if you would like Mr.  
18 Sherman to repeat it.

19 MR. CROWLEY: I did hear it, and thank  
20 you for it. I'll say this: We've retained  
21 AECOM, who I think many of you are familiar with,  
22 to help us through the site selection process.

1 Very well respected in this regard on the  
2 National Mall and in D.C. So we did start  
3 looking at locations all around D.C. In fact,  
4 I'm not quite sure how far Area 1 stretches, but  
5 we looked over at the Freedom Plaza. We did,  
6 Commissioner, to your point, look at the grounds  
7 of Congress.

8           Interestingly, and you all know this  
9 better than I, but the grounds of Congress are  
10 treated differently, so it would actually require  
11 a fully different process than the Commemorative  
12 Works Act lays out to be up there. So we decided  
13 to stick with more of the traditional route here.

14           The point about Lincoln -- and we did  
15 look across the river, too, because it was  
16 suggested to us by some that Arlington Cemetery  
17 or somewhere near Iwo Jima might be good because  
18 of the military connection there, but the more  
19 members of Congress we met with the more they  
20 kept saying well, if Lincoln started it, you've  
21 got that historic connection there. Why not look  
22 at being closer to Lincoln?

1           So we started to narrow it closer and  
2 closer to about a dozen sites in and around  
3 Lincoln including one of the back side that faces  
4 the Potomac River where apparently they used to  
5 do concerts on barges and some other things as  
6 well as some over near where the proposed GWOT  
7 location is, some over by the volleyball courts  
8 near to Ohio Drive. And we just kind of kept  
9 zeroing in on this spot.

10           And part of it is some historic  
11 documents we found that showed initial plans for  
12 -- I believe that's called West Potomac Park over  
13 there where the Lincoln Memorial sits, and there  
14 were actually a couple of proposed memorial sites  
15 near to where the Tidal Basin meets -- or the  
16 Reflecting Pool, whichever one that is, meets the  
17 Lincoln Memorial where monuments were planned and  
18 never constructed. And so we thought kind of  
19 looking at some of those where there was clear  
20 historic intent by the planners of that area  
21 prior to the construction of the Lincoln Memorial  
22 was a good thing to look at. So we just kept



1 narrowing it.

2           And again, to Congressman Moore's  
3 point about compromise, there was that language  
4 in there about within 1,000 feet of Lincoln  
5 because of that thematic nexus. But there was  
6 some pushback about being that specific. A  
7 thousand feet actually stretches a lot further  
8 than many of us think. When we went out and  
9 walked it it seemed really close until you got  
10 there.

11           But we also know that the closer you  
12 get to something like the Lincoln Memorial the  
13 more humble and non-encroaching and respectful  
14 you need to be of those other monuments and  
15 memorials. And so to be honest, we like the idea  
16 of something small. We're not looking for  
17 acreage to build something like World War II or  
18 Korea. As I mentioned in my comments, these men  
19 and women are humble people. We don't want a  
20 braggadocios monument. So we actually view it as  
21 an extension of Lincoln's legacy and something  
22 that the nearer we get to him the smaller we can

1 be as kind of guardians of what he started.

2 MR. SHERMAN: Thank you for that, Mr.  
3 Crowley. I think my second question was going to  
4 be do you have a conceptual idea of how -- the  
5 scale of what You're imagining? And I think  
6 you've covered that with your last comment. So  
7 thank you.

8 MR. CROWLEY: You're welcome.

9 MS. STIDHAM: And I'll take myself off  
10 mute. Before we go to Commissioner Fountain I  
11 wanted to remind folks that the Medal of Honor  
12 Memorial has not done site selection and if  
13 Congress authorizes them in the Reserve, then  
14 they will need to do site selection or they --  
15 this site selection overall has not been done.  
16 So as to the questions for Mr. Crowley I just  
17 wanted to preface that.

18 Mr. Fountain?

19 MR. FOUNTAIN: Tammy, I think you  
20 functionally just answered by inquiry, which is  
21 do we have that amended bill, because the only  
22 2717 I have has the language specifying that it

1 be within 1,000 yards or feet, whatever it is, of  
2 the Lincoln Memorial. Was the amended bill  
3 circulated or do we not have that?

4 MS. STIDHAM: Let's see. We may have  
5 circulated the wrong bill. Let me sure we get  
6 the amended bill out to you. But the correct  
7 bill should have it in the findings and not --

8 MR. FOUNTAIN: Okay.

9 MS. STIDHAM: -- in the text of the  
10 bill itself.

11 MR. FOUNTAIN: All right. Thank you.

12 MS. STIDHAM: If you take a look at  
13 the legislative analysis, that might help. It's  
14 clearly defined there where it is and to the  
15 intent. So in the meantime.

16 MR. FOUNTAIN: Got it. Thank you.

17 MS. STIDHAM: You're welcome.

18 Mr. McMahon, I see your mute is off.

19 MR. McMAHON: Just because I had to  
20 push to talk. I've got not comments at this  
21 time. Obviously it's (audio interference) prior  
22 authorized by Congress. It's a very worthy

1 effort what they're doing. Having been stationed  
2 at Charleston, South Carolina my last tour in the  
3 Navy, I know there are multiple sites that are  
4 dedicated to memorializing Medal of Honor winners  
5 through different methods. What we here with  
6 Medal of Honor is much broader than what happens  
7 down in Charleston. So I support the effort.  
8 And I'm not sure I have a strong feeling one  
9 direction or the other about the potential  
10 location of this legislation. Thanks.

11 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. Thank you very  
12 much.

13 Mr. Luebke?

14 MR. LUEBKE: Yes, I just have a  
15 question for you, the Chair, and the Park  
16 Service. This is a tricky authorization in that  
17 it -- once again it goes to the Reserve as a  
18 stipulation for location. This has happened now  
19 with Global War on Terror, correct?

20 MS. STIDHAM: Correct.

21 MR. LUEBKE: And the other one, the  
22 Women's Suffrage?

1 MS. STIDHAM: Correct.

2 MR. LUEBKE: So any others?

3 MS. STIDHAM: Not yet. Not as of yet.

4 MR. LUEBKE: So I just want to say for  
5 the record we're in this weird position. We've  
6 got the Commemorative Works Act, which is an act  
7 of Congress, which says nothing should be located  
8 in this bill. It was always functioned as a  
9 pretty hard stop for everybody. Regulation is  
10 sort of like that. Once you make an exception,  
11 everybody wants the exception. And look what's  
12 happened. Only a year later and we've got two  
13 new groups asking for that exception.

14 I'm not here to say that it doesn't  
15 deserve it. We have unanimous support out of  
16 Congress for it I don't think anybody's going to  
17 push back. It's crazy. This is obviously the  
18 will of Congress. But is Congress' own rule not  
19 to do this and all of a sudden now everything's  
20 that's coming in suddenly breaks that rule. It's  
21 time to change the rule. The Reserve suddenly  
22 means nothing is where I'm going, if that's what

1 is going to happen. It just means nothing.

2           So I think that you should have some  
3 consideration of looking again at the  
4 Commemorative Works Act and what -- the  
5 definition of the Reserve because it no longer --  
6 once you have an exception, everybody is getting  
7 it and it doesn't mean anything. And I think we  
8 nave to either have some other process to  
9 determine when can things go in the Reserve? It  
10 just turns into a popularity contest or  
11 something. I don't know. I'm very conflicted  
12 about this because this was worked out carefully  
13 some decades ago and now who's going to say no?  
14 I think this is just a very difficult position to  
15 be in if that's what the rules were and now they  
16 don't mean anything.

17           So I think there's wonderful reasons  
18 why this memorial should happen, should happen in  
19 a very high area of prominence. It clearly has  
20 wide political support. So that's all good. So  
21 I just raise that as -- maybe there's something  
22 that we can do to advise Congress that we need to

1 address this issue.

2 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Luebke.  
3 I can say that the National Park Service has been  
4 struggling with this as well. Obviously the  
5 National Medal of Honor Memorial deserves a place  
6 of prominence. We're not disputing that. We  
7 totally agree.

8 As our Deputy Director of External and  
9 Congressional Affairs Mike Reynolds stated during  
10 the hearing for this bill, Congress did state  
11 that the Reserve is a completed work of civic  
12 art. And we are there -- we are continuing to be  
13 there to protect that space and to ensure that it  
14 is serving the multiple functions that it needs  
15 to serve in addition to being a place of  
16 prominence where we go to commemorate.

17 It also is America's front yard and it  
18 is the space where the public is to participate  
19 in large scale events related to this nation: the  
20 inauguration, Fourth of July, those sort of  
21 spaces. And if the spaces continue to be used up  
22 by structures of any type or anything, that other

1 role that the National Mall is to take will be  
2 lost. And where will the public participate in  
3 government, that it's no longer there?

4 So we would agree that there needs to  
5 be alternatives that have that same prominence  
6 and it's going to take someone with a lot of  
7 conviction to take a vision and go somewhere  
8 else. But I think it does fall on us to suggest  
9 where that somewhere else might be and how we  
10 expand because there is a lot going on right now  
11 and a lot more to come, as we all know. And  
12 there's no space for it. And it has nothing to  
13 do with any particular thing. It's just a matter  
14 of space.

15 Oh, Mr. Fountain. I'm sorry. I  
16 didn't see your hand.

17 MR. FOUNTAIN: So Mr. Luebke touched  
18 on a number of thoughts that I've got in response  
19 to this proposal. And I'm happy to launch into  
20 my comments, but I don't want to foreclose other  
21 questions that other members of the Commission  
22 may have before we start discussion.



1 MS. STIDHAM: I think we're moving  
2 into discussion.

3 MR. FOUNTAIN: So my agency of course  
4 has very direct connections to the Medal of  
5 Honor. More than 100 Medal of Honor recipients  
6 are buried in our cemeteries or listed on our  
7 walls of the missing. They are distinguished by  
8 the fact that the inscriptions on their  
9 headstones and on their names are gilded with  
10 gold leaf to set them apart from their comrades  
11 buried or listed around them. One of our current  
12 commissioners, Former Army Captain Florent  
13 Groberg, is himself a Medal of Honor recipient.  
14 So this is something that we take very seriously.

15 That said, we're hesitant to endorse  
16 specification that the memorial be within the  
17 Reserve for a number of reasons, and again, many  
18 of which tie to Mr. Luebke's remarks. And  
19 looking at both of the matters before us today as  
20 I've been reviewing the materials, both with  
21 respect to this memorial and the Women's Suffrage  
22 Memorial, we've got the Reserve, we've got the

1 Mall, which is an undefined term, we've got Area  
2 1, we've got the Monumental Core, which is an  
3 undefined term. And I agree with Mr. Luebke that  
4 maybe we need to go back and re-look at how those  
5 overlapping areas relate to each other, and even  
6 in my mind to what they're called.

7 The odd thing about the Reserve is it  
8 is not the Mall as people commonly think of the  
9 Mall. As far as I can tell it largely (audio  
10 interference) to National Park Service boundaries  
11 so it does not include the Smithsonian grounds  
12 for instance. It includes those little parcels  
13 around the Department of Agriculture that we're  
14 looking at in the Women's Suffrage Memorial  
15 proposal. The sponsors of the Desert Storm  
16 Memorial proudly proclaim that they are located  
17 on the National Mall, but they are not within the  
18 Reserve.

19 And so there's an arbitrariness to the  
20 Reserve for one thing. I take exception to  
21 legislation that says -- not just this specific  
22 bill, but any legislation that says a memorial

1 shall be in the Reserve as opposed to may be in  
2 the Reserve because there are plenty of other  
3 sites even just within the Mall, much less the  
4 Monumental Core, that are just as prominent, just  
5 as honorable, just as worthy as those within the  
6 Reserve.

7 I was struck in looking at the Women's  
8 Suffrage Memorial site selection analysis at how  
9 many of their sites are essentially not even  
10 across the street from the Reserve, but almost  
11 cheek by jowl with the Reserve, yet within what  
12 most people would think of as the Mall or would  
13 think of as the Monumental Core.

14 But we focus so much attention on the  
15 Reserve and then people want direction that they  
16 shall be in the Reserve that we short circuit and  
17 constrain the process unnecessarily. So I think  
18 it is worth thinking about revisiting our statute  
19 with the caveat that when you reopen a statute  
20 then you don't know what direction that reopening  
21 is going to go. And so you need to be cautious  
22 about that.

1           So there's that larger definitional  
2 issue and issues with respect to the structure of  
3 our -- of the Commemorative Works Act.

4           As Mr. Luebke indicates, I do think  
5 that this Commission ought to continue to be  
6 defenders of the Commemorative Works Act and the  
7 Reserve clause, and our starting point ought to  
8 be that a prior Congress made the determination  
9 that the Reserve is closed. And if a subsequent  
10 Congress wants to make the blanket determination  
11 that it should not be closed any longer, that's  
12 one thing, but I think we ought to continue to  
13 oppose piecemeal exceptions to the Reserve  
14 clause.

15           But we find ourselves in the position,  
16 as Mr. Luebke indicated, of being asked to weigh  
17 in on proposed exceptions without any rule of  
18 decision as to when an exception would be  
19 warranted. And so it seems in this context and  
20 in the Women's Suffrage context we're sort of  
21 being tasked implicitly to come up with our own  
22 rule of decision as to when we might say yes,

1 this exception is warranted or this is not.

2 And in thinking about this particular  
3 memorial I go back again to my agency's own rule  
4 of decision when it comes to erecting memorials.  
5 We were charged in 1923 with the mission of  
6 erecting monuments to honor the Service and  
7 accomplishments of American Armed Forces where  
8 they have served overseas. And our initial  
9 commission under the leadership of General  
10 Pershing made the determination that we would  
11 only build memorials to commemorate very large  
12 events essentially at the campaign level and we  
13 chose not to build memorials to individual units  
14 even at the division level much less down to the  
15 regiment or battalion or other levels. And the  
16 memorials that the American Battle Monuments  
17 Commission has built around the world are  
18 generally at the campaign level or higher.

19 What characterizes this memorial in my  
20 mind is that it is to a relatively small,  
21 notwithstanding tremendously heroic group of  
22 people, in contrast to the other military

1       memorials that have been built within the Reserve  
2       or within the Mall proper. And so it would stand  
3       in marked contrast to the Vietnam, Korea, or  
4       World War II Memorials, much less the World War I  
5       Memorial, which doesn't even sit within the  
6       Reserve or the Mall, although it is arguably in  
7       the Monumental Core.

8               And so I don't think of a rule of  
9       decision that would say a memorial to these 3,500  
10      servicemen and women ought to be within the  
11      Reserve as opposed to elsewhere on the Mall or  
12      within the Monumental Core where it would still  
13      have the potential for pride of place.

14             I appreciate that the memorial is  
15      intended to represent not just those individuals  
16      but the ideals that they represent, but I submit  
17      that in that case they would be somewhat  
18      redundant of the existing war memorials because  
19      all the servicemen and women that served in those  
20      other conflicts reflected many of the same  
21      qualities and virtues that the Medal of Honor  
22      recipients did, if not to a particular degree on

1 a particular day. And so I would submit that  
2 those broader qualities superseding the  
3 individuals themselves are already represented  
4 within the Reserve.

5 So as we think of other sites I  
6 appreciate the connection to President Lincoln,  
7 but again I would suggest there may be a stronger  
8 connection at the other end of the Mall. As Mr.  
9 Sherman noted, it is commonly referred to as the  
10 Congressional Medal of Honor and so a location  
11 proximate to the Capitol may reinforce that  
12 connection. Even more so I think proximity to  
13 the Grant Memorial would be highly appropriate  
14 given that the Medal was first conferred in the  
15 Civil War and General Grant was the primary --  
16 the principal leader of Union Forces in the Civil  
17 War.

