

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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MEETING

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TUESDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2021

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The Advisory Commission met via
Videoconference, at 1:00 p.m. EDT, Peter May,
Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

PETER MAY, for the Director, National Park
Service, Chair

MINA WRIGHT, for the Administrator, General
Services Administration

DAVID MALONEY, for the Mayor, District of
Columbia

MICHAEL SHERMAN, for the Chairman, National
Capital Planning Commission

PAUL McMAHON, for the Secretary of Defense

EDWIN FOUNTAIN, for the Chairman, American Battle
Monuments Commission

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

ALSO PRESENT

BETH PORTER, National Park Service, Department of
the Interior, Commission Secretary

SOPHIA KELLY, National Park Service, Department
of Interior, Memorials Program Manager

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

(1:04 p.m.)

CHAIR MAY: Good afternoon. Welcome to the second meeting this year of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. I want to thank the Commission of Fine Arts for hosting this meeting on its Zoom platform. Thanks in particular to Dan Fox with the Commission who is helping us manage the meeting and letting people in and out and controlling things generally. So thank you, Dan. Thank you, Fred, as well for being here in support.

Present for today's meeting are Michael Sherman, representing the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission; Thomas Luebke, representing the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts; David Maloney, representing the Mayor of the District of Columbia. Tom, did you see -- did you make a motion? Are you having trouble?

MEMBER LUEBKE: No, I was just waving when you announced me.

1 CHAIR MAY: Oh, okay. I'm really
2 paranoid about my video breaking up or my sound
3 breaking up.

4 So, Mina Wright, representing the
5 Administrator of the General Services
6 Administration; Paul McMahon, representing the
7 Secretary of Defense; Edwin Fountain,
8 representing the Chairman of the American Battle
9 Monuments Commission. And today, we do not have
10 a representative from the Architect of the
11 Capitol. Our long-time representative Michael
12 Turnbull recently retired, and we hope soon to
13 find out who his replacement will be. I do want
14 to take a second to just acknowledge Mike
15 Turnbull's service.

16 Mike and I met each other first, I
17 think back in 1999, when I went to work for the
18 Architect of the Capitol, and he's been a
19 colleague and friend since then. We've worked an
20 awful lot together on the Zoning Commission over
21 the last 14 years. And, of course, he has served
22 in that for, like, 15-plus years. So anyway,

1 Mike was always thorough in his consideration and
2 thoughtful in his comments and insightful in his
3 recommendations, we will certainly miss him.

4 Thank you, Mike. I don't know if you'll ever see
5 this, but we will acknowledge you just the same.
6 He's probably watching because he loved this so
7 much, you know, he wants to stay in touch.

8 Representing the Advisory Council on
9 Historic Preservation is Chris Wilson. Mr.
10 Wilson participates with the Commission in a
11 non-voting advisory capacity. Finally, Sophia
12 Kelly, our memorials program manager for the
13 National Park Service, is with us today along
14 with Beth Porter, who is the Commission secretary
15 for the National Capital Memorial Advisory
16 Commission, as well as the legislative affairs
17 specialist for the National Capital -- National
18 Capital Area Region 1. We have two complicated
19 names for our region, but that's what it is at
20 the moment.

21 A quick overview of today's business.
22 As most of you who are here today know, the

1 Commission was established by the Commemorative
2 Works Act of 1986 and is required by that act to
3 advise the Secretary of the Interior, the
4 administrator of General Services Administration,
5 and committees of congress on the establishment
6 of commemorative works in the District of
7 Columbia and its environments, and to provide its
8 use to the appropriate committees when committees
9 are concerning legislation to authorize
10 commemorative works in the district and its
11 environments.

12 Today, we have six agenda items. We
13 will review them in the following order. The
14 Georgetown -- sorry, H.R. 4009, the Georgetown
15 Waterfront Enslaved Voyages Memorial Act; S.
16 2571, the Flying Tiger Flight 739 Act; The Fallen
17 Journalists Memorial site selection; the Texas
18 Legation site selection; the First Infantry
19 Division Memorial design modification; and then
20 amendments to the Commission bylaws regarding
21 commemorative works and applications, D.C.
22 Columbia -- sorry -- District of Columbia

1 commemorative works applications.

2 Let's see. I will note that because
3 we are conducting this meeting through the Zoom
4 platform, we do not have the ready-ability to
5 call out persons present in the room to see if
6 they wish to testify as conveniently as we would
7 if we were in-person. Hopefully those who wish
8 to testify today have already contacted
9 commission secretary Beth Porter in advance to
10 let her know that they wish to testify. Or if
11 you are attending today and have not registered
12 or not notified Beth Porter, please e-mail her as
13 soon as possible at beth_porter@nps.gov, or you
14 could call her at 703-346-2948. That's
15 [beth_porter](mailto:beth_porter@nps.gov), P-O-R-T-E-R, @nps.gov, or 703-
16 346-2948.

17 So without further ado, I'll move on
18 to the first agenda item, which is H.R. 4009,
19 the Georgetown Waterfront Enslaved Voyages Act.

20 This legislation was introduced by
21 Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton on June 17, 2021.
22 It was referred to the House Natural Resources

1 subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and
2 Public Lands. No further action has been taken.
3 The bill authorizes the Georgetown African
4 American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to
5 establish a commemorative work to commemorate
6 enslaved persons who were brought by ship to
7 Georgetown as part of the slave trade. The bill
8 references individuals who endured the middle
9 passage, which is defined as the stage of the
10 Atlantic slave trade, in which millions of
11 enslaved Americans were forcibly transported to
12 the Americas. The most active years of the slave
13 trade occurred between 1700 and 1808. Our first
14 witness is Andrena Crockett, representing the
15 Georgetown African American Historic Landmark
16 Project and Tour. There is at least one other
17 witness who we will call in turn, and I would
18 just ask Mr. Fox, if you could let Ms. Crockett
19 and Mr. Nguma if he's actually been registered
20 now, into the meeting. Okay. So Ms. Crockett,
21 this is your opportunity to provide your
22 testimony, so please go ahead.

1 MS. CROCKETT: Good afternoon,
2 Chairman May and the members of the National
3 Capital Memorial Advisory Committee. As
4 mentioned, my name is Andrena Crockett,
5 representing Georgetown African American Historic
6 Landmark Project and Tour. I want to first thank
7 you for the opportunity to testify before you on
8 what I believe is a topic of national
9 significance, worthy of commemorating: the
10 recognition of the enslaved of African descent
11 and free African Americans in the United States.
12 As we should also, on June 17, 2021, our fearless
13 leader in Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton,
14 introduced H.R. 4009, the Georgetown Waterfront
15 Enslaved Voyages Memorial Act. This piece of
16 legislation authorizes Georgetown African
17 American Historic Landmark and Tour to establish
18 a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.
19 As a sponsor of H.R. 4009 and its last -- the
20 4009 GL -- GAAHLP testifies at this time to the
21 importance of this legislation and its lasting
22 impact on our nation as we progress towards a

1 more perfect union.

2 With this legislation, we can also
3 have a lasting impact on the world as other
4 nations watch and learn from the United States.
5 The Commemorative Work Act of 1986 ensures that
6 future commemorative works in areas administered
7 by the National Park Service and the administer
8 of General Service in the District of Columbia
9 and its environs are appropriately designed,
10 constructed, and located, and reflect a consensus
11 of lasting national significance. In accordance
12 with Section 8901, GAAHLP seeks construction of a
13 memorial worthy of the subject group, the
14 enslaved and disenfranchised African-Americans.
15 A plaque I feel will not serve to commemorate the
16 388,747 Africans who survived the voyage to
17 mainland North America, nor the approximate 42
18 million descendants currently living in the
19 United States. Section 2903 prescribes that the
20 term commemorative work may apply to monuments,
21 sculptures, memorials, plaques, inscriptions, or
22 other structures of landscape features, including

1 a garden or memorial designed to perpetuate a
2 permanent manner that -- manner the memory of a
3 group significant in American history. Area 1
4 and Area 2 as depicted in the map entitled
5 Commemorative Areas Washington, D.C. and
6 environments dated June 28, 2003, are areas where
7 the sites are being considered.

8 This work will recognize the
9 contributions of people of African descent who
10 were brought to America's shores against their
11 will, and who toiled without recognition and
12 compensation. This commemorative work should
13 serve as a place of reflection and healing for
14 all Americans. GAAHLP speaks in consensus with
15 our partners and the numerous organizations and
16 visual voices who support our efforts to honor
17 the enslaved of African descent and free
18 African-Americans who worked, lived, and assisted
19 in building Georgetown, the District of Columbia,
20 and this nation. Their vigilance, strength, and
21 fortitude are unparalleled. With partners, Yale
22 University and the National Park Service, we are

1 conducting research on the environments. You
2 will hear testimony today from the United Nations
3 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
4 Organization and other partners whose various
5 projects inform the world on human rights. In
6 November 2019, UNESCO designated the Georgetown
7 Waterfront a site of memory, recognizing the
8 importation of the enslaved who disembarked
9 there. With Georgetown University press, GAAHLP
10 is promoting the preservation of accurate African
11 and African-American history preservation.
12 GAAHLP is placing 20 historic bronze marks
13 throughout Georgetown, highlighting the accurate
14 history of Africans throughout Georgetown,
15 highlighting their history for all who worked,
16 lived in Georgetown during the 18th through the
17 20th century.

18 The Georgetown communities signed
19 letters of consent to install plaques on or next
20 to their property, telling the stories of those
21 who have gone unnoticed. In partnership with
22 Maryland Public Television, a film production is

1 being placed to foster a commitment to lasting
2 change. Hopefully, the District of Columbia
3 considers funding a curriculum on the subject of
4 African-American history. With the submission of
5 H.R. 4009, an attempt to start a dialogue of
6 reconciliation that eliminates any shame, guilt,
7 or humiliation begins. Unfortunate, many
8 African-Americans were forcibly brought to
9 American shores. They toiled for free without in
10 the -- under inhumane conditions, when labor was
11 needed because others were incapable of building
12 and maintaining the roads, homes, gardens, and
13 households. In return, people of African descent
14 had their identities stripped from them, their
15 last names removed, their religions eliminated,
16 their cultures replaced, their families torn
17 apart. And after the Civil War and emancipation,
18 their dignity was suppressed by Black Codes and
19 Jim Crow Laws that were enacted to keep those of
20 African descents in servitude. The United States
21 did issue a formal apology for slavery and Jim
22 Crow Laws. The resolution adopted by the US

1 House of Representative on July 29, 2008 was
2 unprecedented. Even after decades of lawmakers
3 trying to push the government to finally
4 apologize. Speaking before the vote on the House
5 resolution, Representative Steve Cohen, Democrat
6 from Tennessee said: Only a great nation, a
7 great country, can recognize and admit its
8 mistakes and then travel forth to create indeed a
9 more perfect union. And the apology for the
10 enslavement of African-Americans, Senate
11 Concurrent Resolution 26 in the 111th Congress,
12 first senate -- session -- first session,
13 Congress acknowledged the fundamental injustice,
14 cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and
15 Jim Crow Laws and apologized to African-Americans
16 on behalf of the people of the United States for
17 the wrongs committed against them, and their
18 ancestors who suffered. While this apology was
19 primarily symbolic, by officially recognizing its
20 role in perpetuating the horrors of slavery and
21 Jim Crow, the American government took a step to
22 -- forward in addressing and atoning for one of

1 its greatest wrongs.

2 The District of Columbia has no
3 physical or natural sites to convert into a
4 memorial or dedicate to commemorate families who
5 were torn apart and cannot be made whole.
6 Washington, D.C. and its Georgetown Waterfront
7 have no remaining structures symbolic of the
8 transgressions against the enslaved who were
9 transported to and from Georgetown in the
10 nation's capital. They have been removed. The
11 pain after emancipation was too unbearable to
12 have relics as reminders. There's no place to go
13 to reflect and heal, there's no place to go and
14 reconcile. When this commission convenes to make
15 recommendations regarding H.R. 4009, they should
16 remember the broken families and acknowledge the
17 mistakes inflicted during slavery and the
18 visceral racism of Jim Crow era that these people
19 endured. This commission should be reminded that
20 a memorial in our nation's capital, is the least
21 that the United States, the greatest nation on
22 the earth, with the greatest government conceived

1 by man, and with the great belief that all men
2 are created equal, can do. Memorials recognizing
3 the legacy of the enslaved exists in different
4 forms around the world. For more than 25 years,
5 UNESCO Slave Route project has worked to break
6 the walls of silence surrounding the legacy of
7 slave trade through research, education, and
8 recognition. The arc of return at the United
9 Nations headquarters in New York honors victims
10 of the slave trade. La Citadelle Laferriere in
11 Haiti stands as a legacy to the formally enslaved
12 who built it. Ghana has performed Elmina Castle
13 and its slave force. Windsor, Ontario has the
14 Underground Railroad Memorial and Le Morne
15 Cultural Landscape preserves the legacy of those
16 who escaped slavery in Mauritius.

17 The Historic Center of Salvador de
18 Bahia in Brazil stands as the site of the first
19 slave market in America. The Dutch recognized
20 their role in the slave trade with their National
21 Slavery Monument in Amsterdam. And the statutes
22 in Stone Town, Zanzibar mark the center of the

1 slave trade in East Africa. In the United
2 States, the National Memorial for Peace and
3 Justice, which opened to the public on April 26,
4 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama, is our nation's
5 first memorial dedicated to the legacy of
6 enslaved people, people terrorized by lynching,
7 African-Americans humiliated by racial
8 segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color
9 burdened with contemporary presumption of guilt
10 and police violence. If America is to move
11 towards a more perfect union, and not only
12 apologize for the misdeeds, erecting a memorial
13 sends a powerful message. Beneficiaries of an
14 attempt to correct the wrongdoing go -- can go
15 there to pay homage. Others can recognize their
16 ancestors' existence and still others can go to
17 reflect and heal.

18 In 2009, the United States Congress
19 did make an official apology for America's role
20 in the history of slavery. Even several of the
21 southern American states had already issued their
22 own apology. Is 158 years after President

1 Abraham Lincoln issued the emancipation too late?
2 No. Even though the time limit on what an
3 apology would look like and achieve has passed,
4 it is never too late. The 158 years exceeds the
5 25 year requirements set forth in the
6 Commemorative Works Act for this group to be
7 honored with a memorial by the United States. It
8 is befitting that a memorial be erected in the
9 District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., whose
10 founding was proceeded in 1751 when Georgetown
11 was incorporated and subsequently absorbed into
12 the District of Columbia, the nation's capital
13 where all Americans come to visit.

14 It is befitting that the sight of an
15 edifice to recognize those of African descent
16 among the many monuments, memorials, and
17 embassies in our nation's capital where
18 representatives from all over the world gather.
19 The very least we can do is to recognize the
20 existence of those who suffered for so long, for
21 those who withstood indignations and racism in
22 the United States. The bare minimum the United

1 States should provide is a place to pause for a
2 moment to erase at least one drop of their pain.
3 I believe the ancestors are watching. America
4 should want to acknowledge the enslaved's
5 contribution. It is our responsibility to those
6 who sacrificed. And because they sacrificed,
7 America's union survived. It is because they
8 sacrificed and survived that all America exists
9 in their present condition.

10 A simple, we acknowledge your
11 existence, can have a profound impact on erasing
12 many years of neglect and eliminating
13 longstanding conflict. H.R. 4009 attempts to
14 send that message. A plaque is not an option and
15 will not suffice. The scars are too many and too
16 deep. The pain and suffering has gone on too
17 long. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity
18 to speak before the Commission.

19 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much, Ms.
20 Crockett. I will note that I think you submitted
21 testimony -- written testimony, was a bit longer
22 and you skipped some sections of that. So -- and

1 you were keeping it brief -- but please know that
2 we have your full testimony and have read that.
3 So now, I will turn to the next person to
4 testify, and that's Mr. Tabue Nguma. I hope I
5 got that right. Your turn.

6 MR. NGUMA: So dear Mr. Chairman May,
7 dear members of the National Capital Memorial
8 Advisory Commission, please receive the hereby
9 testimony as my capacity of -- as a coordinator
10 of the Slave Route project at the United Nations
11 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
12 Organization. Founded in 1994, the Slave Route
13 project aims to deepen the research and education
14 relating to resource slavery, the resistances,
15 and the contemporary consequences. The issue
16 brought to your attention by Ms. Andrena Crockett,
17 member of the Georgetown African American
18 Historic Landmark Project and Tour, rightly fits
19 with UNESCO initiative to break the silence on
20 millions of African enslaved in the United
21 States. The recognition of the crimes against
22 humanity that they have endured, as well as their

1 contribution as members of the United States,
2 economic and cultural power is of a considerable
3 importance for the American people as a whole.
4 In effect, the strengthening of the link between
5 community, one of the core mission of UNESCO as
6 emphasized by its declaration on cultural
7 diversity. For the building of such a monument,
8 people from enslaved descents, along with their
9 fellow citizens come, heal, honor, and reflect on
10 the above mentioned issues.

11 The monument project presented by the
12 Georgetown African American Historic Landmark
13 Project and Tour will constitute a rumination
14 point in term of monument commemoration. As Ms.
15 Crockett has pointed out, no commemorating wall
16 exists in Georgetown Waterfront yet, and we've no
17 location to properly remember and pay tribute to,
18 healing is made laborious. It is precisely one
19 of the UNESCO slavery Project purpose to
20 elaborate healing approaches toward the descent
21 of enslaved and slave owners. Before the
22 organization believe that reuniting all the

1 Earth's communities, along -- and encourage them
2 to share their trauma and struggle, hence
3 participating to the healing process.