18 And so I think it's interesting that  
19 Northwest Capitol ground site north of the Grant  
20 Reflecting Pool opposite the Botanical Gardens  
21 I've been looking at as a good a site for both  
22 this memorial and the Women's Suffrage Memorial

1 as we'll talk about later. But that connection  
2 to General Grant and then particularly the two  
3 sculptural tableaus on either side of him I think  
4 would be very powerful.

5 Mr. Sherman, or I think Mr. Crowley  
6 mentioned looking across the river toward  
7 Arlington National Cemetery grounds. I believe  
8 I've advocated before that we ought to be looking  
9 on or adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery  
10 grounds as a proper location for military-themed  
11 memorials, both to reinforce the thematic  
12 connections between those sites and also to  
13 expand the memorial landscape across the river.  
14 And I think there would be appropriate sites over  
15 there worth considering before we dictate that  
16 this memorial be within the Reserve.

17 I'm just looking over my notes to see  
18 if I've missed anything else. I think that  
19 largely covers my thoughts. Again, we're being  
20 asked to -- as Mr. Luebke notes, we're  
21 increasingly being asked to advise Congress on  
22 whether to make an exception to its own



1 legislation and we have to look at individual  
2 pieces of legislation within the larger context  
3 of other legislation that has come before us or  
4 will come before us.

5 Mr. Luebke didn't note that there was  
6 a prior legislation to authorize the World War I  
7 Memorial to be located within the Reserve and  
8 that legislation did not advance. And I'd  
9 respectfully submit that if World War I did not  
10 warrant an exception to the Reserve clause, then  
11 I have a hard time articulating a reason why the  
12 Medal of Honor Memorial ought to warrant an  
13 exception in contrast.

14 So with all due appreciation for the  
15 objectives of Representative Moore, Mr. Crowley  
16 and their organization -- and again, no one is  
17 disputing the value of this memorial or even its  
18 location within the Monumental Core writ large --  
19 I'm not sure an exception to the Reserve clause  
20 is warranted here. Thank you.

21 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Fountain.

22 Mr. Maloney?

1                   MR. MALONEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
2 I sensed that you were searching around for a  
3 comment from other members, so I thought (audio  
4 interference).

5                   MS. STIDHAM: Yes. Thank you for  
6 that.

7                   MR. MALONEY: My pleasure. I was  
8 interested in particular hearing what Mr.  
9 Fountain had to say because he is someone -- and  
10 I think of all the members of the Commission --  
11 the Defense Department of course is here, but he  
12 is most in the business of dealing with the issue  
13 of war memorials. And I have to say I found his  
14 entire statement very persuasive.

15                   It is a problem that, as you have  
16 pointed out and Mr. Luebke pointed out, is  
17 increasingly put in front of this Commission in a  
18 way that we are not really set up to solve this  
19 problem. Everyone -- well, not everyone, but  
20 repeatedly we are having requests to put  
21 memorials on the Reserve, and as people have  
22 said, this is a problem that Congress needs to

1 solve and abide by their rule, if they're going  
2 to set one, otherwise set a different one. So I  
3 sense that frustration as well.

4 And I think that Mr. Fountain has done  
5 I think an excellent analysis of prioritizing,  
6 which we have to do, which types of memorials  
7 deserve to be in the Reserve and which do not.  
8 And I think he has very carefully thought through  
9 all of the implications that this may have for  
10 similar proposals that may come in the future  
11 that are not of the scale of these national  
12 memorials to major conflicts: World War I, so on,  
13 so forth, go down the line, and that if we open  
14 that up to a plethora of memorials on smaller  
15 aspects of military valor, that is a very  
16 difficult thing I think to sustain.

17 And you all I think may know the  
18 history of the Commemorative Works Act better  
19 than I, but I think one of the things that  
20 Congress was pointing a direction away from was  
21 the two memorials that are on the south grounds  
22 of the Executive Office Building, the individual

1 units within the military. And I think the  
2 notion was that we would get away from that and  
3 try to make sure that in the Reserve area there  
4 would not be these more individualized memorials.  
5 So it isn't -- no disrespect to the recipients of  
6 the Medal of Honor certainly, and it just seems  
7 to me it is more a question of practicality in  
8 terms of sustaining memorialization of the Mall  
9 indefinitely.

10 I also parenthetically agree with the  
11 notion that proximity to Lincoln is to my mind  
12 not convincing enough as an important rationale  
13 for locating it in close proximity to Lincoln. I  
14 mean, it seems to me there would be other  
15 locations that would be equally prominent and  
16 equally memorable to locate this monument.

17 MS. STIDHAM: Great. Thank you, Mr.  
18 Maloney.

19 I think we still have to hear from Ms.  
20 Williams?

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I don't  
22 have the luxury of having history sitting on the

1 Commission; this is my first time representing  
2 our agency, but I do know that Mina Wright, who  
3 usually sits on the Commission from GSA, has  
4 often remarked that it may be time for a re-look  
5 at the Commemorative Works Act to figure out what  
6 is working and what is not. And that does seem  
7 to be supported by the comments from Mr. Luebke  
8 and Mr. Maloney and Mr. Fountain. And so  
9 whatever the mechanism to begin that is, I think  
10 we would wholeheartedly support it.

11 As for the discussion of this  
12 particular monument, again definitely see the  
13 important for the Medal of Honor recipients, and  
14 there is no doubt that they should be recognized  
15 in a prominent location. I would agree with Mr.  
16 Maloney that when it comes to my mind the sort of  
17 adjacency to Lincoln is less prominent when  
18 thinking about these individuals than maybe some  
19 of the other sites that have already been  
20 mentioned. Either closer to Congress or even  
21 looking back towards the Arlington Cemetery and  
22 some of those adjacent environs around there or

1 the Pentagon might be another prominent and  
2 suitable location for consideration.

3 And so again I don't have the depth of  
4 history that my fellow Commissioners do, so I do  
5 align myself with my comments. And again, we're  
6 supportive of the memorial and look forward to  
7 seeing where as the site selection develops and  
8 the monument design continues.

9 MS. STIDHAM: Great. Thank you, Ms.  
10 Williams.

11 Commissioner Imamura?

12 MR. IMAMURA: Sure. Thank you, Madam  
13 Chair. I agree with the comments of my fellow  
14 Commissioners. Like Commissioner Maloney, I enjoy  
15 comments that Commissioner Fountain makes.  
16 Certainly I think this Commission, the thing that  
17 I enjoyed most is it's comprised of a tremendous  
18 amount of experience and wisdom by my fellow  
19 Commissioners. Appreciate Commissioner Sherman's  
20 questions to identify a little bit more about the  
21 design intent behind this. Certainly it's  
22 inarguable that this commemorative work is

1 important to honor and find an appropriate  
2 location.

3 I would say that in my position  
4 representing the agency for the Architect of the  
5 Capitol the comments -- the thematic nexus with  
6 Congress compared to the thematic nexus with  
7 Lincoln I certainly understand and appreciate the  
8 comments made by the Commission, my fellow  
9 Commissioners here. And it would be difficult to  
10 argue against that connection with Congress, with  
11 the Grant Memorial, however, as Mr. Crowley had  
12 commented that that process is an entirely  
13 different set of circumstances for them -- and I  
14 certainly want this to be a successful endeavor  
15 and think that maybe perhaps other sites across  
16 the river, Arlington, and perhaps elsewhere may  
17 be more appropriate.

18 Like Commissioner Luebke had mentioned, and  
19 I thought you might add this; and certainly you  
20 did, Madam Chair, your remarks that the great  
21 cross-axis is a complete work of art, the  
22 Reserve. So I think there's a general consensus

1 here that as this Commission we should protect  
2 that unless otherwise directed by Congress.

3 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. So I'm  
4 getting the impression that we're all of similar  
5 mind, so I would offer -- if someone would like  
6 to make a motion? Mr. Fountain?

7 MR. FOUNTAIN: I don't know that we've  
8 ever proceeded by motion before, to my  
9 recollection. Mr. May tended to --

10 MS. STIDHAM: It was often done by  
11 motion to ensure that what we're carrying forward  
12 is the intent of this Commission. And because it  
13 sounds as though there is -- we are all around  
14 the same -- the theme of protecting the Reserve,  
15 if I'm characterizing that appropriately -- I  
16 want to make sure that we -- what goes forward to  
17 the Committee is in line with what the Commission  
18 believes is what we should be commenting on.

19 MR. FOUNTAIN: Yes. Well I can  
20 certainly make a motion that the Commission  
21 recommend to the Congress that it not pass the  
22 bill with the specification that the memorial



1 shall be located within the Reserve. That's  
2 really the end of the matter. But I would, as a  
3 second motion, I suppose, pass on -- I mean  
4 that's really the --

5 MS. STIDHAM: Well, let's --

6 MR. FOUNTAIN: It's a narrow statute.  
7 There's other comment we can make, but it's a --  
8 the statute is very narrow (audio interference) -  
9 -

10 MS. STIDHAM: Let's see if there's a  
11 second on your first motion before we move to a  
12 potential second motion, otherwise we can revisit  
13 a motion.

14 MR. IMAMURA: If I can add a friendly  
15 amendment to that, Madam Chair, that we include  
16 that other potential sites be considered. I  
17 think that's important. Just not that it's not  
18 in the Reserve, but that the Commission is open  
19 to and wants to support other sites that may be  
20 more appropriate with a stronger thematic  
21 connection.

22 MS. STIDHAM: So I would say that the

1 motion on the floor is to recommend to Congress  
2 to not confine the selection to the Reserve, but  
3 allow for site selection to take place that is  
4 appropriate with the nexus of this potential  
5 memorial in a place that is rightful to meeting  
6 its thematic nexus, as Mr. Harvard would say.

7 Mr. Maloney?

8 MR. MALONEY: I think it would be also  
9 -- may be appropriate to say in the context of  
10 that motion also that the Commission fully  
11 supports this memorial, that we don't -- we're  
12 not taking issue with the memorial itself or its  
13 importance, but it's merely the issues that we've  
14 cited that -- this great conflict of cramming too  
15 many things on the Mall. That is -- or in the  
16 Reserve. That is the issue with us.

17 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. That is  
18 important.

19 Mr. McMahon?

20 MR. McMAHON: Thanks, Madam Chair. I  
21 guess -- can you hear me, by the way?

22 MS. STIDHAM: Yes.

1 MR. McMAHON: Okay. Great. I guess  
2 just to make sure we're following Robert's Rules  
3 of Order I guess will offer a second to the  
4 original proposal so then we can discuss it. I  
5 would like to point out as we discuss this  
6 amendment and language that this memorial in the  
7 District of Columbia is already approved as I  
8 recall reading the draft language of 2717, an  
9 analysis that was approved in 2021 to establish  
10 the Museum Foundation's Memorial on federal land  
11 in the District of Columbia. So I don't think  
12 any of us at this point were discussing the merit  
13 and need for such a memorial to Medal of Honor  
14 awardees, but actually where it goes and what  
15 language we follow. So I'm not sure that we need  
16 to modify the original amendment as proposed  
17 (audio interference).

18 MR. MALONEY: That's a fair point. I  
19 agree.

20 MS. STIDHAM: That is correct. It was  
21 authorized in 2021. And this bill that we're  
22 discussing was in relation to location,

1 specifically that it would -- that it shall be  
2 located within the Reserve. So I think in our --  
3 to Mr. Maloney's point, I think to our letter --  
4 in our letter back we can state our support for  
5 the memorial as this Commission did support it  
6 when the bill was in front of us to authorize the  
7 memorial as a site. I think our follow-up here  
8 is related to location and not restricting it  
9 just to the Reserve, but having the Medal of  
10 Honor do a full site selection to look at the  
11 merits of different locations and its  
12 connections.

13 MR. McMAHON: Ma'am, thanks.

14 The other thing I would like to point  
15 out is I went while we were talking, I went to  
16 congress.gov and pulled up the, the bill on the  
17 website. And it doesn't include the actual bill,  
18 not in your -- you know, there's no findings  
19 behind it, a requirement that it be located  
20 within 1,000 feet from Lincoln Memorial.

21 So, I think, I think that the bill as  
22 written and as reported out by committee includes

1 that, that requirement.

2 MS. STIDHAM: I think there must have  
3 been a mistake on the website. I hate to say it.  
4 We do have the amended bill that we received  
5 after the markup, so, where it is in the  
6 findings. So, we will take a good look at that  
7 to make sure everyone has that.

8 MR. McMAHON: Thank you.

9 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. So, let's see if  
10 I can maybe restate.

11 Oh, wait a minute. We have a second  
12 from Mr. McMahan.

13 So, I guess I would say if everyone's  
14 in agreement with the motion that -- I'm missing  
15 words now -- that the Commission, not so much  
16 that the Commission supports it, but we do, that  
17 the location should be reconsidered. To  
18 reconsider the location within the Reserve and  
19 broaden it to allow for site selection throughout  
20 the District to better connect this particular  
21 memorial to other existing sites. Or something  
22 much more articulate than that came out.

1           So, I'll go ahead and take a vote and  
2 see where we are.

3           Anyone in support, raise your hands.

4           (Show of hands.)

5           MS. STIDHAM: Okay. That was  
6 everybody. Okay, great.

7           Our Park Service staff will draft that  
8 correspondence and circulate it for everyone  
9 before we report this up.

10          So, thank you. Thank you for that.

11          So, moving on to our next agenda item,  
12 which is a site selection presentation for the  
13 Women's Suffrage National Monument.

14          Congress approved Public Law 116-217  
15 on January 24th, 2014, authorizing "Every Word We  
16 Utter" monument to establish a commemorative work  
17 on federal land in the District of Columbia and  
18 its environs to commemorate the women's suffrage  
19 movement, and the passage of the 19th Amendment  
20 to the Constitution which gave women the right to  
21 vote.

22          I should add that the language, the

1 name memorial has changed from "Every Word We  
2 Utter" to National Women's -- "Women's Suffrage  
3 National Monument," as we move forward.

4 One of the sites that you're going to  
5 see in the presentation that, that is coming up  
6 is the west parking lot of the USDA Whitten  
7 Building. And I just wanted to provide a little  
8 background related to that site.

9 NCMAC supported that site, along with  
10 several other possible sites, on a short list for  
11 the location of the National Liberty Memorial  
12 back in July of 2013. So, if that site seems  
13 familiar, that's where we saw it before.

14 The status was that that particular  
15 memorial sponsor, they presented their short  
16 list, but they didn't complete their sub-  
17 selection. And to date, they have no final site  
18 selected for that memorial.

19 So, the women's -- you'll see that as  
20 part of the upcoming presentation.

21 Today representatives from memorial  
22 sponsor, Women's Suffrage National Monument

1 Foundation, are here with us to speak about the  
2 findings just far -- so far in their site  
3 selection process. We will receive a  
4 presentation on these findings from Anna Laymon,  
5 Executive Director for Women's Suffrage National  
6 Monument Foundation, and Claire Sale, Associate  
7 Principal at AECOM.

8 If we could bring those two forward.

9 Okay. Ms. Laymon, I understand you  
10 will be providing opening remarks and introducing  
11 your team.

12 MS. LAYMON: Yes. Okay, so, hi,  
13 everyone.

14 So, I wanted to mention whoever is  
15 running the tech, for people who are just  
16 attendees who are watching it suddenly switched  
17 from being able to see everybody to only being  
18 able to see the person that's speaking.

19 And so, when you all voted, the people  
20 who are watching can't see all of you.

21 So, Tammy, the only person we could  
22 see was you.



1 MS. STIDHAM: Okay.

2 MS. LAYMON: So, just whoever's running  
3 tech, just FYI.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Oh, I don't know if it  
5 expects everyone.

6 MS. LAYMON: All right. All right,  
7 ignore that.

8 MS. STIDHAM: Okay. And Claire I think  
9 is here. Claire, you're good? Okay.

10 MS. LAYMON: She is here.

11 MS. SALE: I am here.

12 MS. LAYMON: Perfect. Okay, let's get  
13 started.

14 Okay. So, thank you everyone. I'm  
15 thrilled to be here. I have been the Executive  
16 Director of the Women's Suffrage National  
17 Monument Foundation since January of last year.  
18 And this is a milestone that we have been working  
19 towards since then, so close to two years.

20 So, this is great. This is, like,  
21 thrilling, to finally be here with you all.

22 So, okay, so the first thing I wanted

1 to mention was just to address the elephant in  
2 the room. We are going something in this meeting  
3 that I'm, I'm not sure you all have ever done  
4 before. Maybe you have, but that to my knowledge  
5 you haven't. Which is we are asking you to  
6 consider your position, your stance both on  
7 designating us for Area 1, and then possible  
8 sites within Area 1.

9 And then also this legislation that's  
10 moving through Congress that you'll be discussing  
11 after this for this monument to possibly be  
12 placed within the Reserve.

13 So, I know that that's unusual. I  
14 know that's not typically how this is done. But  
15 I just thought I'd give a little bit of  
16 background so what -- how this has come to be.

17 So, we began our site selection  
18 process with the National Park Service and with  
19 AECOM really back in January of 2022, but in  
20 earnest in January of this year. And fast  
21 forward a couple of months later, Congress  
22 introduced this legislation to place this

1 monument within the Reserve, bicameral,  
2 bipartisan legislation.

3 The National Park Service asked us to  
4 continue moving forward with our Area 1, Area 2  
5 site selection process in parallel with this  
6 Reserve legislation moving through Congress. We  
7 were absolutely happy to do that because for us  
8 it's, it's not about whether or not this monument  
9 is inside or outside of a red line that was drawn  
10 in 2003. For us it's about finding the best  
11 possible site for what will be, we hope, the  
12 first national monument dedicated to American  
13 women's history on the National Mall.

14 So, what you're going to see from  
15 today, so first we're going to present to you our  
16 justifications for an Area 1 designation. You're  
17 going to see our site selection process, how we  
18 went through that.

19 We're going to ask you to consider  
20 Area 1. And then we're going to ask you to  
21 consider a couple of sites specifically within  
22 Area 1 that we think are really good sites, and

1 that we would be really honored to receive.

2           However, there is a however, there is  
3 an asterisk.

4           The bottom line for us is that the  
5 sites you're about to see in this Area 1  
6 presentation, which are two great sites that  
7 we're excited to bring to you, they are not going  
8 -- how do I put it best? -- they are not going to  
9 weave women into the commemorative core of the  
10 National Mall. We're going to come close. We're  
11 going to come very, very close. But we will  
12 still be adjacent to the American story that  
13 we're telling in that monumental core. We won't  
14 be woven in.

15           And that is truly our North Star.  
16 That is what we are here to, hopefully, have a  
17 discussion about.

18           For us, we believe -- and I hope  
19 you'll agree -- that we have erased women out of  
20 history by not memorializing their contributions  
21 to this country. There is no common civic  
22 knowledge of what women have given to American

1 democracy. The women and girls of this country  
2 deserve better.

3 But, the great news is this is a  
4 problem that can be fixed. Often when it comes  
5 to gendered inequity there is no clear path  
6 forward. Gendered inequity is typically a very  
7 hard problem to solve.

8 This isn't hard to solve. This is  
9 pretty easy to solve. We're hoping to present  
10 that case to you today for your consideration and  
11 right what we think is a pretty major historic  
12 wrong.

13 But, that's a bigger conversation for  
14 later in this meeting when we get to the part,  
15 when we get to the Reserve discussion. For now  
16 we are very grateful and excited to give you our  
17 Area 1 site selection process, our Area 2 site  
18 selection process, and see if you agree with us  
19 that this monument is certainly worthy of being  
20 in Area 1, and that these are two very possible  
21 and viable sites.

22 Could we go to the next slide.

1           Okay. So, Tammy already mentioned  
2 this, but this monument was authorized through  
3 public law back in 2020. It was December of 2020  
4 when the law was passed to establish this  
5 monument.

6           In this process, in the site selection  
7 study we're going to walk you through a few  
8 things:

9           We're going to articulate our goals.

10          We're going to outline our memorial  
11 program.

12          We're going to explain, you know, why  
13 we think this absolutely should qualify for Area  
14 1.

15          And we're going to show you how we  
16 went from dozens and dozens of sites to our final  
17 two that we'd like to present to you today.

18          I want to mention also, Tammy  
19 mentioned that our name used to be "Every Word We  
20 Utter." And since then we have legally changed  
21 our name. We are now the Women's Suffrage  
22 National Monument Foundation.

1           This has grown into a very different  
2 project than the last time you all saw us. I  
3 think that the last time this organization was in  
4 front of NCMAC was 2019. We are a very different  
5 organization since that last time you saw us.

6           This project originated with two women  
7 in Colorado who noticed the lack of women's  
8 representation in Washington, D.C., and that  
9 there was no memorial to the women's suffrage  
10 movement. They went to their congressmen, who  
11 introduced legislation, and together they figured  
12 it out and they made this pretty incredible thing  
13 happen by getting this law passed.

14           Since then the six living first ladies  
15 have signed on as honorary chairs of this  
16 project. It's the only organization in the  
17 country where they serve together voluntarily.

18           We have two dozen of the nation's  
19 leading experts serving together on our Advisory  
20 Council. We're talking about established  
21 historians, public art experts, and experts in  
22 community engagement.

1                   And we've brought on leaders and  
2                   luminaries like Ken Burns, presidential historian  
3                   Doris Kearns Goodwin, former Poet Laureate Joy  
4                   Harjo to serve together as the ambassadors of the  
5                   project.

6                   So, you're going to notice this is a  
7                   very different project than the project that you  
8                   saw a few years ago. So, this is also a very  
9                   different project than the project that you're  
10                  used to being presented with. This is not  
11                  another war memorial. This is not a monument to  
12                  the singular man. This is a monument to  
13                  democracy building, to rights, and it's a  
14                  celebration of what American women have given to  
15                  this country.

16                  Can we go to the next slide.

17                  Okay. Our goals. Let's just walk  
18                  through this slide really quickly.

19                  So, the goals for our monument:

20                  We hope to build a dynamic memorial in  
21                  the monumental core of our nation's capital.

22                  And, so, I think it was Mr. Fountain who



1 mentioned, you know, that's a kind of undefined  
2 term. What do we consider the "monumental core"?

3 For us the monumental core we consider  
4 to be basically, what is that, 14th Street, 15th  
5 Street. So, for us the monumental core is  
6 basically 15th Street, so the Washington  
7 Monument, down to Lincoln, up to Constitution  
8 Gardens, down around the Tidal Basin. That's  
9 when you hear "monumental core" throughout this,  
10 that's how we're defining it.

11 So, we are hoping to build a dynamic  
12 memorial in the monumental core of our nation's  
13 capital that, first, we, as the great women of  
14 American history, and amongst the giants of our  
15 national story, ensure that every girl who visits  
16 the National Mall sees herself represented in the  
17 American story; permanently enshrined women's  
18 contributions to building, securing, and  
19 expanding American democracy; and inspires a  
20 continued investment in America's constitutional  
21 promise of freedom, justice, and equality for  
22 all.

1 Can we go to the next slide.

2 Thank you.

3 Okay. So, our themes.

4 We are looking for a site that  
5 supports these three things:

6 First, we are hoping to weave women  
7 into the heart of the nation's most important  
8 commemorative corridor, and inspire visitors to  
9 revere the role women played in building,  
10 shaping, and expanding our democracy;

11 Next, we are hoping to celebrate the  
12 role of our foremothers in building a more just  
13 and equal America, and;

14 Finally, we hope to tell a diverse and  
15 broad story at the site for the 19th Amendment.  
16 And we're looking for a site that would support  
17 those three things.

18 The history piece.

19 So, I know you, we've presented in  
20 front of you all before. We've talked about the  
21 history of this monument. But just very briefly,  
22 if you'll indulge me, you know, just common

1 understanding of what we're talking about.

2 So, of course, I'm sure you all are  
3 familiar with this, but the suffragettes began  
4 their organized fight for women's equality. And  
5 that's important. When we're talking about the  
6 women's suffrage movement we are not just talking  
7 about the fight for the right to vote. We are  
8 talking about women's historical fight for  
9 equality.

10 The right to vote was a piece of that.  
11 It was a piece of that political representation,  
12 it was a piece of that full quality.

13 But they were also fighting for the  
14 right to education, the right to divorce their  
15 husbands and still keep custody of their  
16 children. There were a lot of things they were  
17 fighting, the vote was one of them. But the  
18 women's suffrage movement was truly a fight for  
19 women's equality.

20 The organized fight for women's  
21 suffrage and women's equality began in 1848 when  
22 300-plus women and a few men gathered together in

1 Seneca Falls, New York, and put on paper for the  
2 very first time that all men and women are  
3 created equal, which was a bold, radical  
4 statement to make at the time.

5 For the next 72 years these women  
6 lobbied, marched, picketed, protested for their  
7 right to the ballot and for full equality under  
8 the law. They were revolutionaries. They  
9 orchestrated one of the most sweeping and  
10 effective lobbying campaigns in U.S. history.  
11 They adopted the British motto "deeds, not  
12 words." Right? So, action, right, this is very,  
13 very action oriented.

14 And because generations of women  
15 raised their voices and persevered in the fight  
16 for full equality, the 19th Amendment became part  
17 of the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

18 That moment, August 26th, 1920, marked  
19 the single largest expansion of voting rights in  
20 American history, culminated in a massive  
21 extension of democracy, individual rights, and  
22 justice.

1           The suffragettes set protests -- or  
2 precedents, excuse me, they set precedents in  
3 protest, civil disobedience, civic organization  
4 that continued to inspire, that were absolutely  
5 conformative to all of the movements that came  
6 after them. And they absolutely moved this  
7 nation closer to a more perfect union.

8           They were the first to picket in front  
9 of the White House. And those who were arrested  
10 for peacefully protesting in front of the White  
11 House were the first in American history to  
12 orchestrate hunger strikes for being wrongfully  
13 imprisoned.

14           They were American heroes. Right?

15           So, who are we talking about? Of  
16 course you know some of these people. We have  
17 great leaders like Elizabeth Cady Stanton,  
18 Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Jane Addams,  
19 Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, Alice Paul, Ida B. Wells.

20           But we're also talking about women  
21 like Margaret Brent, who in 1648 was denied the  
22 vote in the colony of New Jersey because until

1 1922 in this country a woman's citizenship was  
2 tied to that of her husband or her father.  
3 Without either, Margaret Brent is 1648, in the  
4 eye of the law had no personhood.

5 We're also talking about women like  
6 Abigail Adams, founding mother, who wrote to her  
7 husband John Adams in 1776, urged him, begged him  
8 to remember the ladies in this new republic.

9 We're talking about women like Sarah  
10 Grimke who in South Carolina in 1838 wrote a  
11 guiding statement that inspired the suffrage  
12 movement first when she -- my favorite quote of  
13 all time -- she said, "I ask no favors for my  
14 sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All  
15 our ask of our brethren is, that they take their  
16 feet from our necks, and permit us to stand  
17 upright." That was 1838.

18 And we're talking about millions more  
19 women who worked for centuries for the betterment  
20 of our democracy in big and small ways, and who  
21 deserve to have their courage commemorated in the  
22 singular national park in this country dedicated

1 to celebrating the true power of American  
2 democracy.

3 So, about to turn it over to you,  
4 Claire.

5 So, we are here to ask that you  
6 remember the ladies, just like Abigail Adams  
7 asked nearly 250 years ago. The question before  
8 us as we consider where this monument belongs,  
9 will the great women of American history finally  
10 be allowed space in the monumental core of the  
11 National Mall, to deepen our understanding of the  
12 ideals of equality, freedom, and justice so  
13 central to the founding of this republic?

14 Will our girls finally see themselves  
15 in the American story we're telling in the most  
16 visited national park in the United States?

17 There's a lot to talk about. So, I'm  
18 going to stop there, hand it over to Claire,  
19 who's going to walk you through our site  
20 selection process.

21 Thanks.

22 (National Alert test sounds.)

1 MS. LAYMON: That was the alarm,  
2 Claire, to notify everyone that, that you're  
3 talking now. I orchestrated that intentionally.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Perfect. Perfect timing,  
5 Anna.

6 Everybody's phone the national alert  
7 is about to happen. So, at least here. So,  
8 everyone's phone might be going off. But,  
9 Claire, if you're ready, the rest of us will be  
10 on mute. And you can move forward.

11 MS. SALE: My phone just went off. So,  
12 if you saw me jump, that was why.

13 MS. STIDHAM: All right. I'll turn it  
14 to you.

15 MS. SALE: Okay. On the next slide  
16 we'll talk about how we took all the information  
17 that Anna provided us and how we're trying to  
18 translate that into a physical, the physical  
19 embodiment of all of that.

20 So, as part of the program that we're  
21 looking at, we are looking at a highly-landscaped  
22 design that can tell a series of stories rather



1 than just one, one feature, to have something  
2 that can have a series of commemorative features  
3 and that can tell the story from different  
4 perspectives and the multi-generational aspect of  
5 it.

6 We want something that accommodates  
7 true space-making and offers an opportunity to  
8 create a distinct memorial location within the  
9 monument core, so that's a special place.

10 We're looking to have a place that  
11 visitors can safely visit and participate in  
12 programming throughout the day and evening.

13 We want a place that can provide space  
14 for programming and events of different kinds,  
15 including concerts, discussions, school groups,  
16 et cetera.

17 And we're looking for a place that can  
18 provide a transfer -- excuse me -- a  
19 transformative experience for all visitors, and  
20 that can ignite curiosity about women's  
21 contributions to American history.

22 Next slide, please.

1           So, as part of this we looked at, we  
2 developed some site selection criteria.

3           So, the first thing we looked at was,  
4 okay, can we find a site that is suitable and  
5 matches the program we just went through?

6           We also looked at the thematic nexus.  
7 So, we want to have a site that physically,  
8 thematically, and conceptually connects the  
9 founding of the nation's democracy with the  
10 women's story, so that we can weave it in through  
11 our great leaders

12           We looked at the addition to the  
13 commemorative landscape. So, we want something  
14 that adds to the commemorative landscape in  
15 Washington as opposed to taking away or impinging  
16 on existing memorials.

17           We want to talk about having it  
18 integrated into the national -- excuse me --  
19 integrated into the monumental core. And Anna  
20 just described the definition used in this site,  
21 site study, so that we can weave women's history  
22 and the story of women's leaders into that, into

1 our commemoration of America's leaders.

2 We want to have coordination for  
3 implementation, and to be sensitive of other  
4 plans for monument sites, so that it's not  
5 dependent upon other plans.

6 We're looking for something that is  
7 transformable, so we want to avoid constraints  
8 and limiting factors for a site.