4 UNESCO is aware of the Georgetown
5 African American Historical Landmark Project and
6 Tour ambitious curriculum and find itself unsure
7 that expected monuments will fulfill its duties.
8 Representing UNESCO, we would highly advise the
9 National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission to
10 accept the request made by Mrs. Andrena Crockett.
11 Not only will this monument be a place of
12 remembrance, it will also re-enforce the national
13 position of the United States of America and D.C.
14 Institutions in the capacity to acknowledge and
15 (audio interference) passed in order to
16 constitute a future society promoting tolerance
17 and equality, so that should atrocity do not
18 occur ever again. We thank the National Capital
19 Memorial Advisory Commission for the time that it
20 has granted us and hope that it will take into
21 consideration our recommendation. Thank you very
22 much.

1 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. So
2 before we move on to any other testimony. Does
3 anyone have any questions either for Ms. Crockett
4 or Mr. Nguma among the Commission? I'm not
5 seeing any hands raised or anything like that.
6 So thank you all very much. Let's see. Ms.
7 Porter, do we have anyone else who has expressed
8 an interest in testifying?

9 MS. PORTER: We do not.

10 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So thank you very
11 much, Ms. Crockett and Mr. Nguma. We're going to
12 close the public comment section of this and have
13 some discussion of the bill. So thank you very
14 much for being here with us today. So in
15 addition to testimony you've just heard, I
16 believe we've all received a statement for the
17 record from Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. I'm
18 having a little trouble getting my hands on my
19 copy of it but hopefully you have that. Clearly
20 she's in support of this as she introduced this
21 legislation. So I would just say before we get
22 started, and, you know, just before the

1 discussion of the bill, there are just a few
2 comments that I would make upfront. The words
3 Georgetown Waterfront in the short title imply a
4 preference for Georgetown. But certainly we've
5 heard testimony about Georgetown as a location
6 for commemorative work. However, despite those
7 mentions, I will just say that the bill itself
8 appropriately is silent on the location and
9 that's typical for a Commemorative Works Act we
10 authorize. The congress authorizes the
11 establishment of the work and then the site
12 selection process becomes a function of reviews
13 by this commission, Commission of Fine Arts, and
14 NCPC.

15 I would also note that the term
16 enslaved individuals theoretically opens up the
17 possibility of a commemorate work that includes
18 specific names, and while this is permitted under
19 the act, the passage of times since the slave
20 trade end, calls that into question whether
21 anything like that is feasible. I think that's
22 actually beneficial because I think there's a

1 larger message about the experience of human
2 suffering that occurred during and after the
3 slave trade. I would also note that research is
4 underway -- is still underway to determine
5 definitively that enslaved persons were brought
6 by ship specifically to Georgetown. Records of
7 this are not totally clear, National Park Service
8 has included this and it's included research on
9 this topic in two ongoing studies in order to
10 other -- uncover more documentation. So should
11 this legislation pass, hopefully we will have the
12 benefit of that documentation to understand
13 whether there is a nexus with Georgetown. So
14 with that, I would welcome comments from any of
15 the Commissioners. I think we can alter on our
16 cameras and wave hands or I could simply call in
17 order, unless somebody has a preference, I will
18 do the latter. So with that, I will go to Mr.
19 Sherman first to see what comments he has on
20 behalf of his commission.

21 MEMBER SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. First I want to thank Mrs. Crockett

1 and Mr. Nguma for their testimony. I thought
2 they were very articulate in laying out the --
3 their vision for this memorial. I would say
4 NCPC's very supportive of the legislation. We
5 see this as a great example of expanding a
6 narrative and telling diverse stories to our
7 commemorative landscape. We also see this is an
8 opportunity to address issues of equity in
9 representation from commemorative works. And so
10 we're very supportive. I just acknowledged that
11 the site is yet to be determined, although
12 Georgetown is the preference. But we're very
13 supportive on this.

14 I would also add that recently, the
15 National Trust for the Mall has been awarded a
16 grant by the Andrew Mellon Foundation to look at
17 temporary commemoration as a way to expand and
18 diversify the commemorative landscape on a
19 temporary basis. And we're partnering with the
20 Park Service and the trust in this initiative.
21 And look forward to continuing to look for
22 strategies to expand the commemorative landscape.

1 So thank you again, Mrs. Crockett and Mr. Nguma
2 for your testimony.

3 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much, Mr.
4 Sherman. Mr. Luebke? You're muted.

5 MEMBER LUEBKE: I'm having a little
6 internet issue. Can you hear me okay?

7 CHAIR MAY: Yes. If you want to turn
8 off your camera, that's fine.

9 MEMBER LUEBKE: Okay. Sorry.

10 CHAIR MAY: It's okay.

11 MEMBER LUEBKE: Well, tell me if it
12 isn't working.

13 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

14 MEMBER LUEBKE: It can get a little
15 challenging. Anyway, just, you know, we've been
16 -- we at the Commission of Fine Arts administer
17 the full Georgetown Act and we've had the
18 pleasure of working with Ms. Crockett for, I
19 don't know, it's been three or four years
20 actually, on the review and implementation of the
21 historic site and program for the
22 African-American community there. So this has

1 been a very gratifying project, you know, and
2 it's been approved. It's getting underway now in
3 terms of installation, so we're happy to carry
4 the story forward. So I think there's a very
5 strong history of the African-American presence
6 in Georgetown. Certainly we had a little bit of
7 -- so what I found out quickly was, you know, in
8 1790, there were about 664 African-American
9 residents in Georgetown, about 10 percent were
10 free. By 1800, it was 730 and 400 were free.
11 That's a different story, it's just right there.
12 It's in that ten-year period, there's so many
13 stories that need to be told.

14 I think the biggest, you know, the
15 idea of a waterfront memorial was fantastic and
16 both the testimonies talk about, you know, other
17 precedence for this and, you know, the
18 disembarkation of -- from transport, the middle
19 passage, it's something that deserves to be
20 commemorated. My only question is really just
21 about, you know, supporting it in terms of the
22 research we do. The weirdest thing that I found

1 -- and we're doing a history project on
2 Georgetown widely right now -- there isn't a lot
3 of information about slave ships actually coming
4 to Georgetown. We just don't know. We know that
5 there was a very vibrant, unfortunately, trade in
6 Alexandria, just down the river across, as well
7 as more in the waterfront, the southwest
8 waterfront that we don't have a lot of
9 information about. So that plays into the site
10 selection. If it turned out that there was a
11 much smaller number here, well, does it make
12 sense somewhere else? But I, you know, we're in
13 support of that I think either way, and the
14 Georgetown Waterfront Park federal land is a
15 great venue for something of that sort. So
16 there's a big story here. I don't know if it
17 should just be limited to the disembarkation
18 question. I realize it's probably the focus of
19 this legislation, and I'm sure we'd be, you know,
20 the Commission will be in support of that.

21 CHAIR MAY: Makes you look forward to
22 more research on that.

1 MEMBER LUEBKE: Right.

2 CHAIR MAY: We do too. Excellent.

3 Mr. Maloney?

4 MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you, Mr.

5 Chairman. I also want to thank Ms. Crockett and
6 her group for bringing this proposal forward.

7 It's certainly long overdue and something that
8 our society will certainly benefit from. We are
9 very much involved in -- as a preservation
10 organization -- very much involved in this
11 section of our coverage in our world in terms of
12 what deserves to be remembered in our programs,
13 and this memorial was certainly well in line with
14 that need. Many, many organizations in the
15 country now feel very guilty. Listening to the
16 testimony, I thought that it was very interesting
17 to me to think about how this memorial can be
18 conceived. We have many different ways. I mean,
19 I think the desire seems to be to have both a
20 memorial that is meaningful on a local level to
21 the specifics of Georgetown, for example, but
22 also on a national level. And a memorial that

1 also participates to, you know, constellation of
2 memorials around the world dealing with the same
3 topic. And so I think that question of what
4 exactly is -- on what levels is this memorial
5 needed to convey its significance. I suspect
6 it's multiple levels. And that does go to the
7 question obviously of the site and the part the
8 site may play in conveying what the memorial
9 intends to convey.

10 I agree with Mr. Luebke's comments
11 that there is something that seems quite apt
12 about the Georgetown Waterfront in particular
13 because there's -- yes, there's a lot of research
14 that still can be done on the topic, but it
15 certainly has a connection to the slave trade
16 itself. It was certainly a major port and was a
17 place where if you will, the city of Washington
18 grew from in some respects. So that is good, but
19 on the other hand, if it is intended to be really
20 a national or the national memorial, then you, I
21 think, have to think through the question of
22 whether or not that is the only site that might

1 be considered. There may be some other place
2 that could even be equally or perhaps better
3 suited. But that I think is something down the
4 road for us to consider. I think I would just
5 reiterate, it seems to me that this is a very
6 welcome proposal on something that is long
7 overdue.

8 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Ms.
9 Wright?

10 MEMBER WRIGHT: I would second all of
11 what Mr. Maloney just said, and defer to the
12 historians who know a lot more than I do about
13 what we do and don't know about Georgetown, but
14 of course, ever the pragmatist, I would also -- I
15 would take what Mr. Maloney said and go a little
16 bit further and say access for visitors is a key
17 component of this. He's talking about, you know,
18 the site being part of an expression of national
19 significance, and I don't want to make anybody in
20 Georgetown mad. I just want to point out that
21 there's no public transportation -- I mean, not
22 none -- but the Metro currently doesn't go to

1 Georgetown. It's not off the beaten path by any
2 measure, but it's not in the monumental core as
3 we think about it. And so the site selection
4 process I'm sure will flesh all of these issues
5 out.

6 But a full access by visitors from all
7 over the country I think is really important, and
8 while it sounds like there's some uncertainty
9 about the precise role that the Georgetown
10 Waterfront played for the content of the
11 memorial, I would hope that we would think
12 carefully about, yes, what the location says
13 about the memorial as a local landmark as well as
14 a national one, and also provide for easy access
15 for -- to expand visitation opportunities to as
16 many people as we possibly can. I can't help it.
17 It's just a practical concern. And, you know,
18 people won't go if it's not easy to get there.
19 Even if they've come all the way from, you know,
20 Iowa. We want -- I just think that's part of
21 what we need to think about. That's it.

22 CHAIR MAY: Great. Thank you.

1 Visitor access is a very important if practical
2 consideration. So thank you very much for
3 voicing that. So Mr. McMahon?

4 MEMBER MCMAHON: Okay. Can you hear
5 me? Is this on? Okay. Great. No, I echo most
6 of what the other members already said. I
7 appreciate the well thought out and deeply felt
8 comments from both of speakers. They're
9 obviously spot on, this is world that is ready
10 for support. Certainly the issue of the
11 appropriate siting for the memorial in the
12 District of Columbia will be better left I think
13 for other days after people give it much thought
14 in terms of the issues that are raised today. So
15 thank you for coming and thank you for allowing
16 me to talk a little bit.

17 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. And then Mr.
18 Fountain, last but not least, your comments.

19 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman. And if you'll indulge me in a brief
21 aside to Ms. Crockett. I believe the woman that
22 you hired to copy the 20 bronze plaques that you

1 put up in Georgetown is a woman I've known for 30
2 years that we hired to copy at the World War I
3 Memorial. And I won't give Peter or Tom
4 heartburn by pointing out the mistakes that she
5 kept us for making in some of the fairly
6 permanent inscriptions at that site. I confess,
7 I find myself on this one in a slightly awkward
8 position. I'm fully on board with the memorial
9 in concept. But I had the misfortune of being a
10 lawyer and that being a lawyer, I always start
11 with the statute. And the statute very
12 specifically authorizes a commemorative work to
13 commemorate the enslaved individuals who
14 disembarked at Georgetown Waterfront after and
15 during the middle passage. And now I'm hearing
16 that there may not be such people, that slave
17 ships making the middle passage may in fact not
18 have ported at Georgetown, and there may not be
19 people who disembarked at Georgetown following
20 the middle passage. So that causes me some
21 fundamental concern about the legislation.

22 And then in the testimony, it has been

1 very much about -- and in some of the commentary
2 from other commission members -- has been very
3 much -- it has very much been about commemoration
4 at a much larger level, whether it's all enslaved
5 people who made the middle passage or all
6 enslaved people generally or all descendants of
7 enslaved people. So very different layers, very
8 different groups. And while I fully support the
9 memorial to those groups, however to find at the
10 end of the day, that's not what this legislation
11 was authorizing. And I'd be concerned, as a
12 member of this commission, if a couple of years
13 down the road when we're dealing with site
14 selection or memorial design, whether we're
15 looking at a memorial that I feel like was not
16 the memorial authorized by the statute. And so I
17 was prepared to support the legislation as
18 written. I'm now not quite sure whether I can
19 because a factual premise doesn't seem to be
20 established. But even setting that concern
21 aside, I would be concerned again if we're later
22 presented with memorial concepts that I feel like

1 are inconsistent with what congress authorized.
2 And my suggestion to the sponsor would be, you
3 might want to get this legislation amended before
4 it's passed so that we don't confront those
5 issues. But generally, I'm on board with the
6 concept. Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: So thank you, Mr.
8 Fountain. I think one of the purposes for our
9 review is to make observations like that. And
10 certainly, if the Department of the Interior is
11 given the opportunity to testify on this bill,
12 which it seems likely, we would be able to
13 express that concern and ask to get some
14 modification to the language so that there is not
15 that inconsistency. And I would actually propose
16 that the Commission support the legislation
17 enthusiastically because we all believe this is
18 something that should be recognized.

19 You know, the fact that so many people
20 came into the country during the middle passage
21 and endured such suffering, and that it is worthy
22 of commemoration, it's worthy of reminding people

1 of what happened, and doing so in a very
2 prominent way. And that -- and suggesting at the
3 same time that the legislation be modified to
4 address that subject more broadly, since we know
5 that, you know, there was -- you know -- there
6 were people who arrived in Washington at large,
7 if not specifically in Georgetown.

8 And then, hopefully, whatever the
9 research is, that will either prove that
10 Georgetown is the place and that's where the
11 right nexus is or if not -- or if because, you
12 know, maybe the sponsors -- I think listening to
13 this discussion will be more inclined to look at
14 some other waterfront location that maybe brings
15 greater prominence and greater access,
16 accessibility to the general public. So I would
17 suggest that that's essentially the content of
18 what we would write. I wish I could repeat it in
19 the form of a motion. But maybe somebody else
20 can. Mr. Luebke.

21 MEMBER LUEBKE: Well, I wasn't going
22 to make a motion, but I was just going to add

1 that I think everybody without question agrees
2 that the topic is absolutely deserving of
3 commemoration. That it's a story of both local
4 and national and actually, it's a story -- it's
5 world -- it's a human story that's universal.
6 The story has a connection to Georgetown, whether
7 or not -- we don't -- again, we don't know
8 exactly what the situation was. So and I think
9 that the Georgetown Waterfront park in the end
10 would be a very wonderful setting for such a
11 thing. So, you know, all this is yes, yes, yes.
12 The only question is to go back to Mr. Fountain's
13 comment, is there a way to generalize the
14 language slightly so it isn't just hanging on
15 this prickly question of disembarkation from the
16 middle passage, because we just don't know what
17 -- I mean, it may reveal that there's, you know,
18 significant numbers or just a few, we don't -- we
19 just don't know. So I would be very supportive
20 of something if -- just to advise -- is there a
21 way to just broaden it slightly because there's
22 nothing wrong with it programmatically,

1 locationally, thematically, you know, it's long
2 overdue.

3 CHAIR MAY: Right. A simple insertion
4 of some language can help with that. Before we
5 go too far into the debate, I sort of skipped
6 over Mr. Wilson. We usually go to Chris Wilson
7 and the advisory council to see if he has
8 comments off of the Commission as we consider
9 this.

10 MR. WILSON: So thank you. So like
11 many of these projects, until a site is chosen,
12 there's no 106 discussion as part of the Historic
13 Preservation Act. But I can tell you on behalf
14 the ACHP, we think that this is very important.
15 The African-American experience needs to be told.
16 And, you know, we're in support of this. On a
17 personal level, I've worked in Georgetown as a
18 curator and lived in D.C. most of my life. Like
19 Mr. Luebke said, this is a long time coming. So
20 as an agency, we support it and personally, I
21 support it. I look forward to working with the
22 Park Service in the future on site selection and

1 the 106 process once we get to that point.

2 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you. Now,
3 back to Mr. Fountain. I think you had something
4 to add in response to Mr. Luebke.

5 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Well, I just wanted
6 to note for the record that while, you, Mr.
7 Chairman and Mr. Luebke were speaking subsequent
8 to my remarks, I was nodding my head vigorously
9 and just wanted for the record to state that I
10 support what both of you have said in response to
11 my own comments. That's all.

12 CHAIR MAY: All right. Thank you.
13 Does anyone have further comments or would
14 anybody else like to make a motion or does that
15 come back to me then?

16 MEMBER SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just
17 had a question, I guess or -- for clarification.
18 I understand you mentioned that the Park Service
19 is continuing research into the embark location
20 issue, but I also recalled some of the testimony
21 from two folks who testified earlier, that Yale
22 and UNESCO is also involved with this effort, and

1 I have to believe that they've done some research
2 along these lines as well. And would that be
3 considered or factored into your research with
4 the Park Service?

5 CHAIR MAY: Well, I'm not the one
6 doing the research. The Park Service, it's --
7 you know, we have historians for that, not
8 bureaucrats like me. I honestly don't know
9 what's being considered at this point, but I'm
10 sure it's going to be very thorough, and again, I
11 expect that that would be available once we get
12 closer to site selection should this be
13 authorized.

14 MEMBER SHERMAN: Understood. Thanks.

15 CHAIR MAY: Maloney.

16 MEMBER MALONEY: I agree that that's
17 an important thing to consider, and I think Mr.
18 Fountain has a great point that the legislation
19 should be very clear about what exactly it is
20 proposing and authorizing. I would hate for this
21 to devolve into a sort of an argument about what
22 research may or may not show. From what I've

1 read about the various points of view on the
2 research and what is known, it's likely to be
3 inconclusive, ultimately, because this is a thing
4 that happened a long time ago, not a huge amount
5 of documentation, and, you know, open to some
6 degree of interpretation and various hypotheses
7 about what may be actual fact. I don't think
8 that should be the point. I mean, the point is
9 that this is a symbolic memorial, and it's not
10 about the specifics of wherein someone
11 disembarks. Hundreds of thousands of people
12 disembarked somewhere and have now filtered
13 throughout America. And I think what's important
14 is that we find, and with the preponderance of
15 the memorial, find a location that is suitable,
16 it's symbolically suitable and not trying to pin
17 down, okay, we know that, you know, 500 or 1,000
18 people disembarked in Georgetown. I don't think
19 that should be the point.

20 MEMBER SHERMAN: And I will second
21 that -- those comments that Mr. Maloney just
22 made.

1 CHAIR MAY: I would agree too. Ms.
2 Wright? You're muted.

3 MEMBER WRIGHT: Rookie move. After 18
4 months, wow. I would third those remarks and
5 also say that's -- the specificity about the
6 location is sort of in the same lane as the
7 specificity associated with individual names. In
8 some ways, it almost diminishes the conceptual
9 through-line of the whole thing because it's
10 bigger than -- I don't want to sound -- it's
11 bigger than an individual and it's bigger than
12 the specificity of the location, right? So I
13 think that it's much more important to tell the
14 -- that with -- that the research and the site
15 selection process focus on the broader narrative
16 and the broader idea behind the whole thing. As
17 Mr. Maloney said, these people disembarked
18 somewhere in the city of Washington. And again,
19 layering over that, our practical concerns of how
20 people are going to have access to the concept is
21 -- seems to me to be the big picture.

22 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. I would agree with

1 that. I just think in terms of the response of
2 this commission develops, the letter that we
3 write, it should capture those overarching
4 messages, and just suggest that the language of
5 the act --

6 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yeah.

7 CHAIR MAY: -- be refined just a bit
8 to make sure that it captures the symbolic inputs
9 rather than the specifics of who may or may not
10 have disembarked in Georgetown.

11 MEMBER WRIGHT: And I think that's to
12 the benefit of the future memorial.

13 CHAIR MAY: Right. Absolutely.
14 Certainly anything that would, you know, that
15 might result from changes that this commission
16 might suggest would never preclude doing
17 something in Georgetown. You know, there might
18 be a slightly different story that's told
19 depending on the history or what the research
20 reveals, but we wouldn't want to suggest that
21 it's going to completely change the -- this
22 notion that it may have happened in Georgetown.

1 And as Mr. Luebke says -- I'm sorry, Mr. Maloney
2 said -- it seems like the lab research may turn
3 out to be inconclusive. So anyway, I again, I
4 want to be able to wrap this up in some way. So
5 again, just to recap in some sort of a motion, I
6 would move that the Commission write a letter in
7 support of the legislation and suggest some
8 tweaking of the text that allows for a greater
9 emphasis on the symbolic importance of
10 recognizing the middle passage and that still
11 allows for location within the District of
12 Columbia, and the site proves to be appropriate
13 based on whatever language.

14 I don't think any of that will -- that
15 specific language is going to wind up in the
16 final legislation, but I think just something
17 that puts the emphasis on the symbolic importance
18 rather than on commemorating the individuals who
19 got off -- who disembarked specifically in
20 Georgetown. So generally acceptable, certainly
21 all of the issues will have the opportunity to
22 read the letter before it goes up. So I'll make

1 that motion and look for a second.

2 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Second.

3 CHAIR MAY: A second by Mr. Fountain.

4 And if everyone could turn on their camera and
5 raise their hand, if they are in support, then we
6 can count it that way. Otherwise, I'm going to
7 do a roll call. So all of us in support raise
8 the hand. Mr. McMahon, I don't see you yet.
9 You're in support as well, Mr. Sherman, I know
10 this. Okay. Very good. Thank you very much.

11 MEMBER SHERMAN: Thank you.

12 CHAIR MAY: Ms. Porter, did I cover
13 everything we need to cover on that topic?

14 MS. PORTER: Yes, you did. Thank you.

15 CHAIR MAY: Very good. Thank you. So
16 we're going to move onto the second item on the
17 agenda, which is S. 2571, Flying Tiger Flight 739
18 Act. Legislation was introduced by Secretary
19 Peters on July 30th of 2021. The bill was
20 referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
21 Resources. No further action has been taken.
22 The bill requires DOD. By the way, I apologize

1 for the banging noises. I don't know if you can
2 hear that, but the masons are still at work on
3 the --

4 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yes, we can.

5 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Sorry about that.
6 I'm practically immune. Anyway, the bill
7 requires DOD to authorize inclusion on the wall,
8 the names of 93 service members who died.
9 Background, Flying Tiger Flight 739 disappeared
10 on March 16, 1962 over the West of Pacific Ocean.
11 The aircraft was transporting 93 US soldiers and
12 three South Vietnamese soldiers from Travis Air
13 Force Base in California to Saigon. The plane
14 was in route to Clark Air Base in Philippines
15 when it disappeared. All 107 on board were
16 declared missing and presumed dead. Because
17 these deaths occurred outside of the DOD
18 designated theater of war, the names of the lost
19 service members were not included on the Vietnam
20 Veterans Memorial Wall. Surviving family members
21 and loved ones have long advocated for the
22 inclusion of these names on the wall. As at the

1 moment, I do not believe we have the witnesses
2 for this, but maybe I should check in with Ms.
3 Porter on that. Ms. Porter, has anybody showed
4 up to be a witness on this?

5 MS. PORTER: We do not have witnesses
6 at this time.

7 CHAIR MAY: No, witnesses at this
8 time.

9 MS. PORTER: Senator Peter, the
10 sponsor, said he would be submitting a statement
11 for the record.

12 CHAIR MAY: Okay. All right. We --

13 MS. KELLY: I believe --

14 CHAIR MAY: Sorry, Ms. Kelly?

15 MS. KELLY: I believe that Jim Knotts
16 is raising his hand.

17 CHAIR MAY: Oh, Jim Knotts is -- will
18 be witness. Okay. That would be appreciated.
19 So we will get to him in just a second. The --
20 Mr. Knotts has submitted a letter for the record.
21 Mr. Knotts is the president and CEO of the
22 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The fund is your

1 position that founded the memorial and continues
2 to help us maintain it. Throughout the years,
3 VVMF has funded and overseen the engraving of
4 additional names on the wall. So many people do
5 not know this, but we periodically receive
6 additional names from the Department of Defense,
7 people who have died from injuries that they
8 received during the war and their names have been
9 added, or people who have been found some other
10 way. And we've done that over the years and at
11 this point, there is not much way of additional
12 space. So I think at this point, we will call
13 Mr. Knotts up to deliver his testimony.

14 Daniel, do you see Mr. Knotts? Oh,
15 there we go. Mr. Knotts, if you can hear me
16 please turn on your camera and speak, or if you
17 can't turn on your camera, just speak. Mr.
18 Knotts, we're seeing your square, but -- oh,
19 there we go. Unmute.

20 MR. KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you all very
21 much for allowing me just a couple of minutes. I
22 mostly wanted to point out that we did provide

1 written testimony and request that that be
2 included as part of the proceedings today. This
3 is a topic that has come up from time to time,
4 and I won't spend a lot of time going through the
5 details, but it might be somewhat educational to
6 some of the committee members here. First of
7 all, of course, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
8 Fund, we've been around since 1979. The wall is
9 40 years old next year and as Chairman May has
10 said, we do still add names, and usually once a
11 year we also update status symbols on the wall.
12 And we do so based on decisions by the Department
13 of Defense. They are the ones that always have
14 made the decision as to what names go on the wall
15 since the dedication in 1982, and we support them
16 in the endeavor to make the very difficult
17 decisions about what names go on the wall.

18 With regard to this specific
19 legislation that is proposed here, it is our
20 understanding that the way the legislation is
21 written, that it would be contrary to the
22 existing eligibility criteria that the Department

1 of Defense has established and has followed for
2 many years. As well, it would actually
3 potentially be impossible to add all of the names
4 as the wall currently exists. As Mr. May
5 mentioned, there are a limited number of spaces
6 for what we consider to be very long names. And
7 so under the existing nomenclature of first name,
8 middle initial, last name, it may actually be
9 impossible to add some of those names to the
10 wall. So if the legislation were approved and
11 the Department of Defense directed that these
12 names be added, they would send that direction
13 over to the National Park Service, and our
14 partnership over the last 39 years has meant that
15 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund would then
16 take that letter of direction from DOD, approved
17 by the Park Service, we would hire engravers and
18 we would actually do the name additions. In
19 doing so, we would not be put -- potentially, we
20 would not be able to include some of the long
21 names. And so there may be a necessity to
22 consider changing the nomenclature to say, first

1 initial, middle initial, last name.

2 In discussions with other groups over
3 the years that have wanted to add a large number
4 of names when this potentiality has been
5 discussed, some of the families were not
6 accepting of that as an alternative. The way the
7 names are added, they are added in empty spaces
8 at the end of lines as close as possible to their
9 original chronological location as possible. And
10 so a large group like this, the names would end
11 up being scattered across the panels of the wall.
12 Similarly, with past discussions of families
13 related to large numbers of names that have been
14 requested to be added, some of the families
15 objected to having those names spread out across
16 the wall rather than grouped on the day of death
17 as most of the other names of the wall are. And
18 it would almost certainly spark re-examination of
19 other cases that would potentially include the
20 addition of hundreds of additional names beyond
21 the Flying Tiger Flight if this change to the DOD
22 eligibility criteria were made. So this might

1 actually lead to an even broader challenge with
2 actually following through to put names on the
3 wall, even if the decision was made to do so.

4 Part of our mission has always been to
5 maintain the wall in partnership with the
6 National Park Service, which we have done. And
7 it has fallen to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
8 Fund to pay for the engraving work when names
9 have been added. If a large number of names on
10 the order of the Flying Tiger Flight or the
11 hundreds of others that potentially could be
12 added were approved, I am not certain that the
13 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund would be able to
14 absorb that high cost. And so it may be
15 necessary for the legislation to also lead to
16 appropriation by the Department of Defense or the
17 National Park Service in order to add such a
18 large number of names to the wall at one time.
19 And finally, I would just note, currently there
20 is a challenge in that the engravers that have
21 added names to the wall over the last 36 years,
22 retired after they added names in 2021. And so

1 currently, we are not in a position to add any
2 names to the wall, even if they are approved,
3 simply because we do not have the expert and in
4 artisan expertise to be able to do the additions
5 as we have over the last 40 years. So we're
6 working to find someone, but we have notified the
7 Park Service that currently it is impossible for
8 us to follow through on that commitment to add
9 names to the wall simply because we do not have
10 the expertise available to do so. So those are
11 some of the considerations that I think bear on
12 the legislation as it is proposed. I'd be happy
13 to answer any questions but, Mr. Chairman, those
14 are the key points added in our written
15 testimony. Thank you.

16 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Do
17 we have any questions from the members of the
18 Commission for Mr. Knotts? Not seeing any
19 indication, so thank you very much, Mr. Knotts.
20 We can take you out of the meeting and continue
21 in order. So just to recap some things. This is
22 authorized inclusion of 93 lost service members'

1 names to the wall. It would require consultation
2 with Interior and the ABMC regarding the
3 nomenclature and name placement due to the
4 limited space. So that's a nod in the direction
5 of the challenge that we face, but I think based
6 on testimony from Mr. Knotts and what I know from
7 my experience in trying to address this issue
8 over the last few years, it would be -- it would
9 not be possible to include all of the names given
10 the amount of space that's left.

11 Let's see. In the past, we understand
12 that DOD has been opposed to providing exceptions
13 to or modifying the criteria for inclusion on the
14 wall. There are a number of other cases sort of
15 waiting in the wings. Other service members who
16 lost their lives in other tragedies near the
17 theater, but not within the theater of war. I
18 think that -- and I would just also note that the
19 legislation includes an exemption for the
20 requirements in the Commemorative Works Act, so
21 not sure exactly what that will mean. It could
22 mean in terms of how we would attempt to try to

1 incorporate the names described. So again, for
2 me, it's -- we have relied on the Department of
3 Defense to be that arbiter of whose names should
4 be on the wall, and while I appreciate --
5 certainly appreciate the suffering and loss of
6 these service members who might have been on
7 route or who were on route, it is -- there has to
8 be a line I think somewhere. And unfortunately,
9 the way it has been established leaves certain
10 members out. And it's an extraordinarily
11 challenging idea to try to incorporate that into
12 -- you know, these additional names into the wall
13 at this time, especially given that there's not
14 enough room now and there are other groups
15 waiting for things. So I will --

16 MEMBER WRIGHT: Can we first just
17 dispatch with the idea that we can't find
18 somebody to do the carving because I think that's
19 not quite legit. And the issues that you're
20 raising are much -- are much more important, but
21 I just think that's kind of a throw away.

22 CHAIR MAY: I agree with that and Ms.

1 Mina, you spoke up right at that time. I was
2 going to call on you. Now, Mr. Luebke wants to
3 speak too so maybe I'll go to -- I don't know.
4 Either Mr. Wright or Mr. Luebke?

5 MEMBER LUEBKE: I just have question
6 actually that's procedural. One is, if this act
7 is not subject to the Commemorative Works Act,
8 can you just explain procedurally, like, what are
9 we actually doing here today with this review?
10 And number two, it is silent on the other normal
11 review processes that would be undertaken for
12 these public projects on federal land.

13 CHAIR MAY: Yeah.

14 MEMBER LUEBKE: The review by National
15 Parks and NCPC, I just want to make sure that --
16 procedurally, I just want to be clear what --

17 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. I mean, this is an
18 unusual one. There have been bills like this in
19 the past and the NCMAC, we -- at NCMAC central,
20 we elected not to review them in the past but we
21 thought, you know, given that there is this
22 introduction of bills and various topics that we

1 should at least try to speak to it and add our
2 voice in some way to the discussion. What we say
3 here today will inform any testimony that the
4 Park Service and the Department of Interior may
5 deliver to senate committee who is reviewing it,
6 should they get a hearing. And I think that's
7 really the purpose here. I think that -- frankly
8 from my perspective, it's less about the
9 particulars of the Commemorative Works Act. I
10 mean, this is about modifying an existing
11 commemorative work, but it doesn't really run
12 afoul of the explicit guidance about encroaching
13 because it's still essentially the same subject
14 matter.

15 Here, it's really just a matter of, I
16 mean, in my view, supporting what I think are the
17 DOD guidelines for who should be commemorated.
18 And then from there, you know, I think
19 underscoring the practical limitations should
20 this actually be taken. Because we could be
21 facing a complete reconstruction of the memorial
22 in order to put everything in in the right way,

1 which would be a massive and troubling
2 undertaking. The Commemorative Works Act --
3 yeah, I mean, the provisions of the Commemorative
4 Works Act that wouldn't apply. A site selection
5 just simply does not apply. But certainly, even
6 if this, you know, the requirements for design
7 review under the Commemorative Works Act don't
8 apply, certainly any modifications to the
9 memorial would be subject to normal Park Service
10 review requirements. So we would still want to
11 go to commissions for reviews and the state's
12 administrational offices as well. So I hope
13 that's helpful. It was a little bit rambly, but
14 I'm trying to fill out the picture a little bit.
15 Okay. So I'll go to Ms. Wright.

16 MEMBER WRIGHT: We see this so often
17 where we have to balance, you know, whether we
18 want to call them, mistakes have been made,
19 omissions have been committed, and it's a painful
20 thing for those who are left out on the one hand.
21 On the other hand, we run the risk, as in so
22 many, it's something akin to, you know, the

1 congress has declared the reserve a finished
2 composition, and yet we keep seeing attempts to
3 unfinish the composition and set that aside and
4 add another memorial, just this once. And I
5 think at some point, we run -- and we have
6 compromised the quality, the design quality of
7 our memorial portfolio, if you will.

8 And I'm sure that does -- that sounds
9 like so much, you know, esoteric mumbo-jumbo to
10 somebody whose family member is left out. And
11 yet, I would argue that these memorials belong to
12 everyone and the Vietnam Memorial has already, in
13 my view, suffered somewhat from addendum --
14 addendi -- that came after the original design
15 because of the human cry of several
16 constituencies.

17 And I just -- while I'm extremely
18 sympathetic to the idea of compromising the
19 integrity of this design which is so iconic. And
20 I don't think -- as controversial as it was in --
21 around -- when it was designed and built, I don't
22 think there's much argument anymore about its

1 value and its innovation, and I just think we --
2 at some point we have to stop tinkering around
3 the edges. Even if it's for a really good
4 reason, and I don't -- this is always the tricky
5 business that we're in here. It's to balance
6 these concerns, but the memorial as it exists, is
7 intended to be there forever. And while there's
8 flexibility and we rely on DOD and their
9 guidelines, I agree, I think we need to stick
10 with it and respect the history that the memorial
11 already has in 40 years. So I'll leave it there.