9 We want it to offer safety and  
10 security and enables as well as welcomes a  
11 celebratory and safe experience for visitors.

12 We want something that offers site  
13 access so that it's not, for instance, behind a  
14 secure perimeter of a location.

15 And we want something that is  
16 accessible both from Metrorail as well as for  
17 pedestrians.

18 And on the next slide we, we're  
19 switching to Area 1.

20 So, we kind of talked about our  
21 criteria and the themes. So, now we're going to  
22 talk about the criteria for Area 1.

1           On the next slide, so, part of Area  
2           1's justification, the intent here is to have  
3           something that is of preeminent, historical, and  
4           lasting significance to the United States. And  
5           we posit that the 19th Amendment to the  
6           Constitution giving women the right to vote does  
7           qualify for that because the movement represents  
8           the role of our foremothers in building,  
9           securing, and expanding our democracy.

10           It represents the suffragettes'  
11           patriotism and resilience, and the continued  
12           investment in America's constitutional promise of  
13           freedom, justice, and quality for all.

14           And on the next slide, just to  
15           underscore what Anna had said previously in terms  
16           of all six living first ladies participating as  
17           honorary chairs for this memorial just really  
18           indicates and underscores the importance of the  
19           monument and its broad appeal across a wide  
20           spectrum of perspectives.

21           On the next slide. We'll be  
22           introducing the potential sites. And we looked

1 at several of them.

2 So, the next slide will show us our  
3 map.

4 So, on our initial range of potential  
5 sites in Area 1 and Area 2 we focused basically  
6 in, around the National Mall. But we looked in,  
7 as I said, Area 1 and Area 2. So, they ranged  
8 from the Belvedere, which is along the western  
9 edge of our site selection area that we focused  
10 on on the Potomac River.

11 We went as far east as Maryland Avenue  
12 and Constitution Avenue, N.E.

13 The northernmost site is Freedom  
14 Plaza. And the southernmost site is Banneker  
15 Overlook in Southwest D.C.

16 On our next page. We'll go through  
17 these slides pretty quickly. These are just sort  
18 of snapshots of the range that we looked at.

19 So, these are two sites along the  
20 western edge. We looked at the Belvedere and the  
21 E Street corridor. You have been previously  
22 shown this map for other projects.

1           On the next slide we show the Federal  
2 Triangle. So, we looked at two locations on  
3 Freedom Plaza: Freedom Plaza West, Freedom Plaza  
4 East. As well as locations along Pennsylvania  
5 Avenue at 12th Street, and at the Archives.

6           And then, finally, along the Madison  
7 Drive at 12th Street, which is adjacent to the  
8 American Museum, or National Museum of American  
9 History.

10           Next slide, please.

11           On this slide we show the sites that  
12 we looked at around the U.S. Capitol. And those  
13 include Pennsylvania Avenue at Constitution  
14 Avenue, Bartholdi Park, U.S. Capitol grounds  
15 northwest, which we'll talk about in a little  
16 bit, the Supreme Court North site, as well as the  
17 Constitution Avenue at Maryland Avenue, N.E.

18           And on the next slide, we looked at  
19 areas that are sites that are within areas around  
20 Southwest. So, that includes the Maine Avenue,  
21 the USDA West Lot, Banneker Park, the 10th Street  
22 Promenade, and Maryland Avenue, S.W.

1                   Next slide, please.

2                   So, we gave each one of these a rating  
3 based on our criteria we had established  
4 previously. And here's another one where we're  
5 going to go through these slides pretty quickly.

6                   So, on the next slide you'll see that  
7 we removed several locations from consideration  
8 based on their program suitability. That was the  
9 first criteria we looked at. And these sites  
10 would not provide that. So, we removed six of  
11 these from contention at this point.

12                   The next stage we looked at on the  
13 next slide, we looked at thematic nexus, which  
14 eliminated even more sites from consideration.

15                   And then, finally, we looked at the  
16 addition to the commemorative landscape. And as  
17 a result, based on those three initial passes  
18 that we looked at for our criteria, we ended up  
19 with six sites that we considered potentially  
20 viable and that merited further consideration.

21                   Next slide, please.

22                   And so, this is sort of our transition

1 that we're going to go from our broad selection  
2 of approximately 17 sites or so, and then going  
3 into more elaborate detail.

4 So, on the next slide.

5 This is our range of potential sites  
6 that were left. And that includes Freedom Plaza  
7 East and West, Madison Drive at 12th Street, the  
8 U.S. Capitol Grounds, Northwest, the USDA site,  
9 and the 10th Street Promenade.

10 Next slide, please.

11 So, the first one we'll talk about is  
12 USDA. And we refer it to the USDA West Lot. It  
13 is where the USDA headquarters location is at the  
14 Whitten Building.

15 This is the parking lot to the west of  
16 the building. It is at 14th Street and Madison,  
17 and between Madison Drive and Independence  
18 Avenue. And as you can see here, it is adjacent  
19 to the Washington Monument and within view, and  
20 it's just south of the National Mall.

21 This site offers the opportunity to be  
22 within that adjacent to the Washington Monument,



1 so that it is connected to the founder of our  
2 country. And the site is currently a surfaced  
3 parking lot that has approximately 27 parking  
4 spaces.

5 The plan overall for this, that's been  
6 approved for the USDA perimeter security and site  
7 improvement plan, calls for this to be a garden  
8 landscape. We can talk about that more in a few  
9 minutes.

10 And it is clear, or, excuse me, it is  
11 near the Smithsonian Metro Station, so it's only  
12 a couple of blocks away. And it's fairly  
13 accessible for visitors.

14 Next slide, please.

15 We also looked at the 10th Street  
16 Promenade. So, this would offer the opportunity  
17 for a linear park. And this is southwest -- or,  
18 excuse me, south of Independence Avenue and is on  
19 axis with the Haupt Garden and the Smithsonian  
20 Castle.

21 And so, it's south of the National  
22 Mall and doesn't provide direct access. But the

1 Castle does serve as a gateway to visitors to the  
2 National Mall, so, and the museum complex. So,  
3 we did look at it in that respect.

4 This also would, the site also  
5 reinforces plans developed through NCPD and CFA,  
6 the monumental core framework plans and Southwest  
7 Eco District Plans, and the legacy plan. And it  
8 also reinforces the idea as women as  
9 trailblazers.

10 So, because it's adjacent to the Mall  
11 and not really part of it quite yet, it would  
12 extend that commemorative experience.

13 And it also, because it would be a  
14 linear park would offer the opportunity for  
15 multiple stories to be told or synced.

16 And then, yeah, so and then like I  
17 said, it would extend the experience for a  
18 cultural gateway.

19 Next slide, please.

20 So, we also looked at the national or,  
21 excuse me, the U.S. Capitol Grounds Northwest.  
22 And so, this is an existing area of land that is

1 primarily open turf. It does have some trees and  
2 landscaping associated with it. It's near the  
3 U.S. Capitol. And is connected through the 1913  
4 Suffrage March as the historic site of the, of  
5 the march.

6 It is near the National Mall but not  
7 exactly near where a lot of the commemorative  
8 features are for our -- such as the Washington  
9 Monument. And there is some concern about  
10 jurisdiction, which is under the Architect of the  
11 Capitol.

12 And as we mentioned, or as was  
13 mentioned previously in the deliberation earlier,  
14 that that does have a different approvals  
15 process. So, that is a concern here.

16 And it also sits within the security  
17 perimeter that occurs for various events at the  
18 U.S. Capitol. And that is also a concern about  
19 having regular access to the site.

20 Next slide, please.

21 So, we looked at Madison Drive and  
22 12th Street, NW So, this is on the southwest --

1       excuse me, southeast edge of the National Museum  
2       of American History. It is a grass panel. But  
3       there also is a lot of -- there is some  
4       infrastructure that's in the area, and so there  
5       is some concern about potential conflicts of  
6       that.

7                       And it's adjacent to the National Mall  
8       but, again, is sort of within the more recreation  
9       area of the National Mall and not what we  
10      typically think of as the commemorative focus of  
11      the National Mall.

12                      And there is some concern that the  
13      site size may not be able to accommodate the  
14      programs desired.

15                      Next slide, please.

16                      Freedom Plaza we looked at two sites.  
17      We looked at Freedom Plaza -- or we treated them  
18      as two sites. We looked at Freedom Plaza West.  
19      And this is an area that provides an open space  
20      that does have some large trees.

21                      It provides the visual access along  
22      Pennsylvania Avenue that is clear from this

1 particular area.

2           It connects to the National Mall,  
3 again still a little further away, but it does  
4 have connections via 14th Street.

5           There is some concern about the  
6 Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment plan and just  
7 how those, how that could potentially influence  
8 the development of this site as a -- for the  
9 Women's Suffrage National Monument.

10           Next slide, please.

11           And here we talk about Freedom Plaza  
12 East which has a lot of the same qualities as  
13 Freedom Plaza West but the view corridor is more  
14 limited along Pennsylvania Avenue at this site.  
15 And it would also require the relocation of the  
16 Pulaski Memorial at the site, at this location.

17           Next slide, please.

18           So, we've kind of gone through the  
19 wide range of memorial locations. And so, now  
20 we're going to take a deeper dive into two sites.  
21 So, we did some concept studies to sort of figure  
22 out how they would work, and to see whether or

1 not that we could, yeah, make a, make a monument  
2 work at this site, these sites.

3 So, on the next slide we took a look  
4 at the USDA West Lot.

5 So, here outlined in blue is the  
6 potential site. And, again, it's within location  
7 of the Washington Monument. It's also across  
8 from the National Museum of African American  
9 History and Culture, and the National Museum of  
10 American History. And so while those two museums  
11 aren't necessarily part of the commemorative  
12 focus, they are part of American history and our  
13 collective experiences. So, putting those within  
14 the view of the memorial does have, does  
15 reinforce that aspect.

16 And, again, it's connected to the  
17 Washington Monument visually.

18 There are also Metro stations.  
19 Smithsonian, again, is nearby.

20 On the next slide. Excuse me.

21 We looked at the analysis for this  
22 site. So, this site is of, is a little curious

1 because the northern part, portion of this site  
2 is under the jurisdiction of the National Park  
3 Service. The southern two-thirds of the site is  
4 under the jurisdiction of GSA.

5 And under our site analysis, the 27  
6 parking spaces and existing parking lot would be  
7 transformed into the memorial. And as mentioned  
8 before, this would enable a garden and more  
9 landscaped approach to the site.

10 So this, as we mentioned earlier,  
11 could be consistent with installation of a garden  
12 and the site improvement and perimeter security  
13 plan.

14 On the next -- And there is some  
15 existing trees on the site as well.

16 Excuse me, go ahead, switch to the  
17 next, next slide.

18 And here you can see how the  
19 landscape, how the current plan for the site, the  
20 2014 concept site improvement and perimeter  
21 security plan, is consistent with having,  
22 replacing the parking lot with a more landscaped

1 garden.

2 Next slide, please.

3 We also looked at the 10th Street  
4 Promenade. So, along this we looked at  
5 essentially from Independence Avenue down to sort  
6 of the I-395 area. So, this would be a linear  
7 park along the 10th Street Promenade. And there  
8 are some connections to the Smithsonian, as well  
9 as the Washington Monument, but they're a little  
10 further afield.

11 And there is connections to the Metro  
12 Station at L'Enfant Plaza and at the Smithsonian  
13 Metro Station is not too far as well.

14 Next slide, please.

15 So, when we looked at the site  
16 analysis for this and how this could be  
17 incorporated as a memorial site, this would offer  
18 the opportunity for a linear park and to tell the  
19 story as a series of elements.

20 So, we looked at having the, like I  
21 said, a linear park but with a series of nodes.  
22 So, the northernmost node would be, excuse me,



1 the northernmost node would be along Independence  
2 Avenue. And that's an outstanding question.

3 But to go further to the south along  
4 Maryland Avenue and E Street, so overlaying the  
5 L'Enfant Plan and reinforcing it with this 10th  
6 Street Promenade access, and have a commemorative  
7 feature at that site. And then multiple sites  
8 further on.

9 We looked at expanding these potential  
10 commemorative nodes into the area where it would  
11 potentially take away from parking. So, we  
12 estimate there would be approximately 60 on-  
13 street parking spaces that would be removed as  
14 part of this. But, this could also reinforce  
15 pedestrian safety by narrowing the roadway at  
16 these sites.

17 One other point that's worth noting is  
18 at Independence Avenue one of the concerns is  
19 that there's the Forrestal Building there which  
20 blocks the view connections between the  
21 Smithsonian Castle and the 10th Street Promenade.  
22 And the anticipation is that the Forrestal

1 Building would be changed and redeveloped at some  
2 point, and remove that visual barrier.

3 But at Independence Avenue there could  
4 be the opportunity in the future for a impressive  
5 sort of gateway feature there. However, the  
6 Forrestal Building is a challenge to that at the  
7 moment.

8 And we also looked at a transition  
9 zone to the south between what we're propose --  
10 we would suggest is a potential opportunity for  
11 the commemorative site and then to Banneker Park  
12 over 395. That just adds an extra layer of  
13 complexity to the site.

14 And at that, I think on our next slide  
15 is sort of our wrap-up of our efforts here.

16 So, I will turn it over to Tammy and  
17 the other, other folks if you have any questions  
18 or to lead the way.

19 MS. STIDHAM: Thanks, Claire.

20 So, let's see, are there any questions  
21 from the Commissioners to Ms. Laymon or to Ms.  
22 Sale regarding the site selection study?

1                   So, let's focus there first.

2                   Commissioner Imamura.

3                   MR. IMAMURA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4                   Ms. Sale, Ms. Laymon, thank you for  
5 your presentation this afternoon.

6                   I'm excited about this. This is, you  
7 know, long overdue. And I think a lot of people  
8 probably feel the same way. And I'm excited  
9 about it because I think this is a great thing to  
10 celebrate and excited for my daughter to come see  
11 it.

12                   So, I do have a couple questions and  
13 comments. I know that you focused in on the USDA  
14 West Lot. Obviously, my particular interest is  
15 in what we call Square 575, so that's the  
16 Northwest Capitol Site.

17                   I was glad to see that the Supreme  
18 Court North didn't make the list, as well as  
19 Bartholdi Park. That kind of gave me a little  
20 bit of pause. I wasn't quite sure how that  
21 arrived on the list there.

22                   I was struck by your comment, Ms.

1 Laymon, about your goal to find the best possible  
2 site, regardless of where it is, whether it's in  
3 the Reserve area or just an appropriate site. I  
4 thought that was really terrific.

5 So, I wanted to ask in terms of your  
6 focus if, you know, it's really clear that 575 or  
7 the Northwest Capitol site is a popular site for  
8 every sponsor. And I understand it's appeal. It  
9 looks like a nice unimproved site.

10 But as you all have discovered, and  
11 others, when you peel the layers back there are  
12 some issues. So, I'm curious if in your site  
13 analysis and sort of discovery if you've moved  
14 away from that? Or is that still part of your  
15 short list?

16 MS. LAYMON: No. That's a great  
17 question. And thank you for all of those  
18 comments.

19 The short answer is no. Our short  
20 list at this point is just the USDA West Lot, the  
21 parking lot. So, our short list is just the  
22 parking lot or the promenade down 10th Street.

1 I would agree with you, you know, it  
2 was worth looking at the Capitol grounds site,  
3 you know, for its potential. But it's just not  
4 the right site for this.

5 And so, and, you know, my  
6 understanding certainly is that the Senate has  
7 designs on that site for one, one day in the  
8 future. And I'm not about to take on the whole  
9 Senate for that plot of grass.