12 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. So
13 Mr. McMahon, speak of DOD.

14 MEMBER MCMAHON: Now, thanks, and all
15 good comments. Man, these are hard and certainly
16 the families of the Flying Tiger Flight and
17 fellow several other groups, and I think the
18 speaker from Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation
19 kind of talked to some of those. I've got no
20 sense that there's -- yet that there's any review
21 or desire the department must change the criteria
22 because it sounds like it's held us in good stead

1 over so many years, and being that right now, at
2 least we wouldn't support a change -- I think
3 without, you know, appropriate review. And I
4 don't necessarily know that this congressional
5 legislation is right way to do this, so it's, you
6 know -- as we look at it now, it's an appropriate
7 size. It's a tremendous memorial and to expand
8 by specific legislation for one-offs after your
9 consideration at the department reviews without
10 the opportunity for more thoughtful departmental
11 review and comment I think is untimely and
12 something we shouldn't support. Thanks.

13 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Mr.
14 Fountain?

15 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman. And I wanted to follow Mr. McMahon
17 because I wanted to second what I anticipated the
18 DOD would say. These are issues similar to what
19 American Battle Monument Commission deals with at
20 its cemeteries, on its walls of the missing.
21 Slightly differently with respect to inscriptions
22 on headstones. And where we -- on all those

1 issues -- where we've deferred to Department of
2 Defense records and Department of Defense
3 designations. And one clarification of what Ms.
4 Wright said, we're not dealing here with an
5 omission or a mistake. We're not dealing with
6 names that should have been listed under the
7 original guidelines but were not. Many issues
8 she raises would still come up in that setting,
9 but we're not dealing with that. We're dealing
10 with an ad hoc expansion of the DOD definition of
11 the theater of war. And from our experience, we
12 would certainly say that making exceptions on a
13 case-by-case basis, no matter how compelling the
14 case might be, is not the right way to go. You
15 need to set your parameters at the outset, and
16 hold to them because those are the parameters
17 that have the soundest basis behind them.

18 You know, one observation, these
19 servicemen were under orders to Saigon by way of
20 Clark in the Philippines. There's no guarantee
21 they ever would have gotten out of the
22 Philippines. People's orders are changed all the

1 time. And some enterprising base commander or
2 unit commander in the Philippines could have
3 attacked some of these men and they might not
4 ever have made it to theater. And so we can't
5 presuppose that that they were just because of
6 the time of their death they were under orders.
7 That's just a small fill up and so yes, we'd be
8 opposed to a legislatively prescribed
9 modification to DOD's guidelines and DOD's
10 definitions of eligibility. And then just as one
11 last moment since -- one last comments since ABMC
12 has called out to comment on nomenclature and
13 placement of the names, we would not desire that
14 role in this case, unlike the AF memorial or
15 Korea or the World War II memorials, we were not
16 involved in the design of the Vietnam Veterans
17 Memorial and would not particularly want to be
18 involved in lieu of this EFA in commenting on any
19 proposed modifications to that design.

20 CHAIR MAY: Thank you, Mr. Fountain.
21 That's an interesting observation. I appreciate
22 knowing that ABMC would not really want to be

1 involved. And I think that that's a plot that
2 would carry forth in testimony. I'm not sure
3 that NCMAC would necessarily want to voice that
4 directly to the secretary, but certainly when,
5 you know, should there be an option to testify,
6 we would make sure that that concern is noted in
7 whatever testimony we would deliver from the
8 department. So and hopefully, again, if there is
9 a hearing for this testimony, it'll get referred
10 out to your agency for review.

11 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Yeah. And what I
12 want to say, Mr. Chairman, is specifically calls
13 out to us, nomenclature and placement. With
14 respect to nomenclature, we would simply turn
15 around and defer to the Department of Defense on
16 that. And then with respect to placement, again,
17 Commission of Fine Arts ought to have that role
18 over us. You know, we're certainly capable of
19 having an opinion, but we're not -- we're not --
20 we don't have an equity in this memorial in
21 particular beyond the general overlap between our
22 missions. And so for those reasons, we would

1 prefer to defer to CFA on those issues.

2 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you. So
3 moving on. Mr. Sherman?

4 MEMBER SHERMAN: Good afternoon again.
5 I think Ms. Wright has sort of articulated our
6 primary concern as how do you design an IEP work
7 hard and we continue to see these recommended
8 additions. And so our primary concern is how do
9 you design for additional 93 names and for
10 potential future additions that we have yet to be
11 discovered, and this pattern keeps repeating
12 itself. And so our primary concern is how do you
13 design for these names. As a veteran and a son
14 of a Air Force Vietnam-era pilot, you know, I
15 sympathize with the urge to add names to this
16 memorial, but from NCPC's perspective, I think we
17 see this memorial setting the standard for names.
18 I mean, it was the sort of a crown jewel if you
19 will of memorials that set the standard for
20 having names. But in this case, we do have
21 concerns about how do you design for it. And I
22 think Mr. Knotts articulated that it -- you know,

1 how do you do this in a way that's -- that
2 doesn't really upset the original intent of the
3 memorial. And I would just say that's our
4 primary concern.

5 CHAIR MAY: Thanks. So Mr. Luebke?

6 MEMBER LUEBKE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. You know, the Vietnam Veterans
8 Memorial is remarkable. It's was a category
9 buster. It sort of created a new typology that
10 has -- we are living with ever since. I just
11 want to -- for everybody's to think about it a
12 little bit. You know, we didn't have national
13 war memorials. We certainly didn't have national
14 war memorials with everybody's names on them.
15 This is, of course, sort of the beauty and the
16 message of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was
17 actually that sense that these are individuals
18 who were lost for this event. But I will say
19 now, after we've seen it come through, so it has
20 -- it is a highly problematic undertaking. There
21 are always issues of definition, inclusion, who's
22 in, who's out. We just went through it on a

1 recent cycle on the addition of names to the
2 Korean War Veterans Memorial. I'm sure we'll see
3 a lot more problems with that. Even the question
4 that just came up in the last review about who
5 actually disembarked in Georgetown.

6 The issue is the specificity always
7 raises these really, really thorny questions. We
8 tend that the Commission of Fine Arts to favor
9 things that maybe are slightly more abstract.
10 And although this is to honor -- I want to be
11 sure, as I said, that we honor the amazing design
12 of Maya Lin to formulate this memorial in its
13 way. So having understood that and that it is a
14 40-year thing that has been living by these same
15 principles for all this time, I think it's very
16 difficult to come back. And I actually as
17 somebody who's worked so closely with these
18 design issues, I find it -- and I have seen it
19 laid out -- but it sounds, frankly, unsolvable in
20 a way that it would ever work either
21 aesthetically or for the families, you know, with
22 the names distributed. Then you kind of go,

1 well, is there some other solution. Can there be
2 some other location like the Baker's Creek
3 Memorial in Arlington for another, you know, air
4 collision or is there some other -- is there a
5 way to actually make another piece at the
6 memorial, which -- like they've already done two
7 or three times, I don't know.

8 But I guess I believe that the wall
9 should probably be considered sacrosanct
10 according to the rules that the standards that
11 have been in existence for all this time. And
12 the danger that everybody decided is, if this one
13 were making ad hoc case-by-case decisions and
14 then will the next and the next and the next. I
15 mean, you could tear it down and start over. You
16 know, re-engrave with slightly smaller font. I
17 mean, it's -- I guess, that's the kind of the
18 ridiculous conclusion of the exercise. So the
19 one last thing I would say is, it will be great
20 if we could honor the existing processes and
21 standards. This includes the Commemorative Works
22 Act, which is designed and passed by congress to

1 protect everybody from stuff going into ad hoc
2 thinking like this.

3 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. And
4 Mr. Maloney.

5 MEMBER MALONEY: I agree with all of
6 my colleagues. Those in terms of the question
7 the appropriateness of leaving the eligibility to
8 DOD, you know, that certainly makes sense to me.
9 And also to complete impractical nature of trying
10 to add 93 other names in a way makes any sense
11 aesthetically with the whole conceptual of the
12 memorial. So I agree with everyone else.

13 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very
14 much. So let's see. I would note also, we
15 remind folks that we are expecting a statement
16 from the -- for the record from Senator Peters
17 who is the sponsor for the legislation. I do
18 believe we can go ahead and, you know, based on
19 the consensus that we already here come to a
20 conclusion on what we will -- the letter we will
21 provide to the committee. However, we would not
22 finalize that letter until we received the

1 statement for record from the senator's office
2 and distributed to the Commission and give you
3 all the opportunity to weigh in if there is a,
4 you know, if anybody has any second thoughts
5 based on that testimony. So we will plan to do
6 that. Hold on one second. Yeah. Thank you.
7 Ms. Porter reminds me that I once again forgot to
8 check in with Mr. Wilson. So Mr. Wilson, do you
9 have any comments before? --

10 MR. WILSON: Don't worry. I'm used to
11 being an afterthought. It's okay. That's the
12 role of the ACHP. So this doesn't really trigger
13 section 106. However, if the unthinkable occurs
14 and it had to be redesigned, then obviously
15 there'd be a case. But Beth is right about this
16 one. No 106 concerns at this point.

17 CHAIR MAY: All right. Thank you very
18 much. Okay. So I guess does anybody wanted try
19 to formulate a motion or do you want to leave it
20 to me? Everybody's just smiling. So I would
21 make the motion that we respond to the recent
22 letter to the committee indicating our responsive

1 work for deferring to the Department of Defense
2 when it comes to the criteria for adding names to
3 the wall, and noting also that there is an
4 extreme challenge should the legislation pass,
5 not only to fit these names in, but also names of
6 other fallen soldiers who made be added via
7 legislation at some future point once this
8 precedent was passed. So that's my notion. Is
9 there a second?

10 MEMBER WRIGHT: Second with a
11 question.

12 CHAIR MAY: Yes, Ms. --

13 MEMBER WRIGHT: Is it possible to
14 recommend that some of this -- that this -- that
15 the story be told on the website? To make sure
16 that the people, that they are honored in some
17 way?

18 CHAIR MAY: Yeah.

19 MEMBER WRIGHT: I mean, can we put
20 that in the letter or is that a wild hare?

21 CHAIR MAY: We could certainly include
22 that and I would consider that a friendly

1 amendment. I think doing something, some other
2 virtual recognition is appropriate. You know,
3 when there was going to be a Vietnam Veterans
4 Memorial Visitors Center of adding that
5 acknowledgment in the visitors center, but since
6 that project is not going forward, I think that's
7 why we're looking at this now. So yes, adding it
8 virtually, you know, offering in parallel to the
9 Park Service to work with the senators office and
10 with the folks who were pushing for this
11 legislation to gain some level of recognition for
12 those lives lost. So I would consider it a
13 friendly amendment. And so Ms. Wright, would you
14 then second with that friendly amendment?

15 MEMBER WRIGHT: Indeed, I would.

16 CHAIR MAY: Excellent. Thank you.

17 All those in favor of the motion please indicate
18 by raising your hand and we'll count everybody
19 off. And we've got Mr. McMahon on camera but I
20 don't see his hand yet. Oh, he raised his
21 virtual hand. Okay. Good. We're all set.
22 Thank you.

1 I'm still not used to the virtual
2 hand. Let's go on. All right. Time to move on
3 to the next item on the agenda. We are out of
4 the legislation business and onto site selection
5 studies. So I'm going to turn now to the first
6 of two site selection studies. This is a little
7 bit different from the published agenda. We're
8 doing Fallen Journalists next and then we will do
9 Texas Legation after that.

10 So with the Fallen Journalist
11 Memorial, we have a number of speakers on this
12 topic. I think four in total. Our first witness
13 is Barbara Cochran, who is the president of the
14 Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation followed
15 by Claire Sale with AECOM will make the
16 presentation, and then we also will have
17 testimony from Paul Goldberger and then from Tom
18 Brokaw as well. So we look forward to hearing
19 from everyone. And let's see, Mr. Fox, can you
20 bring everyone into the room. Oh, I see Barbara.
21 And wait on Claire Sale. But I guess, Ms.
22 Cochran, you can get started while others join

1 us.

2 MS. COCHRAN: That's fine. Happy to.
3 Good afternoon, Chairman May and members of the
4 Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to
5 present our site selection study and other
6 background for the Fallen Journalist Memorial.
7 My name is Barbara Cochran, and I serve as the
8 president of the Fallen Journalist Memorial
9 Foundation. The Fallen Journalist Memorial Act
10 was unanimously enacted by congress last December
11 to commemorate America's commitment to a free
12 press by honoring journalists who have sacrificed
13 their lives for that cause. We are honored to be
14 entrusted with the fulfilling -- with fulfilling
15 this twofold mission, and we're also honored to
16 work with all of you to identify an appropriate
17 site on which to build a memorial that
18 commemorates journalists, inspires visitors, and
19 educates future generations about the critical
20 role of the free press as a pillar of vibrant
21 democracy.

22 The site selection presentation will

1 make clear that our preference is for a modestly
2 sized, not intrusive memorial, that does not
3 include names or definitions, and that represents
4 the journalism community as broadly as possible.
5 We believe that a site of approximately 1/3 acre
6 would be sufficient to construct a commemorative
7 landscape feature that can accommodate a program
8 that advances the dual mission of the memorial,
9 as well as the goals we articulate in the study.
10 We appreciate the Commission's consideration of
11 our site selection study, including our priority
12 locations in Area 1. I would welcome the
13 opportunity to be recognized following the site
14 study presentation to further -- provide further
15 background and context. And now I will turn
16 things over to Claire Sale. Thank you.

17 CHAIR MAY: Ms. Sale, before you get
18 started. I just want to note that the Commission
19 has received your presentation in advance. So we
20 all have it and we're fast readers. So I think
21 that you can move briskly through the study and
22 you will still get the benefit of our full

1 consideration even if you talk very fast. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. SALE: Noted. Okay. Okay. So my
4 name is Claire Sale. Well, thank you for
5 listening to our discussion on site selection
6 site on the Fallen Journalists Memorial. If we
7 can go to the next page. So as an introduction,
8 I think it's helpful to review the US
9 Constitution, the First Amendment, which states
10 that congress shall make no law respecting or an
11 establishment of religion or prohibiting the free
12 exercise thereof, or breaching -- or breaching
13 the freedom of the speech or the press or the
14 right of peoples peacefully assembled in
15 petitioning the US government for a redress of
16 grievances. Next page. So just as terms of an
17 introduction of what we're talking about here
18 today. So the state of in-law -- the law --
19 Public Law, excuse me, 116-253, the Fallen
20 Journalist Memorial Foundation may establish
21 commemorative work that it -- to commemorate
22 America's commitment to a free press by honoring

1 journalists who sacrificed their lives in service
2 to that cause. As Barbara mentioned, there's
3 sort of a dual purpose for the memorial. And as
4 we look at the site selection, we have
5 articulated our memorial goals, and then we'll
6 talk about specific sites in terms of their
7 context and specific characteristics of those
8 sites. And then at the end, we'll review the
9 justification for every one authorization. Next
10 slide, please.

11 So in terms of goals, there are three
12 primary goals for the memorial. The first is --
13 three goals for the memorial. The first one, our
14 primary goal is commemoration that honors the
15 role of journalists and their heroism and
16 sacrifice as they practice their craft.

17 And then, finally, provides a place
18 for reflection and intimate contemplation for the
19 public, as well as a focal point for those whose
20 friends and family members have -- or the fallen.
21 The secondary goal is inspiration, and that is to
22 serve as a beacon for freedom of the press,

1 emphasize a free and independent press, and it's
2 a worthy cause in the past, present, and future.
3 So not just in the past and currently but also
4 looking forward. And then also to showcase
5 America's commitment to free press is a worldwide
6 example of aspiration and to inspire young
7 memorial visitors to consider a career in
8 journalism. And then finally is the tertiary
9 goal of education, to raise awareness, and
10 educate visitors about the risks that journalists
11 face while conveying their findings and their
12 role in witnessing, reporting, and documenting
13 historic events and as they do that from diverse
14 backgrounds and perspectives. And then finally,
15 to convey the breadth and depth of various forms
16 of journalism as protected by free speech
17 principles. Next slide, please.

18 And then Barbara also outlined a
19 little bit of the program in terms that it would
20 be moderately -- modestly sized, not intrusive,
21 and that it would showcase the full breath of the
22 news media past, present, and future. And those

1 would include a place of reflection, a focal
2 point for understanding the First Amendment, a
3 place for convening for commemorative events, for
4 other educational efforts, and then finally, an
5 attraction that stimulates visitors' interest to
6 access online education programming and the
7 importance of free press to a functioning
8 democracy. So as part of this, we would not
9 include -- we would not anticipate a building, it
10 would not include a large -- the educational
11 component would be primarily online, and we would
12 anticipate it would be landscape with perhaps
13 some sort of plaza and artistic commemoration
14 feature, seating, and those sorts of elements.
15 Next slide, please.

16 So let's look at site criteria and to
17 determine what would be an appropriate site. So
18 the first one is program suitability. So out of
19 the items that we just mentioned, how well does
20 it need the program -- do those sites meet the
21 program needs. We looked at a thematic nexus.
22 So what is that link to the surrounding context

1 for each individual site and what it's -- how it
2 connects to Fallen Journalists Memorial, as well
3 as the commemoration of America's commitment to a
4 free press. Build it to universal accessibility
5 and that it's readily accessible for pedestrians,
6 as well as journalist that would want to visit
7 the site. We looked at site prominence and
8 visibility. So is it in a prominent location,
9 and is it in a location that government leaders
10 would see the site as well, as part of that
11 reinforces America's commitment to a free press.

12 We looked at the independence of the
13 site. So for instance, is it a dense -- or next
14 to a government building or is it essentially on
15 its own that sort of highlights the essential
16 role of journalism as an independent ordinance --
17 independent activity. We looked at site
18 availability. So is it who's -- under whose
19 jurisdiction is the site. Looked at
20 participation access, is it available, is it
21 reachable via public transits. The tranquility
22 of the site, how quiet is it, and the available

1 potential for offering a contemplative
2 experience. And then infrastructure, are there
3 known infrastructure items such as utilities, or
4 roadways, or other elements that could prevent
5 the location of memorial at the site. So on the
6 next slide, please.

7 We look at the site selection memorial
8 context. So just kind of how memorials overall
9 in D.C. look, as well as journalism within D.C.
10 So in the next slide, we have a map that
11 illustrates the sort of the journalistic
12 activities around the District of Columbia, and
13 it essentially forms a crescent on starting with
14 the Atlantic, that's over near the Watergate.
15 And then downtown has print and broadcast
16 journalism. And then sort of along the North
17 Capitol and South Capitol corridor there are
18 various broadcast and other journalist locations.

19 On the next slide, we show the sort of
20 memorial context of D.C. in terms of what are the
21 types of memorials that are around. So there are
22 multiple kinds ranging from Civil War,

1 Revolutionary War, military commemoration. Along
2 the Potomac River, there is a crescent of
3 leadership memorials essentially. Along
4 Massachusetts Avenue is essentially our national
5 commemoration, such as the Holodomor Memorial.
6 And then there's really a public service memorial
7 corridor that is emerging on the east side of the
8 Mall with the Peace Corps Memorial location
9 scheduled to be there in the not too distant
10 future. And then there's an anticipated
11 presidential corridor between the Kennedy Center
12 and the White House along E Street corridor. On
13 the next slide, please.

14 So we looked at a lot of different
15 sites within Washington, D.C. On the next slide
16 shows a map of how we kind of grouped those.
17 We've looked at the Memorials and Museums Master
18 Plan and identified some potential sites for
19 consideration. So we have some that are in
20 Northwest D.C., sort of in the -- sort of central
21 business district area. We have some along
22 Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and

1 US Capitol. We have Capitol North, which is the
2 area just surrounding Union Station. Capitol
3 East, which is east of the US Capitol.
4 Southwest, which is in Southwest D.C., kind of
5 along in Maryland Avenue corridor, and then we
6 have one that's in upper Northwest. On the next
7 slide we'll show the locations that are along
8 Pennsylvania Avenue. As you can see, they sort
9 of range from Freedom Plaza, which is itself a
10 plaza and then several locations along
11 Pennsylvania Avenue within the right-of-way, and
12 then there are two sort of on eastern edge of the
13 Pennsylvania Avenue that are their own,
14 essentially, triangle parks. They're surrounded
15 by roadways.

16 I apologize for all the sirens. On
17 the next slide we looked at several sites again,
18 around Union Station, Capital North, including
19 two triangle parks along New Jersey Avenue. And
20 in these cases, they would offer views of the US
21 Capitol. And similarly, we've looked at areas
22 around Union Station with the intent of a -- some

1 public space as well as a sort of more general
2 wide open space, as well as potentially had views
3 of the US Capitol. So as you can see here, we
4 looked at numerous ones along Columbus Circle,
5 and including the Thurgood Marshall Federal
6 Judiciary Building lot. The next slide, we
7 looked at the Capitol east area, and which
8 illustrates a couple of different triangle parks,
9 as well as the -- that was along Maryland Avenue
10 Northeast and Pennsylvania Avenue South or --
11 excuse me -- Southeast. And then the area south
12 of the Library of Congress, which we refer to as
13 the Library of Congress South lawn, and that
14 would be along in 10th Avenue.

15 On the next slide we looked at areas
16 along Southwest D.C. So essentially, along
17 Maryland Avenue. And that ranges from Maryland
18 Avenue, Independence Avenue at 3rd Street, which
19 has its own triangle park. Next, we looked at
20 the Voice of America yard, which is a building
21 along Independence Avenue that has a yard between
22 the sidewalk and the building itself. We have

1 looked at Benjamin Banneker Park and Maine Avenue
2 Southwest. On the next slide, we'll see that we
3 also looked at areas in Northwest D.C., and those
4 included Franklin Square, which would be a
5 portion within an existing park. We looked at
6 Edward R. Murrow Park and James Monroe Park,
7 which are two bow tie parks along Pennsylvania
8 Avenue Northwest. We looked at Virginia Avenue
9 and New Hampshire Avenue, which is essentially a
10 circle that has some green space within it. We
11 looked at the Tenleytown Circle Reservations.
12 There's actually a function of various
13 broadcasters in that area, so we explored that.
14 And then we also looked through the Walt Whitman
15 Park on the street in Northwest.

16 And then on the next slide, we looked
17 at -- we compared these sites to our site
18 evaluation criteria, and as part of that we
19 looked at the jurisdiction. So which one of
20 these are within a Park Service land or other
21 federal land owners that were not part of the
22 Library of Congress, because that gave us a

1 little pause. I think that the effort to -- or
2 excuse me, I said Library of Congress but under
3 Architect of the Capitol. So I think that the
4 level of effort required to perhaps pertain these
5 sites or have authorization for these sites gave
6 us pause and therefore we removed them from
7 further consideration. So on the next slide
8 you'll see where that has been removed. Then we
9 also looked at what are our high priority
10 criteria and so as part of that we thought, okay,
11 which ones are suitable? So we looked at the
12 program suitability and the areas that did --
13 were not -- would not be able to accommodate the
14 programs, such as The Voice of America yard or
15 Tenley Circle, we removed from further
16 consideration, which shows on the next slide.

17 Based on that, then we looked at the
18 thematic nexus as what are places that have a
19 superior link to the site, but that didn't quite
20 meet or that had a link to the site or partially
21 had a link to the site. So there were several
22 that were -- had high thematic nexus that were

1 still appropriate, but there were a few that were
2 removed from further consideration. So for
3 instance, Walt Whitman Park does not have a high
4 thematic nexus and was therefore removed. As
5 well as Maine Avenue Southwest was removed for
6 that. You'll see that on the next slide. And
7 then the last thing we looked at was universal
8 accessibility. So are there -- were there sites
9 that were accessible from a pedestrian experience
10 as well as a place that journalists would go to
11 and visit. So we looked at that. And on the
12 next slide shows us which those were removed.
13 And that essentially leads us -- leaves us on
14 next slide, I believe, with our four finalist
15 sites that we evaluated for evaluation for
16 location for the Fallen Journalists Memorial, and
17 that includes Maryland Avenue and Independence
18 Avenue at 3rd Street Southwest, Freedom Plaza,
19 Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue
20 Northwest, and Edward R. Murrow Park.

21 And on the next slide and then the
22 following slide, we took a little deeper dive

1 into some of these. So as you can see, we got
2 them sort of -- they're arranged in various
3 locations. One in Northwest, two on Pennsylvania
4 Avenue, and one on Independence Avenue. So the
5 next slide we look at Freedom Plaza as the first
6 one. So in terms of -- so we looked at both the
7 eastern site and the western portion of Freedom
8 Plaza. So each have their own challenges and we
9 recognize that one of the challenges here would
10 be infrastructure, that there are arson utilities
11 and other potentially Metro stations that are
12 underneath there that could have some challenges.
13 In terms of tranquility, it's located along
14 Pennsylvania Avenue and that there is the
15 existing Pulaski Statue that would have to be
16 relocated. On the next slide we kind of look at
17 what the pedestrian access points are and what
18 the view -- primary view corridors -- excuse me,
19 I got ahead of myself. Here's images showing you
20 sort of the eastern side of Pennsylvania -- of
21 the Freedom Plaza site. Next slide, please.

22 Okay. Now here we are. Here are some

1 diagrams showing where the pedestrian access
2 points are, as you can see with those purple
3 arrows that there are multiple points which
4 pedestrians can access the site. There are --
5 the primary view corridor is sort of the eastern
6 edge along kind of the -- it used to be E Street
7 heading towards the National World War I Memorial
8 in Sherman Park, as well as to the U.S. -- along
9 Pennsylvania Avenue to the U.S. Capitol Building.
10 It is easily accessible from multiple Metro
11 stations and has the ability to have larger
12 events accommodated. So we would anticipate that
13 events would be approximately 20 to 100 people,
14 and those could be accommodated at Freedom Plaza.
15 Next slide, please. Since we looked at what the
16 kind of thematic links to particular locations
17 would be, first one is Pennsylvania Avenue and
18 the US Capitol Building. So the US Capitol
19 Building is the legislative branch of government,
20 and therefore is important to have a strong
21 visual connection to that. So we've looked at
22 the Pennsylvania Avenue and US Capitol view as

1 one thematically. The second one is, because
2 I've been talking about journalism as sort of the
3 federal component of it, but there's also a sort
4 of local community component to journalism. And
5 with the Wilson Building directly across the site
6 from Freedom Plaza, that also it provides a link
7 there as well. And the Boss Shepherd had -- was
8 a statute in front of the Wilson Building and
9 also was an early owner of Evening Star newspaper
10 and the headquarters of that newspaper as the
11 Evening Star Building, which is number 4 on the
12 sheet. The National Press Club is about a block
13 away, so also provides thematically. And then
14 finally is Freedom Plaza itself and that its role
15 as providing space for First Amendment
16 expressions and as a gathering point for those
17 events.

18 On the next slide we look at -- I
19 apologize, this was mentioned in the Memorials
20 and Museums Master Plan. So the next slide, and
21 then the next one. Okay. This just provides
22 some background for the whole -- site as a whole.

1 Next slide we looked at Pennsylvania Avenue and
2 Constitution Avenue Northwest. So this is a
3 small triangle parcel that is essentially
4 independent. It doesn't border any -- it's not
5 directly adjacent, so it has that level of
6 independence. It is under National Park Service
7 jurisdiction. It's a -- but there is a fair
8 amount of infrastructure underneath it. There's
9 large vents which you will see in the next photo
10 on the next page, please. And then it also has
11 direct views of the US Capitol which you can also
12 see. On the next slide, we look at the kind of
13 connections in terms of the pedestrian
14 connections, can it be accessible from multiple
15 areas -- stop right there. It is along a busy
16 area. The Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution
17 Avenue sort of meet there. The primary view is
18 along Pennsylvania Avenue, but also has some
19 along Constitution Avenue as well.

20 And then in terms of how to
21 accommodate events, one thing that we considered
22 was the potential to accommodate events on the US

1 Capitol grounds which are just to the east of the
2 site. And those could be permitted events. On
3 the next page, we look at the thematic links to
4 the site and that is primarily the view to the US
5 Capitol, again, having a strong reference point
6 or reciprocal reference point of journalists and
7 legislators. On the next page, we look at
8 Maryland and Independence Avenue at 3rd Street
9 Southwest. So this is almost the mirror site to
10 the one we just looked at. And it again is an
11 independent site that's sort of across from the
12 National Museum of the American Indian. It has a
13 strong connection to the US Capitol, and it's
14 under the jurisdiction of the Park Service and to
15 our knowledge, there are no known conflicts.
16 They may appear in the future, but we don't know
17 of any at the moment. In terms of tranquility,
18 it is along Maryland -- or excuse me --
19 Independence Avenue, so which is a busy street.
20 Maryland Avenue, in this particular location, is
21 not a particularly busy location. On the next
22 slide, please.

1 Here you can see some photographs of
2 views to the east and west of the site. On the
3 right side view, it's a little obscured but the
4 US Capitol is there. Next page, please. So on
5 this site you can sort of see how we -- well, how
6 pedestrians could approach the site, including
7 again, an entrance to the National Museum of the
8 American Indian, which is directly across. The
9 view corridors are along Independence Avenue and
10 to the US Capitol along the sort of Maryland
11 Avenue corridor. It is within walking distance
12 of multiple Metro stations, and there is a rich
13 commemorative environment at that location.

14 So you have the Eisenhower Memorial,
15 the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial,
16 and the new National Native American Veterans
17 Memorial that would be located directly across
18 the site. On the sort of the grounds at the
19 National Museum of the America Indian. So while
20 those locations would -- we don't think they
21 would provide any conflicts in terms of a
22 commemorative environment, we'd have the -- have

1 the -- instead have the experience for people
2 that are visiting, it's a highly prominent
3 location, and they would be welcoming of that
4 commemorative landscape of the area.

5 On the next page, one other point is
6 that in terms of particular locations for
7 permitted events if extra space were needed, we
8 consider that the potential temporary closures of
9 Maryland Avenue between the National Museum of
10 the American Indian and the site here could be
11 closed for permitted events. So in terms of
12 thematic links, there are two primary ones. The
13 first is the US Capitol to the northeast, and
14 then the second one is the Voice of America. So
15 as I mentioned previously, the Voice of America
16 is directly across from this site and is the
17 oldest and largest American international
18 broadcaster and has had numerous journalists
19 killed as part of its -- while carrying out their
20 role as journalist for VOA. And so that would
21 have both the -- that has a specific -
22 commemorative link to the First Amendment, as

1 well as to the honoring of fallen journalists.

2 On the next site we looked at Edward
3 R. Murrow Park, which again is a bow-tie park
4 along Pennsylvania Avenue between 18th and 19th
5 Streets. And it is close to the White House, so
6 it's not too far from that. But it is in a
7 location that's a little less prominent from a
8 tourist perspective. Tourists are very drawn to
9 the area around the National Mall, this is a
10 little further afield from that.

11 In terms of site availability, it's
12 under Park Service jurisdiction and we don't know
13 of any -- currently any infrastructure conflicts.
14 So next slide we talk -- next slide shows a
15 couple of different images of the site, which I
16 believe is the northwestern portion of the bow
17 tie, which is primarily a kind of a grass
18 component and then there is some seating that is
19 along the sort of eastern portion of the site.
20 And there's a little bit of a plaza area that's
21 kind of curved out of the each street's
22 right-of-way. And on the next page, we look at

1 the southwest bow tie, which largely consists of
2 an alley of trees with a circular plaza on the
3 western end of the site. Next page please. So
4 when we look at the site it's -- we kind of
5 looked at both of the bow ties and that there are
6 pedestrian connections from essentially all
7 directions at the site. It's along Pennsylvania
8 Avenue, which is a fairly major roadway. There
9 are connections to multiple Metro stations
10 including Farragut West and Farragut North. And
11 in terms of event space, the thing we considered
12 here if we need to have some expanded event space
13 would be to look at a permanent closure of H
14 Street at this particular location. And the
15 primary view is along Pennsylvania Avenue, excuse
16 me. On the next page we talk about what the
17 thematic links are.

18 So the first one is Edward R. Murrow
19 who was a broadcast journalist and war
20 correspondents. So that park is his namesake, so
21 that would be listed as the primary,
22 thematically. We also included the George

1 Washington University School of Media and Public
2 Affairs, which is located two blocks away, so
3 that does also provide a thematically, especially
4 in terms of the education goal that we had
5 discussed. And then finally, international
6 organization. So as part of the goals was to
7 serve as an international -- as a beacon for
8 America's commitment to freedom of the press, and
9 especially in international contact and in
10 aspirational context. So here, there are
11 multiple international organizations, including
12 the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank,
13 and multiple embassies that are located in this
14 area. And then on the next page. This was also
15 included in the Memorials and Museums Master
16 Plan.

17 Next page, please. So then
18 essentially looked at the four sites and at these
19 four sites that were finalists, three of them are
20 located within Area 1.

21 On the next page, so we want to talk
22 about what the justification for an Area 1. We

1 know that that is -- needs to be -- the memorial
2 would need to be a preeminent, historical, and
3 lasting significance to the United States. And
4 based on that, we looked at what the memorial --
5 what -- why it would be a preeminent and lasting
6 importance. So the first is the role of free
7 press in the First Amendment in advancing and
8 preserving freedom in key junctures in America
9 and world's history, on the function of
10 journalism as a watch dog hold government
11 institutions accountable to the public. Again,
12 that kind of hearkens backs a lot of the
13 reciprocal views of the US Capitol that we had
14 talked about previously. Service to the public
15 as witnesses to history even while standing in
16 the harm's way. Provision of news and
17 information ranging from local community to
18 global scale, inspiration to the world as a
19 beacon of freedom, and then values and service
20 that transcend technological change.

21 So things that looking forward, not
22 just past and present, but also conveying that

1 into the future. So at this point, I will turn
2 it over to Barbara Cochran to discuss this a
3 little more in detail.

4 MS. COCHRAN: And, Mr. Chairman, is --
5 do I have your permission to go ahead here? I
6 agree to take silence as a yes.

7 CHAIR MAY: I am a little slow in my
8 clicking. Yeah I mean, if -- you should
9 continue, please.

10 MS. COCHRAN: Yes. Thank you. And
11 thanks, Claire for your -- the excellent
12 presentation that you and your colleagues at
13 AECOM put together. I'd like to ask the
14 Commissioners, as you deliberate on the
15 presentation, I would like to very respectfully
16 request that you consider recommending that the
17 Secretary of the Interior seek legislation
18 through congress to allow the memorial to be
19 located within Area 1. You just heard six of the
20 reasons that were given in our written statement.
21 We focused on five key factors that we believe
22 justify a prominent site in Area 1 for memorial

1 that will have preeminent, historical, and
2 lasting significance.