10 So, so, yeah, so no, it was worth  
11 considering. And, of course, we've put it on  
12 there just to, to demonstrate that we looked at  
13 it. But it's off.

14 And Bartholdi Park, if Alan is  
15 listening, that was an Alan Harwood special. So,  
16 I'm throwing him under the bus for that. So,  
17 that was, that was Alan. Don't look at me for  
18 that, yeah.

19 MR. IMAMURA: All right. Well, great.

20 You know, that's music to my ears.  
21 And I'm certain that my fellow commissioners have  
22 already heard me talk about Square 575, and are

1 probably glad to hear that, too, so I don't have  
2 to rehash some of the things that I've shared in  
3 the past.

4 But to your great wisdom, infinite  
5 wisdom here about taking on the Senate, just to  
6 share it with you, there are five Senate and  
7 House committees that oversee that. So, you'd  
8 need to negotiate that with the chair and ranking  
9 member. That's ten people.

10 There are 100 trees, 26 of which are  
11 memorial trees, on that northwest site. So, that  
12 means reaching out to 26 members of Congress and  
13 donors to let them know that the memorial tree  
14 may be relocated.

15 So, certainly a number of issues  
16 there.

17 And I think I was really struck by  
18 your comment, too, about a safe experience.

19 MS. LAYMON: Uh-huh.

20 MR. IMAMURA: Square 575, while it  
21 looks really nice, is a convergence of a number  
22 of major streets.

1 MS. LAYMON: Yes.

2 MR. IMAMURA: And so my biggest concern  
3 would be pedestrian safety at that particular  
4 location.

5 So, with that, I think the USDA West  
6 Lot I had thought was kind of an interesting  
7 selection.

8 And I guess my question here, since  
9 we've eliminated many of them already based on  
10 your comments, anywhere in sort of this study did  
11 you all talk about the impending American Women's  
12 History Museum --

13 MS. LAYMON: Uh-huh.

14 MR. IMAMURA: -- and the connection, a  
15 potential connection to that?

16 MS. LAYMON: Uh-huh. Yeah, we did.  
17 We, we did a lot.

18 It's that to me -- so, I know  
19 everybody on here knows more about this than I do  
20 but, of course, that parking lot sits adjacent to  
21 the site that the American Women's History  
22 Smithsonian would like to build on.

1                   And that presents opportunities and  
2 that presents challenges. You know, there's,  
3 there's power in being near each other.

4                   I also think, like, to me I think it  
5 is beautiful that the African American History  
6 Smithsonian is where it is, and Martin Luther  
7 King is where he is. And I know that when those  
8 two things were decided that there were a lot of  
9 people who wanted Martin Luther King situated on  
10 the same grounds as the African American History  
11 Museum, or adjacent to.

12                   I think the fact that we didn't have  
13 to put all of the African American history  
14 bundled together shows that that is a part of the  
15 American story just like anything else.

16                   And so, to me there is power in being  
17 near each other. But, also, women's stories are  
18 a part of all of American history and should be  
19 woven into all of these spaces.

20                   So, there's pros, there's cons,  
21 there's, of course, building challenges. You  
22 know, what if we start building on that lot and



1 then the Smithsonian starts building right next  
2 door, and that takes ten years?

3 But there is no site, you all know  
4 this better than anybody, there is no site  
5 without its challenges. There is no site that is  
6 uncomplicated. It doesn't exist. So, you have  
7 to sit down, Claire and Alan, and you have to  
8 think through all these pros and cons, and you  
9 have to lay them out because nothing is simple.  
10 Nothing is straightforward.

11 And, of course, it's not guaranteed  
12 that they will get that site. So, you just have  
13 to kind of move forward with the information that  
14 you have at the time, do the best that you can,  
15 leave the rest up to God and Congress, I don't  
16 know.

17 But that's what we're doing. So,  
18 that's sort of our, our relationship with that.

19 And, you know, you mentioned safety.  
20 And for us, I don't know how many other  
21 memorials, I truly don't know, have that as a  
22 part of their criteria for what they're looking

1 for. But I have a 3 and a 5 year old, and my  
2 goal is to be able to bring them and my mother,  
3 their grandmother, to this site and have it be  
4 accessible. Right? Have it be something that my  
5 3 year old can walk to. And have it be something  
6 that I can stand and experience without worrying  
7 that my 3 year old is going to get hit by a car  
8 in the process.

9 So, that for us is, is hugely  
10 important in a way that maybe it isn't for other  
11 monuments. But for monuments centered around  
12 women, I think that experience and taking that  
13 into account is very important.

14 The other component of safety that we  
15 looked at, again from the women's experience, we  
16 have a different relationship with safety in the  
17 day and night. There are lots of sites in D.C.  
18 that I would not feel comfortable going to after  
19 dark. And that's just the reality.

20 So, when we're talking about safety  
21 we're thinking about would it feel safe to bring  
22 my 3 and 5 year old there? But, also, as a woman

1 would I feel safe visiting that site equally in  
2 the daytime and the nighttime?

3 So, that for us, again I don't know  
4 what monuments take that into consideration,  
5 maybe it looks a little different for other  
6 monuments, but for us that's what that  
7 consideration was.

8 MR. IMAMURA: Great. Thank you, Ms.  
9 Laymon for your response. I think it's well  
10 articulated as well. Anything within the Reserve  
11 or Area 1 is fraught with political and design  
12 challenges.

13 But I want to thank you and Ms. Sale  
14 for your leadership on this. It's important.

15 And I think in my mind the USDA West  
16 Lot, as well as the 10th Street Promenade might  
17 lend itself to a really great story to tell. And  
18 there's a lot of design opportunity there  
19 potentially.

20 But I'm interested to hear what my  
21 fellow commissioners have to say as well. But,  
22 again, thank you both for your presentation and

1 your leadership on this. So, I feel confident  
2 that you'll be able to see it through for  
3 whatever that best possible site is.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 Mr. Luebke.

7 MR. LUEBKE: Well, you're probably  
8 seeing a slightly puzzled look on my face only  
9 because -- and I'm sorry, I just want to make  
10 sure I understand. We have a site selection  
11 process for this memorial right now under I  
12 believe 20, what was it, 19 authorization?

13 MS. LAYMON: 2020.

14 MR. LUEBKE: 2020. In Area 1.

15 But then we also on today's agenda  
16 have another consideration of same, exactly the  
17 same thing but to consider the Reserve, to  
18 stipulate that it must belong in the Reserve?

19 MS. STIDHAM: Right. So there's  
20 actually three things.

21 MR. LUEBKE: Okay.

22 MS. STIDHAM: There is does this

1 Commission support moving forward with seeking an  
2 Area 1 designation.

3 MR. LUEBKE: Yes.

4 MS. STIDHAM: There is review of the  
5 site selection to determine if this Commission is  
6 in agreement with supporting the two sites, or  
7 are there sites that we would like them to go  
8 back and explore?

9 And then the third thing are the two  
10 bills, the one for the House and one for the  
11 Senate, which is seeking Reserve status.

12 MR. LUEBKE: Okay. Again, this is --

13 MS. STIDHAM: We're going to handle  
14 them separately just to --

15 MR. LUEBKE: This is very --

16 MS. STIDHAM: Yeah, it's, it's unusual.

17 MR. LUEBKE: It's very unusual because  
18 if the other ones go forward then the discussion  
19 we're having right now sort of becomes moot.

20 MS. STIDHAM: It can. Right.

21 MR. LUEBKE: For lack of nicer words.

22 So, I wish we'd done this a different

1 way.

2 MS. STIDHAM: Yes. You are right.

3 MR. LUEBKE: Because --

4 MS. STIDHAM: I was wishing we could  
5 have done this a different way also.

6 MR. LUEBKE: Okay. I mean, in other  
7 words it's nice to weigh in on one, not knowing  
8 where it's going.

9 MS. STIDHAM: Well, we're seeking all  
10 roads to the end. That is sort of the objective.

11 So, the way I was thinking about it is  
12 if we broke it down maybe in a discussion of --  
13 and we fooled with the agenda a hundred times  
14 trying to figure out best how to have this  
15 conversation. And it's awkward no matter how you  
16 set it up.

17 MR. LUEBKE: Yeah.

18 MS. STIDHAM: So, I think if we could  
19 first have a discussion around Area 1.

20 MR. LUEBKE: Okay.

21 MS. STIDHAM: Because I think that's  
22 probably a simple discussion.

1                   And then have a discussion around the  
2 site selection. And then we'll -- and I know  
3 this feels out of order -- but and then have a  
4 discussion about the bills and a Reserve  
5 exception.

6                   MR. LUEBKE: Okay. So, then I have a  
7 second question which is related to the Area 1  
8 options.

9                   So, so, yes, Area 1. The, I've  
10 generally been calling it the site.

11                   MS. LAYMON: Parking lot.

12                   MS. STIDHAM: The Whitten Building.

13                   MR. LUEBKE: The Whitten, thank you,  
14 Whitten Building site.

15                   That had been, as I believe, approved  
16 for the Revolutionary War Experience, et cetera.

17                   MS. STIDHAM: It was on their, it was  
18 on their short list. But they never completed  
19 their site selection.

20                   MR. LUEBKE: So it has not actually  
21 been approved?

22                   MS. STIDHAM: Correct.

1 MR. LUEBKE: So, is it a, is it -- so  
2 it's, do you consider it to be active or not?

3 MS. STIDHAM: We do.

4 And we did have a conversation with  
5 Maurice Barboza --

6 MR. LUEBKE: Yeah.

7 MS. STIDHAM: -- prior to this meeting  
8 and let him know that that site was in the mix  
9 for the Women's National Monument. And he  
10 understood and acknowledged that he did not --  
11 his memorial had not finalized site selection for  
12 that site.

13 MR. LUEBKE: Well, the trick is whether  
14 it's a first come/first served basis, obviously  
15 it illustrates the bigger point which is that  
16 there aren't that -- I think this has been made a  
17 lot -- there are not that many good locations.  
18 And that actually is a very good one.

19 I'm going to just back out a little  
20 bit to say, you know, I think what's underneath  
21 it all, you know, we're telling a national story,  
22 a narrative here in this whole monumental core.



1 And whether you call it the Mall, the National  
2 Mall, or whatever you call it, it's a, it's a  
3 public statement. And it evolves over time.

4 I think what has held it together over  
5 centuries or, you know, a century and a half, is  
6 a -- or two, is that the basic skeleton is  
7 incredibly strong with the Capitol and the White  
8 House as the seats of the political power, and  
9 then these incredibly significant pieces that  
10 anchor it.

11 I should have put these things in the  
12 category of, I'm going to use a word that might  
13 sound funny to modern ears, but I call them epic,  
14 in the sense that tell in the most symbolic way  
15 where we come from. You know, it's our historic  
16 origin.

17 So, we've got the Revolution with the  
18 Washington Monument. Sort of it's a memorial to  
19 Washington, sort of a proxy for the American  
20 Revolution. Likewise, the Jefferson memorial to  
21 some extent is also really about the ideals of  
22 the democracy that we live in.

1           The Lincoln Memorial started out, it's  
2 again, it's to Lincoln but it's also a proxy for  
3 the Civil War, which is the next huge cataclysmic  
4 event in American history.

5           These are the, these are these, again,  
6 epic phenomena that define our shared history.  
7 And that's what the Reserve is all about. This  
8 is why it matters that everything, you know, that  
9 these -- does a memorial to a mental program  
10 count in that?

11           You know, this is why the  
12 Commemorative Works Act was set up. Or, or any  
13 other. You know, this is why we have this, we  
14 are always planning, having to play this out.

15           In this case it's a really interesting  
16 question that you raise with the Women's Memorial  
17 because it is a fundamental question of human  
18 rights in this country. And it deserves some  
19 major statement.

20           Then, you know, where it's -- I find  
21 it to be a head scratcher because it's not  
22 exactly an event because it's actually, as you

1 describe, it's something that built over many,  
2 many generations, starting in, specifically in  
3 the mid-19th Century and continues to this day.

4 So, then it's a harder thing because  
5 it's open-ended. It's also harder because it's a  
6 story that's not just necessarily -- it's not the  
7 kind of station of so much meaning in one thing.  
8 What's so interesting about the Washington  
9 Monument is that it's many, many. It's  
10 Washington the man, it's Washington representing  
11 the U.S. Government, the Constitution, the  
12 country, the capital, serves as everything.

13 You've got a lot going on here but  
14 it's not easily just a statue of an idealized  
15 woman, you know, representing women's  
16 constitutional rights is probably not -- you  
17 don't probably -- it's hard to imagine an  
18 allegory of a woman as single thing conveying  
19 what you're trying to say.

20 So, where I'm going at is that it  
21 wants to be, and I think you said that you want  
22 it to turn into something that maybe has a little

1 bit more literal narrative that unfolds  
2 spatially, which is a very contemporary thing.  
3 Most of the memorials that we've seen in the late  
4 20th and early 20th Century are like they are,  
5 you know, periodic and unfold. You've got the  
6 Roosevelt Memorial, you've got -- there's just  
7 like a lot of stuff.

8           The corollary of that idea is that  
9 they take up a lot of space because they are  
10 telling kind of you're, like, almost like walking  
11 into a certain kind of a test or whatever, you  
12 know, however you want to call it, presentation.  
13 A movie, anything, it's a very physical  
14 experience.

15           So, then you're sort of fighting a  
16 problem of space and concentration of symbolic  
17 meaning versus telling a longer story that can be  
18 incredibly enlightening to a lot of people.

19           Given that model, I think your best  
20 option is actually the 10th Street corridor  
21 because it allows that progression of meaning to  
22 be explored and unfolded.

1           If you can do something that's more  
2 concentrated, which I think is maybe harder for  
3 us in this day and age, perhaps the Whitten  
4 Building site is better. You know, we don't know  
5 where the Smithsonian museums are going to go, so  
6 that's a kind of a question. And, as you say,  
7 proximity is a good thing. It's not -- but it's  
8 not decisional.

9           So, I, you know, of those two I'm  
10 perfectly willing to consider them. I just think  
11 that you have a bigger question in terms of where  
12 you're going to try to go with what, how you're,  
13 how you're going to say what you're going to say.

14           And I'm sorry it doesn't give a lot of  
15 clarity, but it's just sort of a way to frame  
16 this whole question about the Reserve, and Area  
17 1, and how do we fit all this stuff under  
18 constrained space.

19           MS. STIDHAM: Great. Thank you, Tom.

20           Mr. Fountain.

21           MR. FOUNTAIN: It might dismay Mr.  
22 Luebke to hear again that he and I think very

1 much alike, but again, my thoughts track very  
2 closely to his. And again, this goes back to I  
3 don't like getting these proposed bills that say  
4 the memorial shall be in the reserve as opposed  
5 to bills that could say may be in the reserve,  
6 because the reserve may not be the best place for  
7 what the sponsor is trying to accomplish.

8 And, you know, I try to avoid bringing  
9 these discussions too often, back to my own  
10 experience with the World War I memorial, but I  
11 concluded at the end of that process that we had  
12 more opportunity with what we did with the  
13 memorial off the Mall than we would have had on  
14 the Mall, that we would have been very  
15 constrained if we were within that war memorial  
16 precinct between World War II and Washington.

17 And as I looked at your sites, I was  
18 very intrigued by the 10th Street corridor,  
19 because I think that gives you the opportunity to  
20 do something very innovative, multi-faceted, and  
21 distinctive on that site, and in the process, I  
22 was really struck by your comment that it

1 represented women as trailblazers.