3 The five factors are: one, that
4 congress in its legislation intended the memorial
5 to be a prominent national symbol. Two, the
6 founding fathers recognized the crucial role of
7 the press by enshrining freedom of the press in
8 the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
9 Three, journalists have served on the front lines
10 throughout our nations in the world's most
11 defining moments, and that has shaped American
12 institutions and everyday lives. Four,
13 visibility of the US Capitol from the site
14 underscores the relationship between government
15 and the press. And five, to effectively educate
16 and inspire, the memorial needs to be accessible
17 to many visitors of the nation's capital as
18 possible. To expand on these factors, we
19 submitted statements from nine academic scholars,
20 historians, and chronic journalists, and I hope
21 you've had a chance to at least sample some of
22 them. In the interest of time I am going to now

1 highlight just some of the key points that were
2 made by my illustrious colleagues.

3 The historian, Michael Beschloss,
4 writes that the founders consider freedom of the
5 press to be essential. They wanted the American
6 system, he writes, to be the opposite of those
7 closed societies of Europe where the king or
8 queen made the decisions, disagreement was
9 silenced, and documents that showed their
10 mistakes and shortcomings were destroyed or
11 covered up. The American founders believed that
12 we could only achieve the society they dreamt of
13 if there was open and available information that
14 would show America's open mistakes and the
15 accomplishment of earlier generations of
16 Americans, and those at their own time. The
17 nationally syndicated columnist, Clarence Page,
18 singles out, quote, the watchdog role played by
19 the press, as well as the eyes and ears media
20 provide that take us into war zones and other
21 places that we cannot or would rather not go.
22 This mind you, as she writes, will commemorate

1 the sacrifices of those who paid the ultimate
2 sacrifice, losing their lives while on assignment
3 in a profession that above all, should aim to
4 provide service to the public.

5 Carl Bernstein, who uncovered the
6 Watergate scandal along with Bob Woodward,
7 writes: Investigative journalism has played a
8 crucial role in our history. Journalists have
9 exposed wrongdoing that the powerful wanted to
10 keep secret.

11 Through such reporting, journalists
12 have changed the course of history, and such
13 journalism can be risky, even dangerous. Amanda
14 Bennett, the former director of Voice of America,
15 highlights the global influence of VOA and of
16 America's free press. Through its commitment to
17 maintaining a free and independent press around
18 the world, she writes, America demonstrates its
19 commitment to this foundation of democracy. That
20 commitment serves as a beacon of inspiration
21 (audio interference) for the world.

22 Rick Hutzell, as editor of the Capital

1 Gazette in Annapolis, experienced firsthand the
2 unexpected danger that can befall journalists,
3 when five of his colleagues were shot to death in
4 his room. He writes, while most people
5 understand the risk to journalists on the
6 battlefield or covering brutal regimes, scores
7 have died close to home while reporting on their
8 own communities.

9 Leonard Downie, Jr., the former
10 executive editor of The Washington Post,
11 summarized the matter well. Memorial needs to be
12 located where it can be seen so that it can
13 educate and inspire, and where it can ensure that
14 a free press is seen as a companion to the other
15 great institutions of the American experiment.
16 In a moment, you'll hear from Paul Goldberger.
17 Paul is a prize winning architecture critic, and
18 from Tom Brokaw, author, historian, and long-time
19 anchor of NBC News.

20 And in closing, I'd like to quote
21 again from Michael Beschloss. Throughout our
22 history, he writes, big journalists have been so

1 essential to keeping the flame of American
2 democracy alive that it is astounding to me that
3 before now they have never been properly honored
4 by a national memorial. As many of our founders
5 said, American democracy will always be fragile
6 and will always require constant vigilance. I
7 believe that an important part of that vigilance
8 is to remind both Americans and others around the
9 world, how central a free press is in guarding
10 our democracy. An inspiring national memorial in
11 a location of prominence would do just that.
12 Thank you. Now, I'll turn it over to Paul
13 Goldberger.

14 MR. GOLDBERGER: Thank you very much,
15 Barbara. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
16 commissioners, and thank you very much for the
17 opportunity to be here today. I'm not going to
18 speak about the specific sites that Claire Sale
19 has just presented. Rather, I'd like to take a
20 step back and offer a general argument for why
21 the final site should be within Area 1. It's
22 been a great honor for me to serve as an advisor

1 to this project, particularly because the process
2 of planning this memorial unites my two careers
3 of journalism and architecture. And it is
4 exactly the unique possibilities offered by the
5 combination of these two realms that makes this
6 memorial appropriate for Area 1. Journalism,
7 which we could call the freedom to seek out
8 information even if it is critical of the
9 government and to convey it to others to explain
10 and enlighten the meaning of current events, is
11 an essential part of American life. It's part of
12 everyone's experience. And as such, the Fallen
13 Journalists Memorial has the potential to
14 communicate to a broader audience than almost any
15 other recent monument.

16 Now, it is in the nature of memorials
17 to look backwards, to remind us of great events
18 and great people of the past in the hope that the
19 reverence they inspire would be of some didactic
20 benefit in the present. But the Fallen
21 Journalists Memorial is different since every
22 citizen has an ongoing connection to the free

1 press, which is linked implicitly, if not
2 explicitly, to the daily lives of every American.
3 It will remind them that journalism's mission is
4 to secure their freedom. This is a memorial, not
5 only to people but also to an idea, the uniquely
6 American idea that without a flourishing culture
7 of journalism, the nation cannot thrive, and that
8 the free flow of information is essential to a
9 functioning democracy.

10 Placing the Fallen Journalists

11 Memorial then within Area 1, where commemorative
12 works are required to be of lasting significance
13 to the United States, which we can also interpret
14 as meaning, they must have some relevance to a
15 wide range of our citizenry, would acknowledge
16 the promise of the First Amendment and of the
17 importance of the free press in American history.
18 In Area 1, the unique role of journalism, never a
19 part of government but always its watchdog, will
20 be made manifest by its closeness to the halls of
21 government and the clear lines of sight between
22 the memorial and the Capitol. At the same time,

1 the memorial will be a thing apart, a reminder to
2 every citizen that journalism is independent, and
3 that its independence helps preserve the nation.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

6 MS. COCHRAN: We're waiting for Tom
7 Brokaw to join us. He is -- we need him to
8 accept the participant invitation that Beth is
9 sending him. And there he is. Great.

10 CHAIR MAY: Sometimes there's a bit of
11 a lag. Mr. Brokaw, can you hear us?

12 MR. GOLDBERGER: It's still showing as
13 muted.

14 CHAIR MAY: We cannot hear you at this
15 moment.

16 MS. COCHRAN: Tom, we need you to
17 unmute your microphone and turn on your camera.

18 CHAIR MAY: Not sure if this is
19 technical difficulties. Oh, here we go. Mr.
20 Brokaw, we cannot hear you. We can see you're
21 talking though. Nothing yet.

22 MS. COCHRAN: Your microphone is still

1 muted.

2 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Fox, can you unmute
3 him? I don't think I can.

4 MR. FOX: No, we can't. We can only
5 ask to unmute, we can't actually unmute. Okay.
6 I'm hitting the button ask to unmute but I'm not
7 sure it's --

8 MS. COCHRAN: Tom, you need to unmute
9 the microphone on your iPad or phone if you're
10 using that.

11 MS. KELLY: If it's helpful, the mute
12 appears when you hover over the bottom left
13 portion of the screen. So it won't come up
14 probably until maybe your cursor is there. So
15 it's the bottom left, it's a microphone.

16 MS. COCHRAN: Unfortunately, we're not
17 with him, so we can't assist. Okay. I'm going
18 to try a phone call.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

20 MS. COCHRAN: There.

21 MR. FOX: He's unmuted.

22 MR. BROKAW: Is that you?

1 MS. COCHRAN: We are all here.

2 MR. BROKAW: Okay.

3 MS. COCHRAN: And you are -- we can
4 hear you now and we can see you if you could tilt
5 your -- can you tilt your iPad down a little bit
6 so we see you better?

7 MR. BROKAW: Tilt, it's a big screen
8 down. Which one, this one?

9 MS. COCHRAN: Yeah. Perfect, yay.
10 Okay.

11 MR. BROKAW: Well, let me tell you
12 that I think I get credits, as I mentioned
13 earlier, for spending three hours today in
14 government as the highest levels and watching it
15 proceed across the nation's capital about what
16 we're going to do with so many of these priceless
17 memories that we have about going to war, about
18 how we govern fairly, how he recognize the
19 institutions that we all find endearing. So it
20 seems to me that maybe we ought to be doing this
21 on a regular basis, but get better technicians
22 probably. Let me just say a couple of things.

1 First of all, this was a very rich afternoon and
2 it's really reassuring to me to know that we
3 still save time to deal with the important issues
4 that makes this country what it is. And I was so
5 struck by the variety of people who were making
6 those decisions. And it is important, especially
7 now, when we're besieged by so many different
8 people who have so many certain attitudes about
9 how we can be a better country. The way we can
10 be a better country is if we learn to listen to
11 each other and not just talk at each other. And
12 this afternoon has been, I think, a perfect
13 example of that. Let me just go back to what I
14 wanted to talk about, which was paying tribute
15 to the non-combatants who go to war.

16 I was stunned at the beginning of the
17 Iraq war when I went out to far parts of Virginia
18 and other places and found these tributes that I
19 did not know exist. There we were, out in the
20 woods, and there were suddenly this great
21 memorial to people who went to war, lost their
22 lives, and were non-combatants. And so I said,

1 what we're doing now is critically important to
2 acknowledging that war is not confined to the
3 people in uniform, really, war is about everyone
4 from a very young age to an older age in a
5 variety of roles. You know, in the writing of
6 the greatest generation, I was stunned by the
7 roles that I came across of people you've never
8 heard from again, who played extremely important
9 roles in determining how we were going to go to
10 war and what we were going to do when we got
11 there.

12 We are going through a very difficult
13 time in America now, I think that goes without
14 saying. There is, for example, across the
15 country, an extraordinary resistance to finding
16 common ground, and we need to do something about
17 that, that finds us a way to say, we're in this
18 together, folks. And these kinds of sessions, it
19 seems to me, can lead us to that. When I went
20 out to the western parts of our greater national
21 advances in America when I was there to take a
22 look at what we should be knowing about what the

1 sacrifices that have been made, I was stunned
2 that we didn't know about this. That no one had
3 brought it to our attention before. And there
4 was a heavily-treed area and no one knew about
5 it. So what you're doing now is critically
6 important to drawing attention to the country
7 about war is not just about those who put on
8 uniform and go to war. Everybody is involved to
9 one degree or another. And so I would hope that
10 this session today, and what we're going through
11 as a country, would be the beginning of a
12 reintroduction of the importance of all
13 Americans, whatever their interest, that they be
14 a part of winning the war. That they be aware of
15 the sacrifices that are made on a daily basis.

16 And then after that, I would say,
17 especially now when we're going through so many
18 conflicts in this country, let's all take a deep
19 breath and find a way that we can say, you may
20 have a point, I have another point of view. Can
21 we talk about it? Can we find a way that we can
22 find common ground, whatever the state is.

1 Whether it's Virginia or whether it's Washington,
2 D.C. or whether it's any of the places that
3 surround our nation's capital. And then, as you
4 know, because I spend so much time in the west,
5 we need to speak more clearly about that part of
6 the world as well. There's an enormous division
7 in this country that we've got to get beyond.
8 We've got to find a way to say, you know, we've
9 gotten through so many things in more than 200
10 years, we'll only get through this if we
11 acknowledge that we're in it together in some
12 fashion. And you and I may not agree on every
13 point, but at some point and of course for the
14 next couple of years, we've got say, this is
15 America. And the key to America is locking arms
16 and saying, we may not agree on everything, but
17 on this, we know that the preservation of our
18 precious country is the most important, important
19 judgment that we'll all make before us.

20 And so I think this afternoon has been
21 not only instructed to me, but I hope as well,
22 that it has been instructed to the people who are

1 putting this together, and we can use this day as
2 a fresh start, if you will, about we've got miles
3 to go before we sleep, but before we sleep, we
4 have a greater concern. And that is, how do we
5 find life together and go forward, this great
6 nation, with all of its parts. So thank you for
7 including me, and I enjoyed it very much.

8 MS. COCHRAN: Thank you. Mr.
9 Chairman, back to you.

10 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very
11 much. I appreciate your presentation and the
12 appearances by Mr. Goldberger and Mr. Brokaw.
13 It's an honor to have you both. And it's also
14 quite impressive the range of scholars and noted
15 journalist who've contributed to your argument
16 for an Area 1 authorization. Noting again, in
17 particular we have nine statements for the record
18 that were included in what was shared with all of
19 our commissioners in support of the Area 1
20 designation, including Michael Beschloss'
21 statement, Carl Bernstein's statement letter,
22 Downie, Paul Goldberger, quite an array of noted

1 journalists and historians in support of your
2 effort. So I, at this point, would just ask if
3 there are questions for anyone on this panel: Mr.
4 Goldberger, Ms. Cochran, Mr. Brokaw, or Claire
5 Sale, or I believe we had Alan Harwood in the
6 room as well at one point, if you had questions
7 on the site selection. So any questions from the
8 members of the Commission? I'm not seeing
9 everybody, so it's hard to tell if there's a --
10 Mr. Fountain, do you have a question?

11 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Yes. One question
12 for you, Mr. Chairman, and then one question for
13 Barbara or for Ms. Cochran or for Ms. Sale.
14 Question for you, Mr. Chairman, I guess is what
15 is the action before us today? Is it to
16 recommend a site or is it to act on the Area 1
17 issue?

18 CHAIR MAY: In the sense it's both,
19 right? You know, they've done enough study sites
20 that they're convinced that the best sites for
21 this memorial would be an Area 1, so they've
22 submitted a justification for Area 1. That is

1 something that I think we need to consider and be
2 able to make a recommendation to the secretary
3 about. And the other is, you know, specific
4 comments with regard to the sites that have now
5 been reduced to a shortlist or sites that didn't
6 make shortlist as well. So I --

7 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: And my question for
8 Ms. Cochran or Ms. Sale is, of the four sites
9 that you've identified, is there a hierarchy
10 among them as far as you're concerned?

11 MS. COCHRAN: Me? I would say yes.
12 Is that I looked to Alan and to Claire to see if
13 that's okay. Yes. I think our preference is for
14 the site at Independence and Maryland Avenue
15 because of the relationship with the Capitol, the
16 US Capitol, because we think that the
17 relationship between government and journalism is
18 very key to making the point about that relate
19 with the free press as a watchdog of government.
20 And because of the closeness to the Voice of
21 America, which represents both international
22 journalism and the example of the American press

1 to the world. And finally, because of the
2 location where tourists will -- tourists can seek
3 it out deliberately, but they'll also encounter
4 it by happenstance and become -- learn about why
5 a free press and the First Amendment is so
6 important and learn about the risks the
7 journalists have taken to pursue the news.

8 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: All right. Thank
9 you.

10 MEMBER MALONEY: Ms. Wright, you had
11 your hand up for a minute. Did you still have a
12 question?

13 MEMBER WRIGHT: That was my question.
14 If there was a preferred location and I'm really
15 glad to hear that's it because it's hands down
16 for me, far and away, the leader of the pack.

17 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you. So are
18 there other questions for the panel? Okay. I
19 just need to look at my script, make sure I
20 didn't miss something else because I sometimes
21 do. Mr. Wilson, did you have any questions for
22 the panel?

1 MR. WILSON: No, sir, thanks.

2 CHAIR MAY: Okay. All right. So we
3 have completed the plan testimonies and we would
4 take public comment. Ms. -- Secretary Porter, do
5 you -- has anyone else signed up to speak at this
6 time?

7 MS. PORTER: Having trouble myself
8 unmuting. No, not at this time.

9 CHAIR MAY: All right. Then we will
10 -- we can move on very quickly. I think that it
11 would make sense for us to move into some
12 discussion, deliberation. So at this point, I
13 think we would excuse Ms. Cochran and the team.
14 Again, thank you very much to everyone on the --
15 in your presentation group. We really appreciate
16 all of your testimony and of course, we
17 appreciate the efforts of everyone who
18 contributed statements for the record. And I
19 also thank you for having so many statements for
20 the record as supposed to having nine witnesses,
21 which would have kept us here a lot longer. But
22 we did -- you know, I'm sure -- I read through

1 all of them. I'm sure that my colleagues have as
2 well and we appreciate everyone's thoughts. So
3 with that, we will move on.

4 Thank you, again. Thank you, Mr.
5 Brokaw. Very nice to see you.

6 MR. BROKAW: Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

8 MR. BROKAW: I'm seldom in such a
9 scholastic kinds of surroundings, so this is
10 going to raise my standing with my children who
11 are here and also just in from Europe. So I need
12 to remind them that this is still the country
13 that they left.

14 CHAIR MAY: Any meetings like this,
15 Tom, we're happy to send you an invitation. This
16 Commission or the Commission of Fine Arts or the
17 National Capital Planning Commission, always
18 exciting stuff by Washington standards.

19 MR. BROKAW: Well, we live in
20 Washington and our kids still stay very far away
21 and go there whenever they can, so it's not a
22 hard sell on our back.

1 CHAIR MAY: It is a beautiful city.
2 I look forward to having meetings in person
3 before too long.

4 MR. BROKAW: Right. Okay.

5 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

6 MS. COCHRAN: Thank you.

7 MR. GOLDBERGER: Thank you.

8 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So yeah, we're
9 dropping the folks out. You know, if we had
10 occasion to bring back somebody from the AECOM
11 team, we may need do that or actually, maybe
12 we'll just keep Mr. Harwood and Ms. Sale in the
13 room in the moment in case there are questions.
14 It seems logical to me that we would consider
15 Area 1 first, and separate from the sites,
16 although it's a little bit hard to separate them,
17 but I think I want to get to a clear
18 recommendation on whether Area 1 is justified.
19 So, with that --

20 MEMBER SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I did
21 have a question if Mr. Harwood is still on the
22 line. It's more about intent and the vision for

1 the 100 folks that they mentioned as part of
2 potential celebratory or, I guess, events or
3 anniversary events. Is the intent that that
4 would be -- that the memorial site would have
5 ongoing programmatic events or is the intent --
6 and it's not an either/or question -- but would
7 there always be ongoing throughout the year
8 events at this commemorative work. And just kind
9 of want to understand the vision for sort of
10 ongoing use of the space.

11 MR. HARWOOD: Right. I think the
12 anticipation is that the majority of the daily
13 use would be within the memorial itself. If it
14 on occasion, throughout the year, would be these
15 special events and go out to expansion space,
16 adjacent streets, small block between the
17 National Museum of the American Indian and the
18 site. That could be closed, that one block, and
19 use that for kind of some extra gathering space.
20 So that's one of the attributes of that site
21 that's really favorable.

22 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So rather than

1 going in any particular order, I'm happy to see
2 raised hands to see who wants to talk first on
3 the Area 1 issue. So I see Ms. Wright is very
4 quickly -- just jumping -- are you in your
5 exercise at the moment, is that why you're --

6 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yeah. I'm on my ball.
7 I have -- I think that the principal reason for
8 location in Area 1 -- I usually don't find these
9 -- I'm usually -- I can be persuaded or take time
10 to be persuaded. But in this case, the dearly
11 departed Newseum is the reason why I believe Area
12 1 is critical for this memorial. If for no other
13 reason than people who are engaged in protest
14 need to be reminded, and the location of this
15 memorial, and as an active host for civic
16 engagement, it's really important I think. The
17 loss of the Newseum, I think we can all mourn the
18 loss of the -- of its location.

19 To be honest, I'm not entirely clear
20 on what's happened to the organization, but its
21 physical presence in proximity to where protests
22 takes place is a loss, and in my mind, goes a

1 long way towards justifying Area 1. And while
2 I'm at it, so I won't have to jump up and down
3 again, I think it's hands down the location in
4 front of the Cohen Building. I don't think the
5 other ones can hold a candle to it thematically,
6 and for the reasons of -- that I just enumerated
7 for being located in Area 1, the Voice of
8 America, like some many institutions who was in
9 peril not long ago, and the connection can't be
10 understated. I had another reason, but I can't
11 remember it now. So I won't pretend, and I'll
12 cede my spot.

13 CHAIR MAY: Raise your hand and I'll
14 call on you again.

15 MEMBER WRIGHT: Okay.

16 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Fountain?

17 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: I endorse Area 1 for
18 a couple of reasons, I guess. I think similar to
19 Ms. Wright's, the importance of a free press
20 can't be underestimated. It's in our -- it's in
21 the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. When
22 you read Jefferson or other founders, they talk

1 about a free press being a bulwark of democracy.
2 I was just looking -- I keep on the desktop of my
3 computer, I keep a file of apt sayings by our
4 founding fathers, because there were so many of
5 them. As for instance, George Washington said:
6 If we are to guard against ignorance and remain
7 free, it's the responsibility of every American
8 to be informed. And the press serves that
9 function.

10 But beyond that, you know, look, my
11 agency is in the business of commemorating our
12 war dead. In our cemeteries overseas, we have
13 nurses and other civilians buried next to the men
14 in uniform. You know, they were serving the
15 armed services directly in a way that the press
16 do not, but I would say that the press
17 nevertheless served their country; even if they
18 are reporting objectively, they are serving the
19 ideals of this country.

20 I think about the Peace Corps
21 Commemorative on the other side of the Mall,
22 which, technically, I don't think is in Area 1,

1 but it's pretty darn close, and the same distance
2 from the Mall, if you will, that I think this one
3 is, and those are civilians who likewise serve
4 the ideals of this country.

5 And at the end of the day, they put
6 themselves in harm's way. As the speaker from
7 the Capitol Gazette or the writer from the
8 Capitol Gazette pointed out, not just war
9 correspondents who go into war zones, but even
10 those here at home whose business is to make
11 people uncomfortable and sometimes the people
12 they make uncomfortable strike back. And so in
13 that sense, they go in harm's way and they do
14 that in our service, and I think that merits an
15 inclusion in Area 1 if that's where they desire
16 to be. And if that's where, you know, this
17 commission and other bodies determine is the
18 appropriate place for them to be.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Looking for hands
20 this time around. If not, I will pick. Mr.
21 Luebke, I saw a hand.

22 MEMBER LUEBKE: Yes. You know, it's

1 a very compelling story and, you know, various
2 points of testimony, et cetera. I have one
3 slight -- I find it a little strange that -- I
4 find ambiguity inherent in the authorization that
5 it -- that it is commemorate -- I can't tell, but
6 it is commemorative in the sense of memorial or
7 is it, you know, is it fallen journalists that
8 we're talking about or is it actually freedom of
9 the press and free speech? It's sort of, there's
10 a kind of a mixed thing. I don't know that it
11 matters. I just find it kind of categorically
12 strange. I don't know how it fits into the
13 actual, you know, categoric focuses of the
14 Commemorative Work Act. Is it something -- you
15 know, we're talking about fallen journalists as a
16 group that is ongoing versus once, you know -- I
17 guess, ones that actually, you know, occurred. I
18 just find it a little bit typologically
19 in-between.

20 Having said that, you know, the
21 freedom of press is, of course, the cornerstone
22 of our democracy and it's even more -- I think

1 it's a bigger issue that we even -- well, we're
2 starting to understand it with social media,
3 like, what does it actually mean in our democracy
4 when you have sort of fracture of public
5 information.

6 So, anyway, but I would support the
7 idea of an Area 1, because I think that these
8 categorical issues can probably be tweaked. And
9 I don't know if I want to get into the discussion
10 of location, but they're all, in a certain way,
11 there's a certain typological similarity to them.

12 CHAIR MAY: Okay. We'll come back to
13 location, it's a separate clause.

14 MEMBER LUEBKE: Okay.

15 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Mr. Sherman,
16 perhaps?

17 MEMBER SHERMAN: Yes. I think we
18 would support and concur with Ms. Wright's
19 comments concerning Area 1 and this Maryland Ave
20 site. But we would also like to put forward an
21 alternate site for consideration should the Area
22 1 designation not be approved, and that is the

1 Edward R. Murrow Park. It is not in Area 1, but
2 it does sort of have all the makings of a
3 potential good site, view, access, and the nexus
4 argument was the George Washington Media Center
5 and the namesake of the park. So I just want to
6 state that for the record, but we would also
7 support Area 1 designation.

8 CHAIR MAY: Thanks. Mr. Maloney?

9 MEMBER MALONEY: I would also support
10 Area 1. I think there's no question given I
11 think the facts that have been said here and also
12 all of the testimony that's been submitted. It's
13 very, very persuasive. I also agree with the
14 notion that it's helpful as compensation for the
15 loss of the Newseum. And one of things I think
16 is particularly a shame of that is the loss of
17 the memorial that was inside the Newseum. That
18 was one the most moving parts of the building and
19 I think this in some way will sort of, you know,
20 compensate for that. And I agree also about the
21 site, Voice of America being probably the best of
22 the sites. Although I think the, yeah, Edward R.

1 Murrow would also be suitable as well. The idea
2 of putting it in an international context, I
3 think is sort of appealing.

4 The two on Pennsylvania Avenue I think
5 have real practical problems. Certainly the one
6 that has the vents, and we've run across that
7 problem several times. And the one at Freedom
8 Plaza I think both has practical problems and,
9 you know, it was probably due for some reworking
10 in the near future. But also, its connection to
11 journalism, aside from the National Press Club
12 being there, there's a little bit out of date, if
13 you will. I mean, the newspapers are no longer
14 really -- it was newspaper row. In the late 19th
15 century, it was considered to be newspaper row.
16 But I think both the Murrow site and the Voice of
17 America site have a more current associative
18 context with current affairs and the current
19 sense of where journalism is. But those are my
20 thoughts.

21 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. You jumped a
22 little bit ahead in the comments on the site

1 selection, but that's okay. We're going with the
2 flow. Mr. McMahon, did you want to weigh in on
3 the Area 1 designation?

4 MEMBER MCMAHON: I've enjoyed
5 listening to everybody's thoughtful comment who
6 much of them are able to express them than I ever
7 could. I would generally support what everybody
8 else is saying about Area 1, thanks.

9 CHAIR MAY: And I think I've asked
10 everybody in on Area 1. Mr. Wilson, did you have
11 any comments on that? I'm guessing not, but --

12 MR. WILSON: Yeah, so -- yeah, I don't
13 really have a vote on that because my stock
14 answer and I should give you sort of a recorded
15 version that you can use. Once the site
16 selection does occur, then we're going to look at
17 effects to historic properties. So, you know, I
18 sort of will weigh in at a later date.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Great. Thank you.
20 So now we'll circle back for any -- well, let me
21 just say. I also agree with the consensus, the
22 unanimous expressions of support for Area 1 for

1 this memorial. And I don't think I need to
2 elaborate more. We've seen plenty of reasons why
3 in the testimony and the witness statements and
4 certainly all of the things that have been
5 mentioned by the Commission so far. So I'm happy
6 we are all in sync. So now we will shift to Ms.
7 Wright for her specific site cons because she
8 just knows exactly where her raise your hand
9 button is.

10 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yeah, I do. You know,
11 it took me 18 months. I actually remembered what
12 I was going to say. I was trying to, you know,
13 give my whole spiel at the same time. But I, you
14 know, I'm getting old and I forgot. I think the
15 design opportunities in the site -- the preferred
16 site are -- far outweigh those at the other
17 sites. If you get a really good architect, you
18 can do something really wonderful in this spot.
19 And I also that -- we've seen this site analysis
20 about 100 times, that's not a diss at AECOM, it's
21 just that we look at the same site for memorials
22 over and over again. So I think we're all really

1 familiar with them.

2 This one has, among its other charms,
3 it's not a traffic island. I mean, it is, but it
4 doesn't feel like one like the other ones do.
5 And the closure of that little dog leg street
6 gives potential for programming that the others
7 won't if they want to have events there, they can
8 get a permit to close the street. The thematic
9 ties to the BOA can't be understated. And I
10 would like to say, I have a real problem with
11 these bow tie sites for memorials. I get NCPC's
12 position about the Murrow Park and the thematic
13 tie because of the name of the park and I guess
14 the GW Media Center, but it's kind of like -- I
15 can't remember that project we looked at on NCPC
16 that was a similar site up by Eastern Market
17 where I think it was a D.C. arc and they're
18 trying to tie together two triangular sites --
19 two triangle sites and make one park. I forget,
20 it's like at 8th Street. Am I crazy?

21 CHAIR MAY: It wasn't a memorial site
22 -- memorial site.

1 MEMBER WRIGHT: I know. No, it's not
2 a memorial, but I'm using it as an example --

3 CHAIR MAY: Natural park --

4 MEMBER WRIGHT: -- of how it was so
5 challenging to try and leave those two sites
6 together. And I think when you're talking about
7 that many traffic lanes. It's just really, I
8 mean, we can press our really good designers to
9 do some magic, but that's like in the -- that's
10 in the realm of alchemy to make that work. And I
11 wish we would look at those as two separate sites
12 and not put people through the torture of trying
13 to make it work thematically. Like pick one or
14 the other, cool. But trying to make a unified
15 site out of these locations is really difficult.
16 So I --

17 CHAIR MAY: I never would have
18 considered this as sort of a unified site, it
19 would've been kind of one or the other.

20 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yeah. I mean, well,
21 but it's -- it was presented to us as a (audio
22 interference) and I just want to say, let's not

1 put anybody through that. I mean, and that's why
2 I gave the example of the park. I know it's not
3 a memorial, but -- and they had lots of
4 programming options to try and fit in there and
5 it was just an impossible task, so --

6 CHAIR MAY: It's a very nice park now
7 though. It's only about a block from me. Well,
8 --

9 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yes. But it was
10 painful getting there, right? And they have a
11 lot more options to work with.

12 CHAIR MAY: Do you have any other
13 specific comments on other sites? No. Okay.
14 Mr. Sherman?

15 MEMBER SHERMAN: Yes, I don't have any
16 additional points for sites, but I would just
17 like for the record, we were one or the other of
18 the bow tie parks, not both. So I agree with
19 you, Mina, they are -- if you try to design both,
20 it's going to be a challenge. But so, you know,
21 we are recommending one or the other and go
22 forward from there.

1 CHAIR MAY: Right. Okay. Mr. Luebke,
2 more specific --

3 MEMBER LUEBKE: Well, I'm happy. You
4 know, I'm basically on board with everybody
5 else's idea. I think before, I think that that
6 site at Independence is probably the right
7 because it's big enough to do what they want,
8 it's prominent, it's -- it seems like a really
9 sensible idea. I will say regarding the Murrow
10 Park, that's also fine. But there is this issue,
11 you know, we try to look for nexus or whatever
12 some sort of thematic connection between the
13 things, but the Murrow thing is a bit of an
14 accident and it doesn't feel particularly
15 compelling. Certainly right there in the view of
16 the Capitol, I would think would be a little bit
17 more interesting story.

18 I will also add and I hope -- I don't
19 want to take away from anybody's undertaking.
20 Freedom Plaza is a perennial offering choice that
21 gets put out by the consultants on every --
22 practically everything. And I wish that we

1 didn't have this conversation every time. It is
2 a extremely high visibility, high symbolic,
3 everything about it is just sort of over the top.
4 And we need to not think of about it for anything
5 but the most extraordinary of purposes. It's
6 right there in the middle of the Avenue between
7 the Capitol and the White House. It's facing the
8 District of Columbia's headquarters. If this
9 were something about monuments, democracy for
10 freedoms were all for being honored, it might
11 possibly consider, but I would love not have to
12 have this conversation every time, because it's
13 just -- I feel like it's just in there as a
14 placeholder to push you to something else.

15 CHAIR MAY: Sure. Well, I didn't --
16 I can't say that I disagree and I'm sure Mr.
17 Harwood and Ms. Sale are taking note of this.

18 MEMBER LUEBKE: I hope so.

19 CHAIR MAY: It is a perennial --

20 MEMBER WRIGHT: And more, the memorial
21 sponsors can't afford the fix that it requires

22 CHAIR MAY: Exactly. It is a huge

1 undertaking. So Mr. Harwood, we're in
2 deliberations. We don't really ask consultants
3 to speak up, but is there something you would
4 like to say?

5 MR. HARWOOD: No. Don't disagree with
6 you, Mr. Luebke. It is not intended though to
7 send somewhere else. I think it's a site that
8 every applicant likes and sees in the Memorial
9 and Museum Master Plan and wants to take
10 advantage of it. So but we hear you, we hear you
11 loud and clear. And we know it's really being
12 reserved for the biggest mess, but that's -- so
13 we try to keep that in mind.

14 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. Thanks. So we've
15 heard from a lot of folks on sites. Mr.
16 Fountain, did you have more to add?

17 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Not much. You'll
18 have to believe me when I say that I too had
19 already settled on this site before the sponsor
20 expressed their preference. As noted, it's in
21 what is emerging as a little memorial precinct.
22 There are a number of other attractions there as

1 well between the botanical gardens and Bartholdi
2 Park. So as Ms. Cochran said I think or maybe it
3 was Ms. Sale, a lot of people will come across
4 this park in addition to those to seek it out.

5 One more thought on Freedom Plaza. My
6 view of that is that the site becomes such an
7 all-purpose face in terms of First Amendment
8 gathering that it ought not to have a specific
9 memorial attached to it. It ought not to have
10 messaging beyond the function that it serves, and
11 I say that with all due respect to General
12 Pulaski. But I don't think I have anything more
13 than that.

14 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. It's interesting in
15 particular, the Pulaski Monument. He was -- he
16 ranks very high in that monuments lab study in
17 terms of the number of commemorative works that
18 are dedicated to Pulaski, number seven on the
19 list.

20 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Is there a corner of
21 Lafayette Square for him? Isn't von Steuben over
22 there, too?

1 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. We won't be moving
2 Pulaski anytime soon. But if there is something
3 major that happens at Freedom Plaza, maybe that
4 will happen. Anyway, okay. So are there others
5 who want to weigh in on specifics about any of
6 the sites? If you don't raise your hand at some
7 point I won't call on you, and we'll move on from
8 there. And Mr. Wilson, I don't know that we need
9 to go back to you. You've already elicit support
10 issue when we get to the site selection, so --
11 okay. So this I think is pretty straightforward
12 in terms of the motion that we might make. We
13 can't really make, you know, take a vote on a
14 ranking or a preference of the sites because we
15 don't have the Area 1 approval yet. So I think
16 what we would do in this circumstance is simply
17 vote to endorse Area 1 for this memorial and then
18 that sets into motion the briefing up to the
19 secretary and getting legislation sent to the
20 congress for their introduction, which we will
21 undertake as quickly as possible, assuming the
22 vote goes the way it looks like it will. And

1 then I think after that, I'm not even sure that,
2 you know, given that we're down to four sites and
3 I think it's one very viable Area 1 site and one
4 viable not-Area-1 site, I think that we would
5 probably, once there is an Area 1 approval, take
6 the matter straight to the Commission of Fine
7 Arts and NCPC.