2 As you push out, really extend the  
3 boundaries of the monumental core, expand the  
4 geography of, the monumental geography that you  
5 talk about weaving yourself into, You're not  
6 stepping off of that geography. You're expanding  
7 it, I think.

8 But I think the flexibility you've got  
9 on 10th Street is quite likely much greater than  
10 you would have in the reserve, and when we get to  
11 that discussion, I'll ask you where You're  
12 thinking about within the reserve, but that's  
13 something to have in mind. At the end of the  
14 day, you might find a site like that more  
15 suitable to your overall purposes, and so I was  
16 very, very intrigued by the 10th Street site.

17 I did like the, I do like the  
18 connections that you drew between the Whitten  
19 Building site and the American History Museum,  
20 the African American History Museum, because I  
21 think there's a lot of integration there in the  
22 stories that those three sites would tell

1 together, which ties to some thoughts I have  
2 about when we get to our discussion on the  
3 reserve and where You're thinking.

4 I thought just -- and those two, I  
5 think, I agree with you, are probably the most  
6 likely sites within area one. We haven't talked  
7 about area one, but I personally think that  
8 doesn't need much discussion for what that's  
9 worth.

10 I'll just note the Capitol grounds,  
11 the northwest Capitol grounds, I think Mr.  
12 Imamura has probably put a stake in that one, but  
13 I did like it because it just reminded me of that  
14 famous photograph of the women on horseback  
15 leading off the parade in 1913. I thought that  
16 connection was interesting.

17 Similarly, I thought the Freedom Plaza  
18 West site was interesting because there's a  
19 temporal connection to World War I across the  
20 street given that the 19-teens were the  
21 culminating period in the women's suffrage  
22 movement, and the story of women in the World War



1 I era and their contributions to the American war  
2 effort in that war were part and parcel of the  
3 ultimate success of the suffrage movement.

4 One other comment I want to make is I  
5 didn't like the Madison and 12th Avenue site  
6 because it made it look like the memorial was  
7 just part of the Smithsonian, but it also made me  
8 think that it would be interesting if we could  
9 sort of take the four corners of that site and do  
10 something with them to push out the museum  
11 content outside the building and into the  
12 landscape around it. And this really has nothing  
13 to do with this memorial anymore. It's really  
14 just a general comment.

15 And it sort of made me think about the  
16 recent Beyond Granite program. You know, maybe  
17 we could take the four corners of that American  
18 History Museum site and start doing rotating  
19 temporary memorials of some sort reflecting  
20 different aspects of American history, but that's  
21 a conversation for another day.

22 But, no, I could endorse either of the

1 two sites you all have advanced, and again, I  
2 think the 10th Avenue, the 10th Street site has  
3 lots of intriguing possibilities. Thank you.

4 MS. LAYMON: Tammy, would you mind if  
5 I said one quick thing? Sorry, I see lots of  
6 hands. I just thought it might be helpful if I  
7 clarified a couple of things that our last few  
8 speakers mentioned.

9 I just wanted to mention a couple of  
10 things. First off, Mr. Fountain, Mr. Sherman is  
11 probably going to speak to this. He might  
12 mention this, but we are hoping and very excited  
13 about what NCPC and the partnership organizations  
14 are planning, you know, thinking about and  
15 conceptualizing for Pennsylvania Avenue.

16 And while I don't think Pennsylvania  
17 Avenue is the right place for this memorial to  
18 be, I do think that there are incredible stories  
19 to be told about the history that was made on  
20 Pennsylvania Avenue by women throughout American  
21 history.

22 And so, I think we're really excited

1 about just, it's like, you know, it's a seed of  
2 an idea right now, but, so not to put too much  
3 emphasis on it, but it's the seed of an idea  
4 right now that I think could be very exciting,  
5 and as they're redeveloping Pennsylvania Avenue,  
6 I hope that we'll be able to contribute to  
7 telling that story of the parade and what took  
8 place down Pennsylvania Avenue in 1913, and the  
9 history that was made there and what those women  
10 achieved, which is extraordinary.

11 And so, I think that there's a  
12 possibility of a really fruitful partnership  
13 there that we're really excited about. Mr.  
14 Sherman may mention that or he might not. Sorry  
15 if I wasn't supposed to mention it, but here we  
16 go.

17 And I also just wanted to mention in  
18 terms of the two sites, just so there's no  
19 mystery here, our preferred site is the parking  
20 lot, and there's several reasons for that. We  
21 like both. We wouldn't have presented both to  
22 you if we didn't, but our preferred site by a lot

1 is the parking lot because we want to be as close

2 --

3 If we have to be in area one, if we  
4 don't receive our reserve exemption, which again,  
5 we'll talk about in a little bit, but if we don't  
6 receive our reserve exemption, our north star is  
7 still our north star, which is to put this  
8 monument in conversation with the other monuments  
9 as best as we can.

10 There is power in proximity when it  
11 comes to monuments and the story that You're  
12 telling, and so our ideal would be to be right in  
13 the middle of that conversation, but as you all  
14 know, that requires Congress to agree. It  
15 requires a literal law, so we'll see how that  
16 goes, but that parking lot gets us as close as we  
17 can to being in the conversation, and that is our  
18 north star whether we get that reserve exemption  
19 or not.

20 The opportunity of the storytelling we  
21 could do down 10th Street is very exciting, and  
22 like, I love it. I love the idea of it. The

1 reality is I think the city planning that that  
2 would take is beyond the capacity for this  
3 monument. I think that's just the reality, but  
4 that doesn't mean it's not a great idea, like I  
5 think it's an awesome idea, but I don't know if  
6 it's realistic and within our capacity to do.

7 So, in that sense, for those reasons,  
8 we love both, wouldn't have brought you both if  
9 we didn't, but our preferred site is the parking  
10 lot. So, I just wanted to mention that so that  
11 there was no mystery about what we were hoping  
12 for, so I'll pause there.

13 MS. STIDHAM: Thanks, Anna. So, let's  
14 see, Mr. Fountain, did you have anything more?  
15 Your hand was still up. I just wanted to make  
16 sure.

17 MR. FOUNTAIN: No, I'm done. I'll --  
18 there we go.

19 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, thank you. I  
20 think, Mr. Sherman, you were next.

21 MR. SHERMAN: Yes, thank you. Where  
22 to begin? So, thank you for your presentation,

1 Anna, and your team. Yes, I would concur that we  
2 feel that you should not necessarily discount  
3 Pennsylvania Avenue too fast.

4 In your charts and your criteria, you  
5 sort of, in our view, don't give enough credit to  
6 the opportunity. You see it as a concern, but we  
7 obviously see this from a planning perspective as  
8 a great opportunity, not just from a planning  
9 perspective, but from a historical storytelling  
10 perspective.

11 I mean, as Mr. Fountain mentioned,  
12 what we're learning from Beyond Granite is, you  
13 know, place matters when it comes to telling a  
14 story, and so we see a lot of potential, and as  
15 we've had conversations with you all for  
16 Pennsylvania Avenue, and we strongly advocate  
17 that you consider that, not just the sites that  
18 you mentioned in your criteria selection, but all  
19 along the Avenue, there's opportunities.

20 And so, as you mentioned already, that  
21 there's a lot of stories within the women's  
22 suffrage movement that could be told, but we

1 would offer that every site has its constraints  
2 and every site that's in your report has its  
3 opportunities, but I would offer that no site  
4 offers the opportunity for storytelling as it  
5 relates to the suffrage movement as Pennsylvania  
6 Avenue.

7 I would challenge anyone on this call  
8 to imagine what photos that they have seen  
9 historically from the women's suffrage movement,  
10 and I think almost everyone would mention the  
11 Pennsylvania Avenue march is sort of their  
12 historical marker when it comes to Pennsylvania  
13 Avenue and the suffrage movement, and so, you  
14 know, I guess my message is don't discount that  
15 too soon.

16 I do have a point of clarification,  
17 Madam Chair, on the USDA site, which we're  
18 referring to as the parking lot site, as we  
19 understand it, the National Mall Liberty Fund was  
20 reauthorized in 2022. So, I guess the question  
21 is, is that still on the table or not? But from  
22 our research, they were reauthorized in '22

1 through 2027 for consideration for the National  
2 Liberty Fund Memorial, so just something we can  
3 clarify going forward.

4 Having said that we feel like  
5 Pennsylvania Avenue is a strong candidate and  
6 should be put on the table before you eliminate  
7 others, we also advocate for 10th Street. That  
8 has been mentioned.

9 That corridor has been a strong area  
10 of focus for us from a planning perspective going  
11 back to our Southwest Ecodistrict Plan, a  
12 Monumental Core Framework Plan, and we see a lot  
13 of potential for that area for all types of  
14 cultural activities, including commemorative  
15 works, and so we would offer that as a site that  
16 we would advocate for as well.

17 But we also see a lot of potential for  
18 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the timing of this  
19 memorial with our ongoing planning work we see as  
20 a great opportunity for you and not to discount  
21 that too soon. So, those are my initial  
22 comments. I'm trying to be respectful of time,



1 and I understand, and I won't be too duplicative  
2 of some of the comments that have already been  
3 stated, so thank you.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Sherman.  
5 And you are correct that the authorization for  
6 the Liberty Memorial is through 2027. However,  
7 in conversations with the memorial sponsor, it  
8 does not appear that they're moving forward with  
9 their work anytime soon. So, while it is on  
10 their shortlist, it is still available as a site  
11 to be considered by other memorials.

12 MS. LAYMON: And Tammy, just to  
13 clarify that, when you say they didn't complete  
14 the site selection process, is it true that,  
15 would it be a true statement to say they  
16 presented to NCMAC 2013, 2014, but never  
17 presented to CFA or NCPC? Is that what you --

18 MS. STIDHAM: This commission  
19 supported three sites for the shortlist, but the  
20 site selection did not move forward through NCPC  
21 or CFA for any final decision.

22 MR. SHERMAN: Madam Chair, I have one

1 additional comment. So, I understand Ms. Laymon  
2 mentioned that your definition of the monumental  
3 core really meets the definition of what the  
4 reserve boundaries are, but historically  
5 speaking, and this is not law, but NCPD, CFA, and  
6 I would say the Parks Service, has always  
7 considered the monumental core more analogous to  
8 the area one boundaries, and the federal  
9 facilities within that makes up the monumental  
10 core, and going further and extending that to  
11 Arlington and Arlington Cemetery by the way.

12 So, I mean, we would be happy to talk  
13 to you further about definitions and why we feel  
14 the monumental core boundaries exist in that way.  
15 I won't take up a lot of time here, but I would  
16 encourage you to look broader beyond the reserve  
17 in terms of the definition of the monumental  
18 core, and there are plenty of commemorative works  
19 within the monumental core that sort of help  
20 justify our boundaries in that regard.

21 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
22 Sherman. I believe, Mr. Maloney, you are next.

1 MR. MALONEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
2 And first let me start by saying that all of the  
3 men have spoken and Ms. Williams is last, so I  
4 will say that we are saving the best for last.

5 But that said, I was fascinated by Mr.  
6 Luebke's remarks and I'm waiting for him to get  
7 around to his final point, which I completely  
8 agree with. And my view of the situation is that  
9 the 10th Street location is hands down the best  
10 location of any of the ones that you looked at.

11 The concern that I have about the site  
12 of the Whitten Building is that while it may be  
13 proximate to other memorials, I'm not sure that  
14 that is what is, number one, practical, given the  
15 program that's now being proposed for this  
16 memorial, which is really expansive. I think  
17 that site is too small for such an ambitious  
18 program.

19 It's wonderful to see that this  
20 memorial idea has really developed into something  
21 that is far beyond what it was originally. I  
22 think it, as Mr. Luebke said, it's a sort of

1 narrative kind of memorial idea, and the  
2 presentation of the memorial will be somewhat  
3 narrative and that requires a lot of space.

4 The other thing that I think is  
5 unfortunate about the Whitten location is that  
6 it's on the side of a building, and there's no  
7 escaping that symbolism. In contrast, the 10th  
8 Street is a -- and I'm looking at the diagram of  
9 the 10th Street memorial.

10 It's expansive. It has diagonal views  
11 across the entire city, and it is exactly what a  
12 trailblazing memorial is all about. The problem  
13 with 10th Street is it is a location that is  
14 looking for a reason for existence. This could  
15 be the reason for its existence.

16 We pushed the Smithsonian to try to be  
17 a trailblazer and recognize that 10th Street was  
18 the opportunity to expand the story of the Mall  
19 farther out into the city in a way that enabled  
20 new memorials to tell epic stories in a way that  
21 benefit the symbolism that 10th Street could  
22 embody, and they didn't take us up on that

1       apparently, but I think the women's memorial is  
2       exactly the kind of thing that 10th Street needs.

3                It's a story about half of the  
4       population of the United States.  It's a story  
5       about equality.  And this is something that I  
6       think would really make 10th Street something  
7       that would be remarkable in the city.

8                So, I just, this is something I never  
9       would have thought of, frankly, because without  
10       this presentation of the new vision for this  
11       memorial, I don't think it would have fit 10th  
12       Street at all, but with this expansive idea that  
13       you have, I just think it's a fantastic site.  
14       There's so much opportunity, and it could spark  
15       the revitalization of 10th Street and lead the  
16       charge in terms of redeveloping 10th Street into  
17       something completely different.  So, that, I  
18       think, is a great opportunity, and I think it's a  
19       fascinating idea.  Thanks.

20               MS. STIDHAM:  Thank you, Mr. Maloney.

21               MS. LAYMON:  Tammy, could I say  
22       something real quick?  Sorry, I will be so fast.

1 I will be so fast. I couldn't agree with you  
2 more, Mr. Maloney. I think the vision is so  
3 exciting. I didn't quite say this before, so I  
4 just want to be sure I say it.

5 I don't think, as a private  
6 organization, we could privately raise the funds  
7 necessary to achieve this really awesome idea  
8 down 10th Street. So, I just wanted to like say  
9 this out loud so, because these are the right  
10 people to have this conversation with.

11 We're excited about it, and if it's  
12 something else other people are excited about,  
13 there would have to be a real conversation, I  
14 think, about the city of D.C., about the federal  
15 government, like there would have to be a real  
16 conversation about how would this be funded, of  
17 course with the expectation that we would still  
18 be required to raise some of those funds  
19 privately, but just in all honesty, I don't think  
20 -- you know, we've done a look at this. We've  
21 talked to some people to get a basic idea of what  
22 numbers we might be looking at.

1           It's not within our capacity to raise  
2 all of those funds privately. So, if people were  
3 open to the conversation to see if it's possible  
4 that this is a collaborative, you know, with all  
5 of these different interested parties who would  
6 be interested in seeing that come to be, we'd  
7 love to have that, at least have that  
8 conversation.

9           You know, it doesn't mean anybody has  
10 to commit to anything, but if that's a  
11 conversation people want to have, we'd be very  
12 open to it. But I do just want to say like  
13 that's a huge undertaking, so, and to have to  
14 raise all of those funds privately is  
15 unrealistic, but not a challenge we wouldn't be  
16 willing to take on in partnership with others if  
17 that was a conversation people wanted to have,  
18 so.

19           MR. MALONEY: Sure, absolutely, and  
20 understood completely, but as you said,  
21 partnership. It's all about partnerships. And  
22 yes, it would require the Smithsonian to be

1 involved, and it would require the city to be  
2 involved. It would require Congress to be  
3 involved. You've got six first ladies on your  
4 board.

5 So, you know, this can be done, and  
6 this is the kind of thing that could be a game  
7 changer for 10th Street and that entire part of  
8 town that finally there's an idea that can lead  
9 the way in terms of You're saying this is what  
10 that part of southwest can become. So, it's a  
11 great opportunity, and I think because it is such  
12 a great opportunity, I think you will get lots of  
13 people on board with it.

14 MS. LAYMON: Yeah, yeah, it's  
15 exciting, but, you know, our north star isn't to  
16 revitalize 10th Street. Our north star --

17 MR. MALONEY: Understood.

18 MS. LAYMON: -- is to get women on the  
19 National Mall.

20 MR. MALONEY: Understood.

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MS. STIDHAM: I'm going to have to



1 move us along.

2 MS. LAYMON: I'll stop talking, so  
3 sorry.

4 MS. STIDHAM: We're going to run out  
5 of time and we still have another agenda item,  
6 and I want to make sure that that gets equal  
7 conversation. So, Ms. Williams was next, and  
8 then Mr. Luebke.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Sure, I will try to  
10 keep my comments brief. Thank you, David. I  
11 feel now I've got to finish strong. But Ms.  
12 Laymon, I think, you know, the comments that  
13 you've heard from all of the commissioners are  
14 very consistent with the conversation that we had  
15 a couple weeks ago with you, myself, and Nina  
16 Wright about the real opportunity of the 10th  
17 Street site.

18 I do sense your overwhelm and I think  
19 that that is valid, but I think given -- if you  
20 look at everyone across the board, everyone kind  
21 of had the same response, and I think as you roll  
22 out to talk about raising funds and getting

1 people behind this, think about that and let that  
2 guide you as an opportunity, because there's  
3 clearly a lot of people that are thinking along  
4 those lines.

5 Other thoughts about the Whitten site,  
6 I think, you know, Mr. Luebke said it perfectly  
7 there. You know, the sites are very, very  
8 different and they lend themselves to very  
9 different narratives, right?

10 You know, there's kind of this like  
11 limited, finite constraint thing that can happen  
12 on the Whitten site. It's kind of small. While  
13 right now it is in dialogue with many of those  
14 other monuments, what happens if a museum goes on  
15 that adjacent site? It does begin to block that  
16 dialogue, so just something to think about.

17 As Mr. Maloney said, the site is at  
18 the end of a building, and then you'd be  
19 sandwiched between another one and a four-lane  
20 road. So, maybe it's not as prominent once that  
21 other site gets redeveloped, something to  
22 consider.

1           The 10th Street site, I think, has  
2 lots of opportunity and the fewest constraints  
3 from a design perspective because You're not  
4 dealing with the proximity to the Mall, not  
5 dealing with the proximity to a historic  
6 building. It also has constraints, as you said.  
7 It is a little bit isolated, so from the safety  
8 perspective, that is something to consider.

9           While I know many of my commissioners  
10 on this call are anxious to see the Forrestal  
11 Building come down, all indications from the  
12 Department of Energy is that they're very  
13 committed to that building and that site, so I  
14 don't see that in the near term. It doesn't mean  
15 here nor there, because there's lots of other  
16 adjacent properties that could, as they begin to  
17 be revitalized and reimagined, help to support  
18 the mission of this monument.

19           And then lastly, I hadn't really  
20 considered it, but Mr. Sherman's comments about  
21 the Pennsylvania Avenue site, maybe that's the  
22 hybrid site. It's not quite as constrained as

1 the Whitten site.

2 It gives you a little bit more space  
3 to tell a narrative, and then you already have  
4 the narrative of the suffrage parade and all of  
5 those things that happen on Pennsylvania Avenue  
6 that may draw -- you know, it's certainly very  
7 prominent and it draws connection to these other  
8 historical events that tie to your narrative.

9 So, I think the two sites that are in  
10 consideration are, of course, your preferences  
11 are both, are all viable, but I would encourage  
12 you also to continue to consider maybe the  
13 Pennsylvania Avenue site as well as a possible  
14 kind of in-between the sort of scope of the 10th  
15 Street and the limitations of the Whitten site,  
16 and I will pass it back to you, Tammy.

17 MS. STIDHAM: Great, thank you,  
18 Kristi. Mr. Luebke?

19 MR. LUEBKE: Sorry, I was muted, and  
20 I'm sorry to come back. I just -- this  
21 discussion has been very interesting and I just  
22 wanted to say, without repeating what everybody

1 else has said, in the spirit of pulling things  
2 that had been off the table or not in your final  
3 list, I would strongly recommend for all the  
4 reasons, particularly what Kristi just said and  
5 others, that Pennsylvania Avenue site has  
6 tremendous opportunities that the other -- for  
7 its own, in its own rights, not just because it's  
8 adjacent to something. It's not just because it  
9 has the space.

10           And by the way, I never, and Alan  
11 Harwood can attest to this, I never say people  
12 should look at Freedom Plaza, because I think  
13 it's such a high bar to make it appropriate.  
14 This is one where I think it is about the topic  
15 of freedom in this country, and the rights of  
16 women and the freedom for 50 percent of the  
17 population is something that, in my book, hits  
18 the mark, and so I actually --

19           In listening to this discussion today,  
20 I actually would now rate that as probably my  
21 number one choice as well, not just as a  
22 compromise, but as the clear lead for all of its

1 access, safety, symbolism, everything that you,  
2 in that space. It does everything that you could  
3 do, so I would encourage you to bring that back.  
4 I'll quit there. Thank you very much.

5 MS. LAYMON: Tammy, You're not going  
6 to like this, but I have to talk about  
7 Pennsylvania Avenue.

8 MS. STIDHAM: No, no.

9 MS. LAYMON: I have to.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MS. LAYMON: Can you give me 30  
12 seconds?

13 MS. STIDHAM: No, no, no, no, no, no,  
14 no 30 seconds, no, no, no, later discussion. So,  
15 I think -- I know it's hard. From the Parks  
16 Service' perspective, I think what I'm going to  
17 say is not going to be a surprise to Ms. Laymon,  
18 as we've had many conversations about sites for  
19 her memorial, and while I think that the 10th  
20 Street, I mean, the Whitten Building is an  
21 interesting site, I do agree that it is  
22 constrained, and that I hadn't thought about the

1 other things moving in and what that might do to  
2 the prominence of that site.

3 I think that -- you know, you  
4 indicated, Ms. Laymon, every site has its  
5 challenges, right, and 10th Street, I think, is a  
6 challenge that is worthy of your memorial and the  
7 challenges, and the symbolism of the challenges  
8 women have faced, and I believe that the  
9 symbolism there for trailblazing and innovation,  
10 and unconstrained thoughts, and boldness, and  
11 making a woman's place in the world come out  
12 through that site and provide you the  
13 opportunity, and I think that it is something a  
14 lot of people could get around. And I understand  
15 the challenges and it seems big, but I think that  
16 it has lots of opportunity, but both sites are  
17 good.

18 So, what I would suggest, let's do  
19 this. I'm going to make a motion first regarding  
20 area one, and does everyone -- do all of the  
21 commissioners -- would the commission -- all  
22 right, so the motion is support for pursuing area

1 one designation, so I would need a second.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: I will second that.

3 MS. STIDHAM: Great, thank you, Ms.  
4 Williams. So, I'll take a vote, and making sure  
5 that you can see all of us on the screen, I'm  
6 looking for votes for those who support area one  
7 designation by a raise of hands. Okay, that's  
8 everybody. Great, thank you. And then is there  
9 a motion for site selection based on what you've  
10 heard today?

11 MR. SHERMAN: Madam Chair, I will make  
12 a motion that the sponsors consider advancing  
13 10th Street, Pennsylvania Avenue as part of the  
14 site selection second round review.

15 MS. STIDHAM: So --

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MR. SHERMAN: And I think the majority  
18 also -- and USDA.

19 MS. STIDHAM: Okay.

20 MR. SHERMAN: Three sites, yes.

21 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, is there a second?

22 Mr. Luebke, got you. Okay, so the motion on the



1 table is to advance 10th Street, Pennsylvania  
2 Avenue, and the Whitten Building through site  
3 selection with NCPC and CFA. Those in favor,  
4 please raise your hands. Okay, that's unanimous.  
5 Thank you.

6 Okay, moving on because I'm very  
7 cognizant of time, it is 3:28, so moving onto our  
8 final agenda item -- sorry, I need to catch up on  
9 my notes. Okay, so as we discussed earlier,  
10 there are two bills before us today which would  
11 authorization the location of the women's  
12 suffrage national memorial on the National Mall  
13 to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage  
14 movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to  
15 the Constitution.

16 As we already spoke, legislation to  
17 authorize the establishment of the memorial  
18 monument took place in 2020, and as many of you  
19 know, the Commemorative Works Act allows for a  
20 memorial of exceptional importance to be located  
21 close to the National Mall within area one as  
22 defined by the Act, and we are here to address

1 that portion.

2 So, Senate Bill 886 and H.R. 1318  
3 would bypass the processes that we've talked  
4 about today and would authorize the memorial to  
5 be placed within the reserve, which the  
6 Commemorative Works Act defines as the great  
7 cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends  
8 from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial,  
9 and from the White House to the Jefferson, and  
10 we've already discussed this area being a  
11 completed work of civil art.

12 So, I will turn to Ms. Laymon again  
13 for her testimony related to the two bills, H.R.  
14 1318 and Senate Bill 886. Ms. Laymon, go ahead.  
15 And Laurel is bringing up your slides.

16 MS. LAYMON: Thank you, Laurel. Okay,  
17 all right, this is the good stuff. Okay, so here  
18 we go. So, we have already -- you know, you all  
19 have already talked a lot about the reserve  
20 today, the nuances of this decision, the nuances  
21 of what You're being asked to do.

22 And, you know, Tammy has said twice

1 now that, you know, the reserve was defined as a  
2 completed civil work of art. For me, the problem  
3 starts there.

4 You know, first off, the legislation  
5 actually says substantially completed civic work  
6 of art. That's what's actually codified into  
7 law, substantially completed civic work of art.  
8 I don't know how you can call the reserve a  
9 completed civil work of art when there are no  
10 women represented. Those two things stand in  
11 conflict to me.

12 When you take a look at the reserve  
13 and what You're being asked to do, how I  
14 interpret what You're being asked to do is maybe  
15 different than what I've heard today. What I  
16 interpret, right, is not that Congress is asking  
17 you to explain to them what the law is. They  
18 know what the law says.

19 They're asking your opinion about  
20 whether or not an exemption should be made for  
21 this, for the merits of this particular monument.  
22 That's what I think they're asking of you, your

1 opinion, your advice.

2           You know, Tammy read what defines  
3 NCMAC. That's what defines NCMAC, to advise  
4 Congress on these questions, excuse me. So,  
5 that's what I'm curious to hear, right, is do you  
6 all find it acceptable that there are no women,  
7 there are no monuments dedicated to American  
8 women's history represented in the commemorative  
9 core of the National Mall?

10           And if, like me, you find that  
11 unacceptable, embarrassing, something worthy of  
12 changing, then we have the opportunity to change  
13 it. Would you mind going to the next slide? I  
14 don't know if it's Laurel or -- there we go.

15           Okay, so I will keep this really quick  
16 so that we leave plenty of time for you all to  
17 discuss the merits of what we're asking of you,  
18 but we wanted to show you this. This was a  
19 Gallup poll that was completed in December of  
20 1999 where the American public was asked what are  
21 the most important events of the century from the  
22 viewpoint of the American people?

1           And for as little attention as women  
2 get in our history books, which is to say almost  
3 none in our history books, in our public art, in  
4 our commemorative spaces, we're almost nowhere,  
5 we still ranked number two in this Gallup poll of  
6 what are the most important events of the 20th  
7 century?

8           And you'll notice, I hope, that in the  
9 top five events, everything else is commemorated  
10 in some way in the commemorative core in the  
11 reserve of the National Mall. The only thing  
12 missing is women. The only thing missing is our  
13 fight for equality. Could we go to the next  
14 slide, please?

15           So, we wanted to show you this. So,  
16 if you look at the reserve by the numbers, if you  
17 break down the commemorative works and historic  
18 sites within the reserve, which is a clearly  
19 defined area -- I know some of our other terms  
20 are less defined, but this one is clearly  
21 defined.

22           If you look at those sites within the

1 reserve, there are 40 commemorative works and  
2 historic sites, and the breakdown is staggering  
3 when you actually look at it. There are 22  
4 commemorative works dedicated to singular men,  
5 22. There are ten to war history and veterans.

6 So, if this committee is being asked  
7 the question what is missing and what is  
8 deserving of an exception, surely it is the fact  
9 that there are zero monuments and memorials  
10 dedicated to American women's history. Surely if  
11 there is anything worthy of an exception, it is  
12 this.

13 And if there is anything worthy of  
14 changing the policy, right -- in my understanding  
15 of it, you all have basically always had the same  
16 policy. Anytime you've been asked about a  
17 reserve exemption, you know, I've heard it said  
18 here today several times, Tammy said it, we are  
19 the protectors of the reserve, but what are you  
20 protecting? Is that worthy of protecting? There  
21 are no women in this space.

22 And if you were going to design the

1 National Mall today, surely that's not the  
2 decision you would make. You wouldn't make the  
3 decision to have 22 memorials to singular men and  
4 zero to women. You wouldn't make that decision  
5 today, but we can fix it today.

6 It's not a mystery that there are no  
7 women on the National Mall. The Washington  
8 Monument was first -- construction started on the  
9 Washington Monument in July 1848. That is the  
10 same month that women first gathered in Seneca  
11 Falls, New York to write down on paper for the  
12 very first time that they actually are deserving  
13 of personhood.

14 In July 1848, when the Washington  
15 Monument was being constructed, women weren't  
16 people. We didn't have personhood. We were like  
17 the equivalent cattle, right, to be traded by our  
18 husbands and our fathers. That's what we were.

19 So, it's no mystery that we're not  
20 represented in this commemorative space, but we  
21 can fix it. We can fix it. These numbers don't  
22 have to stay this way.

1           And we're not even coming to you  
2 asking for parity, right? We're not coming to  
3 Congress asking for parity. We're not asking for  
4 equity. We're asking for one, one out of 40.

5           So, what I'm hoping, if you don't mind  
6 going to the next slide, what I'm hoping is that  
7 today you will consider making an exception, that  
8 you will consider the merits of what this  
9 represents, what this could mean to 51 percent of  
10 the population, and what it does mean to every  
11 little girl who visits the National Mall and sees  
12 herself nowhere in the American story. We can  
13 actually go to the next slide. I'll skip this  
14 one. Thank you.

15           Okay, so what we had on the last slide  
16 and what we have on this slide are statements  
17 from the House and the Senate. So, this bill,  
18 just for your awareness, has moved very quickly,  
19 much faster than we could have ever expected.

20           In the House, it has already received  
21 a hearing. It has already moved out of committee  
22 with a voice vote of 32 to zero. So, in the



1 House, it has moved very, very fast. It has in  
2 the Senate as well. It's already received a  
3 hearing in the Senate as well.

4 And so, we have letters from our  
5 memorial sponsors, which I'm sure are in your  
6 packets. This one is from Senator Baldwin,  
7 right, urging you all -- so the question of what  
8 is your role here, well, she's asking you all,  
9 please consider what it means to have a National  
10 Mall where women don't see themselves. What does  
11 that mean and then what do you recommend? Can we  
12 fix it? Can we go to the next slide, please?

13 And I will leave you with this. I  
14 wanted to show this here because I wanted to show  
15 you what I'm hoping you'll consider, a possible  
16 stance that I'm hoping you would consider taking.  
17 This is the National Parks Conservation  
18 Association. This was their official policy  
19 position on our legislation.

20 And basically, what they say here is  
21 that they conditionally support placing the  
22 women's suffrage national monument on the

1 National Mall, a monument that would commemorate  
2 women's fight for the vote. Despite the 2003 CWA  
3 that determined that the National Mall is, it  
4 should say a substantially completed civic work  
5 of art, they find the absence of any  
6 representation of women's history unfortunate and  
7 reversible.

8           Should the location and design for the  
9 proposed commemorative work not fundamentally  
10 compromise the historic integrity of the National  
11 Mall, NPCA supports an exemption that would allow  
12 for the placement of this memorial. You can  
13 close down the slides if you'd like.

14           And so, that's -- I'm hoping you'll  
15 consider that today. We are the people to work  
16 with on this. We don't have a monument designed,  
17 right? We've talked a lot about the program and  
18 the scale and scope of this.

19           We are so excited to design a memorial  
20 that fits within the space that we're given. We  
21 didn't present any designs to you today. This  
22 memorial isn't designed.

1           A place for this memorial is too  
2 historic to get wrong, it just is, and we have a  
3 duty, at least that's how we see it. We have a  
4 duty and a responsibility to make sure that our  
5 National Mall, that women and girls see  
6 themselves reflected in the American story that  
7 we're telling on the National Mall.

8           This isn't like anything else that you  
9 guys have had to consider. I know it. Mr.  
10 Luebke, you outlined it perfectly in the very  
11 first thing that you said, right. This is  
12 complicated. This is nuanced.

13           And I know that this is difficult, but  
14 I am hopeful that you all will consider a  
15 different approach to this than you have to other  
16 memorials in the past, and that you will consider  
17 saying to Congress this needs to be fixed. Let's  
18 fix it.

19           And this is -- the bar for this is so  
20 high. This is once in a generation. The bar for  
21 this is so high, but we believe this reaches the  
22 bar. So, I will leave it there, and Tammy, I

1 won't speak again. Thank you, and yeah, that's  
2 where I'll leave it.

3 MR. LUEBKE: Tammy, You're muted.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. I thought I  
5 was unmuted. So, thank you, Ms. Laymon. So,  
6 first, as Commissioners, questions only. Are  
7 there any questions for Ms. Laymon before we move  
8 to discussion?

9 And Kristi, I see your hand up. Is it  
10 a question for -- no, okay. Anyone have any  
11 questions, just questions, no discussion? Mr.  
12 Fountain?

13 MR. FOUNTAIN: Real quickly to Ms.  
14 Laymon or Ms. Sale, within the reserve, do you  
15 have sites tentatively identified that you would  
16 want to pursue?

17 MS. LAYMON: Yes, thank you for asking  
18 that. I should have mentioned that. Yes, so  
19 ideally, and we're open to changing this through  
20 the official site selection process with you all  
21 should we receive the reserve exemption, but  
22 ideally, right now, we would love for this

1 memorial to be placed in Constitution Gardens.  
2 That is a space -- sorry, there's a lawnmower guy  
3 right outside my window if you can hear that.

4 That is a space on the National Mall,  
5 60 acres designated specifically to commemorate  
6 the ideals enshrined in the Constitution,  
7 justice, freedom, and equality, and the only  
8 story being told in Constitution Gardens right  
9 now is the story of the 56 signers to the  
10 Declaration of Independence.

11 How beautiful would it be to mirror  
12 that, right? This is an extension of that story.  
13 In 1848, when those women sat down, they wrote  
14 the Declaration of Sentiments. It was a direct  
15 mirror of the Declaration of Independence, right,  
16 and they declared on paper for the first time all  
17 men and women are created equal.

18 So, what a beautiful place to place  
19 this moment in Constitution Gardens, in that  
20 space dedicated to preserving and upholding the  
21 ideals of the Constitution, and in conversation  
22 with the 56 signers of the Declaration of

1 Independence. I think that's where this memorial  
2 belongs.

3 MR. FOUNTAIN: Thank you.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Any other questions  
5 before we move to discussion? Okay, so Ms.  
6 Laymon, we're going to say adieu and we'll  
7 discuss, so thank you very much. So, I'll start  
8 with you, Kristi.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, I figured I'd  
10 raise my hand first to take the heat off the  
11 gentlemen on the panel. I think without a doubt  
12 women's history is deserving of a place within  
13 the reserve.

14 My question is, and it kind of goes  
15 back to what Mr. Fountain was saying earlier, is  
16 about being in a place that's so tied to other  
17 things, does that limit your story? And so,  
18 admittedly, I don't know the full extent of the  
19 reserve, so there may be other opportunities, but  
20 it feels to me in some ways within the reserve --  
21 because I want to elevate the story of women's  
22 suffrage.

1                   How do you not be in the shadow or  
2 kind of dwarfed by the other things that are  
3 already there, that are already very well-known?  
4 And so, you could take the, I guess, the other  
5 side of it and say well, women's suffrage is kind  
6 of interrupting and, you know, changed some arcs  
7 in history.

8                   Maybe that is the right place for it,  
9 but I -- I support it in the reserve is there's a  
10 right location, but I think going back to your  
11 very, very first comments in your opening remarks  
12 is that you want the right site for this  
13 memorial, I don't know whether within the reserve  
14 is the right site given what you want to do, and  
15 the scale, and the scope of your memorial, to get  
16 something beyond just being a statute here as  
17 opposed to something that can tell the sort of  
18 arc of, you know, women's suffrage and the, you  
19 know, conversations we're still having about  
20 women's rights and bodily autonomy, and all of  
21 these things that could happen, and I worry that  
22 you might be constrained within some of these

1 sites, particularly Constitution Gardens because  
2 I believe there's already a plan to redo that  
3 site that's well, you know, down the path with  
4 the Park Service.

5 So, I'm very supportive of the  
6 memorial. I believe that it is certainly worthy  
7 of being within the reserve, but I think it  
8 really does need the right site, and it needs a  
9 site that can stand alone and give you room.

10 Because, you know, I guess, women's  
11 history, we are often constrained by other forces  
12 beyond us, and while that may be indicative of  
13 trying to get something through on this Mall, I  
14 think that it might be unnecessarily limiting.  
15 So, those are my comments, and I yield to  
16 everyone else.

17 MS. STIDHAM: Great, thank you. Mr.  
18 Maloney?

19 MR. MALONEY: I agree with that and I  
20 think -- I'll be very brief. I think that  
21 certainly women need to be represented within the  
22 reserve, and I think this is one of the rare



1 instances where allowing this in the reserve  
2 would be certainly appropriate.

3 And I do think the Constitution  
4 Avenue, the Constitution Gardens site in the old  
5 restaurant site elevated on the steps would be a  
6 good site for the memorial. So, that said  
7 though, you've heard what I've said about area  
8 one sites, and I would hope that either the area  
9 one site or the Gardens site would work out.

10 Thanks.

11 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. Mr. Sherman?

12 MR. SHERMAN: Well, I would concur  
13 with Ms. Tunstall's and David Maloney's comments.  
14 You're going to be constrained by land regardless  
15 if it's designated a complete civic work of art.  
16 It is, from a planning perspective, constrained.  
17 The reserve is constrained.

18 And going back to my original comments  
19 about Pennsylvania Avenue and 10th Street, I  
20 believe, we believe you have many more  
21 opportunities to really imagine what You're  
22 envisioning in terms of telling a full story, but

1 we also agree that the Mall -- new stories are  
2 created every day in our history and need to be  
3 told, and it's just the fact that the reserve is  
4 constrained, and so, you know, sticking with and  
5 trying to be consistent my earlier vote, I would  
6 just strongly urge you to consider 10th Street  
7 when it comes to sites, or Pennsylvania Avenue.

8 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Sherman.  
9 Mr. Fountain?

10 MR. FOUNTAIN: I'll try not to repeat  
11 myself or others too much. It's been a really  
12 interesting juxtaposition of the two memorials  
13 that we've had today.

14 In the context of the Medal of Honor  
15 monument, I talked about, you know, that we're  
16 trying to find a rule of decision for when we  
17 would say to Congress, yes, this memorial is  
18 worthy of an exemption to the reserve clause. I  
19 don't have a rule of decision.

20 I would say that any list in rank  
21 order of memorials that I would put into the  
22 reserve, this would probably be number one on the

1 list. I mean, this is, to paraphrase what  
2 someone else said, this is half our nation's  
3 history. And I'm wary that if we put a women's  
4 monument within the reserve, then a lot of other  
5 groups are going to want their monuments in the  
6 reserve, but we'll just have to take that as it  
7 comes.

8 I say for at least the third time, I  
9 would be much happier if the legislation said  
10 that it may be in the reserve rather than it  
11 shall be for reasons that those who have gone  
12 before me have said. The best site may not be  
13 within the reserve as narrowly defined, and I  
14 push back strongly on the notion that the reserve  
15 is the only appropriate memorial landscape.

16 And I'm not talking about pushing it  
17 out into all of the wards of the city, but I  
18 think the monumental core, I mean, I think Ms.  
19 Laymon defined it even as west to 15th Street. I  
20 think the Smithsonian is part of the monumental  
21 core because the Smithsonian Museums collectively  
22 tell American history, not just the American

1 History Museum, but all museums collectively.

2 And so, I think anywhere within area  
3 one is really appropriate, and for the reasons  
4 that we've talked about and others have  
5 reiterated about constraints at various sites.  
6 So, if we go back to Congress, I'd say make that  
7 one change to the legislation so that the sponsor  
8 can go back for more thought.

9 I often say that the design of a  
10 memorial is less important than the fact of the  
11 memorial. I wouldn't say quite so categorically  
12 that the location of a memorial is less important  
13 than the fact of the memorial, but I believe that  
14 is true to some extent, but we're also here --

15 You know, we talk about site without  
16 knowing design, and it would be good if the  
17 sponsor had the resources to do some preliminary  
18 conceptual work at more than one site to tease  
19 out some of these ideas and some of the  
20 possibilities at different sites before  
21 committing to a particular site.

22 And then the last thing I'd say, I do

1 appreciate what Ms. Laymon said about the  
2 conversation that would be available at the  
3 Constitution Gardens. I wonder if a similar  
4 conversation would be available -- the War on  
5 Terror Memorial folks had proposed a site or two  
6 along the Tidal Basin.

7 And I don't know if any of those are  
8 feasible for various reasons, but you can set up  
9 the same conversation between the Women's  
10 Monument and Jefferson that you had between the  
11 Martin Luther King Monument and Jefferson, and  
12 that strikes me as an interesting opportunity  
13 that might be worth exploring if they get  
14 authorization within the reserve, and I'll stop  
15 there.

16 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Fountain.  
17 Let's see, Mr. Luebke?

18 MR. LUEBKE: Thank you. In the spirit  
19 of moving us along, I don't really have anything  
20 to add other than just to say I agree. If there  
21 was ever a topic that could be included, this is  
22 one where it makes sense to look at lifting that

1 rule, but I completely agree also with what Mr.  
2 Fountain just said, is that it may not be the  
3 best one and that we would really love to see  
4 that language be may as opposed to must or shall,  
5 but let's try to make this the best it can  
6 possibly be in terms of its location and design.

7 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, thank you very  
8 much. Mr. Imamura?

9 MR. IMAMURA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
10 I think there's consensus here that this story,  
11 this monument is worthy of being in the reserve,  
12 but maybe the best outcome is that there's  
13 another site for that outside the reserve. And  
14 is it deserving of being on the National Mall?  
15 Yes, but the National Mall is much bigger than  
16 just the reserve.

17 So, I think what's great here about  
18 this commission is that it contains some of the  
19 best minds in planning and design in the city  
20 here, and everybody wants the best design outcome  
21 for this memorial, so is it worthy? Yes. Is  
22 this the best location? Maybe something outside

1 the reserve might be even better and with more  
2 opportunities, and I think that's been stated a  
3 number of times, so thank you.

4 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. Mr. McMahon?

5 MR. McMAHON: Okay, thank you. Also  
6 in the interests of time and after listening to  
7 my learned colleagues here, I support what I'm  
8 hearing as the general consensus.

9 I think the language going back to the  
10 Congress with may not shall is the appropriate  
11 way to do it, and continue to, you know, evaluate  
12 a number of sites, although I suspect if the  
13 legislation is passed, we'll be continuing to  
14 have a discussion about Constitution Gardens, but  
15 that may be okay. But I think in comparison with  
16 other sites, and I think Mr. Sherman has for  
17 future discussion, a more detailed look at the  
18 Pennsylvania Avenue sites needs to be a part of  
19 that conversation. Thanks.

20 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, thank you. So,  
21 I'm going to summarize what I'm hearing and then  
22 I'll ask for a motion. So, I'm hearing worthy of

1 the reserve, but there may be sites outside of  
2 the reserve that end up being more appropriate,  
3 and that potentially some design could inform,  
4 some conceptual design could inform which site  
5 would really fit this memorial best.

6 So, I am wondering about if the motion  
7 that someone suggests should include may be  
8 within area one or the reserve, and the reserve,  
9 may be within area one or, yeah, and/or, that way  
10 we're expressing the importance, but that the  
11 site really is dependent on what the memorial  
12 sponsor really wants to see, and it doesn't limit  
13 the potential for the constraints that the  
14 reserve often provides. So, I leave that for a  
15 suggested motion.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: I would second that,  
17 recommending both area one and the reserve for  
18 further exploration.

19 MS. STIDHAM: Okay, so for a vote, the  
20 motion being sending back language that would  
21 request that Congress change within the reserve  
22 to shall be -- am I back? I think I went a



1 little wonky. Okay, shall be within area one or  
2 the reserve, may be in area one or the reserve,  
3 may be. So, those in support, please raise your  
4 hands. Okay, great, that's everybody. So, we  
5 will draft that up and send it around for review.

6 We're almost done, so if everyone  
7 could hold on just a few more minutes, the last  
8 thing on the agenda is the update on memorials  
9 that are currently in progress, and in your  
10 packet as well as on the website, there is a  
11 document that is referred to NCMAC memorial  
12 updates that provides an update for everything.

13 Just to sort of summarize, there are  
14 ten memorials currently working their way through  
15 the site selection process. There are seven  
16 memorials which are working their way through  
17 design.

18 To highlight, the First Division  
19 Monument and the Desert Shield/Desert Storm  
20 Memorial are in their final stages of design and  
21 preparing to begin construction within the next  
22 few months. And then lastly, the World War II

1 FDR prayer plaque was dedicated in June of this  
2 year, and for further details, you can take a  
3 look at that sheet.

4 So, I ask if there's any further  
5 business from commissioners? The Park Service  
6 doesn't have any further business to bring before  
7 the commission at this time. Mr. Wilson?

8 MR. WILSON: Just one thing. I'd like  
9 to embarrass the Madam Chairman. I'm thrilled  
10 that You're here. You know, every so often, the  
11 Park Service gets it right, and in this case,  
12 they did. I've known you for a few years. You  
13 are honest, you are kind, You're thorough, and  
14 I'm glad that You're here, so welcome. That's  
15 all.

16 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 MR. IMAMURA: Second.

19 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you.

20 MR. SHERMAN: Good job, Madam Chair.

21 MS. STIDHAM: Thank you. Thank you.

22 I appreciate everyone's time today, your

1 thoughtfulfulness in your comments, and your view of  
2 this information. We really appreciate your  
3 time. And with that, the meeting is now  
4 adjourned. Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
6 went off the record at 3:57 p.m.)  
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