8 I didn't get the sense that there are
9 other sites that we have to look at or that there
10 are or there are at least some options. We
11 always want to be able to advance with some
12 options. So I think that would be the path
13 forward.

14 So, anybody have any questions or
15 thoughts on that? I'm not seeing anything. So
16 then I would make a motion that the Memorial
17 Advisory Commission recommend to the Secretary of
18 the Interior that Area 1 authorization be
19 legislated so that the memorial foundation can
20 get to its preferred site. And as for a second?

21 MEMBER WRIGHT: Second.

22 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Luebke, questions?

1 MEMBER LUEBKE: I just wanted to ask
2 if you and the staff are completely comfortable
3 regarding the issue I raised about category.
4 Like, how does this purpose fit within the
5 categoric structure of the Commemorative Works
6 Act? I don't -- I sort of sense it as an issue,
7 but I don't know if it's worth mentioning or
8 anything. It's just --

9 CHAIR MAY: Yeah, I'm aware of this
10 issue. We had discussed it before with you, and
11 I think, in terms of the Area 1 legislation, I
12 don't think that's really a factor. A legislation
13 that authorizes a memorial is what it is. I
14 think this has more to do with the commemorative
15 content and I think how the memorial sponsors,
16 you know, fine-tune their message.

17 You know, there's always a challenge
18 when you are developing memorials to kind of
19 muddle the message by trying to include too much.
20 And so we always encouraged memorial sponsors to
21 simplify and to focus on what the bigger points
22 are. And so yeah, I expect that that will be a

1 matter of further discussion with the memorial
2 sponsors. But I don't see a particular need to,
3 you know, do aggressive rights thus far.

4 MEMBER LUEBKE: Okay.

5 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. Any other
6 questions? All right. We have a motion and a
7 second, and so all those in favor, please raise
8 your hand, indicate aye. Mr. McMahon, raise your
9 hand in the symbol form. I see the hand. Very
10 good.

11 We have another unanimous vote. We're
12 on a roll. Let's see if we can keep it going.
13 Okay. So it's 4:04. I would ask if members of
14 the Commission would like to take just a
15 five-minute break to use the restroom or the
16 shower, I don't know. All right. We'll take
17 five minutes. We'll be back at 4:10, and we will
18 continue with the Texas Legation Memorial and try
19 to move swiftly through the rest of the agenda.
20 Thank you all very much.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 4:05 p.m. and resumed at

1 4:11 p.m.)

2 CHAIR MAY: All right. So let's -- I
3 think I'll go ahead and kick things off. I'm
4 sure Ms. Wright will join us momentarily. And
5 I'm assuming Mr. McMahon is there? Doesn't have
6 his camera on. So our next site selection
7 presentation will be on the Texas Legation
8 Commemorative Work. Our speaker is Kitty Hoeck
9 representing the Daughters of the Republic of
10 Texas. So, Mr. Fox, if you could bring Ms. Hoeck
11 in to the presentation or into the meeting and
12 then she can begin the presentation.

13 MR. FOX: I think she's in that limbo
14 space between attendee and panelist.

15 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

16 MR. FOX: Hopefully she's coming back.

17 CHAIR MAY: Hope she will appear.

18 MR. FOX: I don't know if she bought
19 her indulgences, I'm not sure.

20 CHAIR MAY: Well, I tell you what --

21 MR. FOX: Oh yeah, she's lost in
22 limbo. Oh, boy.

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So I tell you what,
2 we're going to -- I'm going to play an audible
3 here because I heard from Mr. Fountain that he
4 will have to leave the meeting at 4:30 and would
5 like to make comments on the 1st Division design
6 consultation. So I think we'll just go ahead and
7 skip ahead to that. And I think, Mr. Fox, if you
8 could bring, let's see, Attorney General Thomas
9 Rhame, vice president for the site of the 1st
10 Division in along with Suzette Goldstein who will
11 make the design presentation.

12 You know, before we get started on
13 this one, I ensure that the Commissioners had a
14 chance to take a look at that design
15 presentation. This is really a very modest
16 change to the memorial, and I'd say frankly, I'm
17 not sure that it's worth the time to work to go
18 through the entire presentation. So unless
19 anyone from the -- any member of the Commission
20 really wants to see Ms. Goldstein's presentation,
21 I would think that we could do remarks from our
22 general and then simply go straight to questions

1 about the design if there are any. Does anybody
2 disagree with that? Does anybody want to see the
3 whole presentation? I'm not seeing anybody
4 jumping up and down to see the whole thing. I'm
5 sorry, Ms. Goldstein.

6 MEMBER LUEBKE: I'm sorry, Mr.
7 Chairman. Can we just bring it to, like, the
8 image of, you know, the -- like, just the -- you
9 know, just that we have something to talk to
10 would be all. I don't think we need to go
11 through all the iterations.

12 CHAIR MAY: Perfect. We can do that.
13 And of course, we will hear Lieutenant General
14 Thomas Rhame kick us off. So and Ms. Kelly is
15 finding an appropriate drawing from the
16 presentation to speak from. So Lieutenant
17 General Rhame, do you want to go ahead and give
18 us your remarks? I saw him at the meeting.

19 LIEUTENANT GENERAL RHAME: Hello. Can
20 you hear me?

21 CHAIR MAY: Yes, there we go.

22 LIEUTENANT GENERAL RHAME: Okay. Good

1 afternoon. My name is Lieutenant General Tom
2 Rhame. I am a retired US officer. And I
3 currently serve as vice president of the Society
4 of the 1st Division. You know, before I left,
5 when on active duty, I served as Commanding
6 General of the 1st Division from 1989 to 1991,
7 and it was during this time period that I had the
8 privilege to lead the division in to Desert
9 Storm. We attacked in Turak and liberated
10 Kuwait. So that's my background in the 1st
11 Infantry Division. I really want to thank the
12 members of the Commission for giving us an
13 opportunity to make this presentation today. It
14 is very important to the veterans of the division
15 and follows our long established tradition of
16 honoring those soldiers killed while serving the
17 division.

18 The 1st Division monument, of course,
19 is located in President's Park, right off of 17th
20 Street. It was dedicated in 1924. And at the
21 time that the monument was erected and installed
22 and dedicated, 5,516 names were placed on the

1 monument to recognize those members of the
2 division that had been killed in World War I.
3 That was a feeling at the time within the society
4 that America would forget the war quickly and
5 certainly forget the gallant and heroic actions
6 of the soldiers who won that war for America in a
7 very violent and short ten months that the
8 division was committed into combat. Following
9 that tradition which we set up in 1924, when
10 World War II ended, the society moved forward and
11 established the World War II addition to the
12 monument in 1957, adding those names. In 1977,
13 the Vietnam edition was added and added those
14 killed in that war. At the end of Desert Storm
15 by 1995, there was a plaque containing 27 names
16 placed in the monument between the main memorial
17 and that of the Vietnam below the flower bed
18 there, and contains only 27 names, which is the
19 lowest number we've had killed in a conflict to
20 date.

21 It's interesting, though, that little
22 plaque with 27 names on it represents your

1 all-volunteer army. Used to be we mourn the loss
2 of our sons in conflict. Today you have to be
3 quick to recognize that the sons and daughters
4 are paying that price now. On that plaque,
5 Sergeant Cheryl O'Brien, she is the first woman
6 killed in action serving with the division.
7 There were several other division monuments in
8 the Washington area, and you can find them
9 scattered about. Our monument, the 1st Division
10 monument is the only one that contains the
11 individuals' names of those soldiers who fought
12 and died serving America within a division.

13 In total, our monument contains, right
14 now, to date, 12,947 names of soldiers. As soon
15 as the President established the termination of
16 Iraqi Freedom in New Dawn and terminated
17 Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, we the
18 society began to move forward to recognize the
19 sacrifice of 641 servicemembers killed during the
20 above operations.

21 We also saw at the same time, a plan
22 to relocate the Desert Storm plaque out of the

1 flower bed and adjoin it with the other Middle
2 East conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and place
3 them in a common area. We entered consultation
4 partnership with HOK Architects in early 2017 to
5 begin the process of coordinating with those
6 interested parties to obtain approval to update
7 and modify the 1st Division Monument. Lead by
8 the very professional, mature, and patient leader
9 Mrs. Suzette Goldstein of HOK, they have done a
10 preliminary design, and we think we have done all
11 the things necessary to bring us to where we are
12 today. Frankly, without real leadership and
13 knowledge, we would be wandering around lost in
14 Washington.

15 At about the same time in 2017, we
16 began the difficult and time consuming process of
17 getting congressional approval to update and
18 modify this monument. We approached the Kansas
19 Delegation asking for assistance because our
20 division is based at Fort Riley in Kansas, and
21 that fort lies within the jurisdiction of the
22 delegation we approached. Thanks to the active

1 help of then Congressman Marshall, now Senator
2 Marshall, and the senior senator of Kansas,
3 Senator Moran, the approval to make the
4 modifications to the 1st Division Monument were
5 congressionally --

6 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Is how you selected
7 the placement. As I look at the memorial looking
8 north, chronologically, you read left to right
9 from World War II then over to Vietnam. I want
10 to read this as going in either a circular --
11 clockwise or counterclockwise direction. Right
12 now the three additions are counter-clockwise
13 from World War II to Vietnam, to the Gulf and
14 Mid-East wars. But then you throw me because you
15 have those oriented left to right
16 chronologically, I believe, in that set of
17 panels. And so again, thinking about expanding
18 this eventually, you would go left to right,
19 Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and then Iraqi
20 Freedom. And then you would move -- for future
21 conflicts -- you would move back over to the
22 left. And so I want, you know, I distinctly want

1 to look for a chronological flow to the conflicts
2 as you add these three and then any future ones,
3 and I'm finding that flow a little bit broken up.
4 And so I'm just -- that's my comment, and I don't
5 know if you have -- and I can turn it into a
6 question. How did you decide to do it this way
7 and why?

8 MS. GOLDSTEIN: I think actually -- I
9 think the general and I should probably talk
10 about that and come back to you with an answer of
11 whether we think this is the right chronological
12 order or not. I think we -- I think from a
13 design standpoint, we could look at it either
14 way. We did want this grouping to be closest to
15 the Vietnam end of things, so that's why we
16 selected the east side of the memorial as opposed
17 to the west side of the memorial. Then once you
18 stand in front of this new addition, the
19 chronological left to right kind of made sense to
20 us, but everything you said also makes sense. So
21 I don't think that this -- there's a right or
22 wrong answer there. I think we -- it could go

1 either way.

2 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Well, I agree
3 there's not a right or wrong. None of that's a
4 deal breaker as far as I'm concerned. I just
5 wanted to see if there had been thought, and
6 whatever thought you give to it, and I defer to
7 my more expert colleagues on the Commission when
8 it comes to these design matters. But it kept
9 reminding me of Nationals Park where the section
10 numbers go in one direction, but the seat numbers
11 go in the other direction, which I always find
12 very confusing. Constantly going down the wrong
13 aisle. Anyway, so that was really my one
14 comment. Otherwise, as I said, I thought it was
15 very restrained, and appropriate. However you go
16 on to placement, I support it

17 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you so much.

18 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. I'm going to hang on to listen to a
20 few more comments, but I will be gone before you
21 take a vote on this, but you'll still have
22 quorum.

1 CHAIR MAY: Actually, I don't think
2 that we will take a vote on this. Our
3 responsibility when it comes to design reviews is
4 literally a review. It's not an approval, and so
5 I think it's the sort of thing that we will try
6 to summarize a consensus of the plans and just
7 share that with the --

8 MEMBER FOUNTAIN: Thank you.

9 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So I will turn it
10 back to the Commission as a whole for any
11 questions of the general or Ms. Goldstein with
12 regard to the design. Otherwise, then we go into
13 a discussion. Unfortunately, I cannot see
14 everybody on my screen at the moment the way I'm
15 configured. So -- there we go. Thank you very
16 much. Does anybody have any questions for Ms.
17 Goldstein or Lieutenant General Rhame? I'm not
18 seeing any. Okay. So then I think that we will
19 shift into -- I'm sorry, we should ask the
20 question of the secretary, whether anybody else
21 has signed up to testify on this?

22 MS. PORTER: No, they have not.

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay. And, Mr. Wilson, do
2 you have any questions at this point of the site
3 team?

4 MEMBER LUEBKE: Mr. Chairman, I don't
5 think he's here. I'm not sure I actually see
6 him. Yeah.

7 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So maybe he's left.
8 All right. Well, --

9 MEMBER LUEBKE: But he probably does.

10 CHAIR MAY: He probably does, and we
11 will -- we soon will be consulting with the
12 Advisory Council as we move forward in the
13 process. So I'm not worried about missing that
14 input. So then, now let's go to comments on --
15 the Commissions comments on this design
16 modification. Mr. Luebke, why don't you go -- we
17 start with you. There we go.

18 MEMBER LUEBKE: Okay. Well, I'm happy
19 just to -- and we had a little bit of
20 consultation with the applicant already. But I
21 would say I feel like this is moving in a very
22 reasonable direction. It's a tricky problem in

1 that it's a very well composed, this kind of goes
2 without saying, it's asymmetric -- it's
3 symmetrical, but also asymmetrical. You've got
4 -- it's on a slope that's moving cross-ways.
5 You've got these different anchors. But I think
6 the design in concept seems to be in the right
7 direction where these new pieces work well within
8 the existing sort of armature of this space. I
9 think they're on the correct side, on the north
10 side, which goes into the hillside as opposed to
11 looking out. It's very tricky because you want
12 to honor the groups which you've served but you
13 also don't want to overwhelm the existing design.
14 So it is a bit of a balancing act, but it seems
15 like you -- it seems like it's very good. It's
16 balanced on the lawn as opposed to the whole
17 space, which means that it tends to subordinate
18 further to overall design, so I'm happy with what
19 I'm seeing. Clearly, the devil be in the
20 details, et cetera. It says it's ADA compliant.
21 I don't know what that'll mean against a big
22 block of stone but, you know, I don't have any

1 fundamental concerns. Clearly there are things
2 that'll be worked out, but so from my part, it
3 seemed very supportive.

4 CHAIR MAY: Great. Thank you. Mr.
5 Sherman?

6 MEMBER SHERMAN: Yes. I would concur
7 with Tom -- Mr. Luebke's comments. We don't have
8 any major concerns other than the general ongoing
9 trend of adding names to commemorative works as
10 we've already discussed in previous submissions.
11 And also acknowledging as they worked on the
12 design, to make sure they consider ADA access and
13 accessibility from President's Park as part of
14 the accessibility. Other than that, that's it
15 for us.

16 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. So Mr.
17 Maloney, how about you?

18 MEMBER MALONEY: I agree with that and
19 this reminds me actually of the Second Division
20 Memorial where there's a similar working out of
21 this problem. And I think it's done very
22 effectively here as well. So I don't have any

1 problems with it.

2 CHAIR MAY: Great. Thank you. Ms.
3 Wright?

4 MEMBER WRIGHT: I think you'll all be
5 relieved to know I don't have any further
6 comments. I also thought the same thing as Mr.
7 Maloney. It's very similar and, you know,
8 unfortunate that we're poised for growth.

9 CHAIR MAY: Right. Okay, thank you.
10 Mr. McMahon, you're muted. There we go.

11 MEMBER MCMAHON: Sorry. Yes, thanks.
12 No, I have no comments.

13 CHAIR MAY: Great, thank you. So as
14 I mentioned before, practice and design review is
15 not too hung up on having a motion and a vote. I
16 think we can summarize the comments that have
17 been shared, which I think have been very
18 supportive of the designers' approach. There's,
19 you know, some refinement, obviously that will
20 happen as the project goes through further
21 reviews, but this is the necessary stop along the
22 way to have a constitution with the Memorial

1 Advisory Commission. And so this box is checked.
2 So we'll write a letter summarizing the comments
3 and then go on from there. I think that's it.
4 We will now shift to our next item. Thank you
5 very much, Ms. Goldstein and General Rhame. We
6 appreciate your --

7 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you so much.

8 LIEUTENANT GENERAL RHAME: Thank you
9 very much.

10 MS. GOLDSTEIN: That's the easiest
11 presentation I've ever had to make. Thank you
12 very much. You-all have a good evening.

13 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

14 LIEUTENANT GENERAL RHAME: Yeah.
15 Thanks a lot.

16 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. Now we will go
17 back to the Texas Legation site selection. Ms.
18 Hoeck, I see you there or I see your photograph
19 there. Hopefully you will be able to speak up
20 and do your presentation.

21 MS. HOECK: Okay. I'm afraid to do
22 anything for fear that I'll lose you.

1 CHAIR MAY: So I think Ms. Kelly is
2 going to bring up your presentation.

3 MS. HOECK: Okay.

4 CHAIR MAY: There we go.

5 MS. HOECK: There we go. Okay. The
6 Republic of Texas Legation Memorial site
7 selection study. Good afternoon. And thank you,
8 National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission for
9 providing an opportunity for the Daughters of
10 Republic of Texas to share our site selection
11 study. Chairman May and members of the
12 Commission, thank you for your interest in our
13 project. As an independent sovereign nation, the
14 Republic of Texas existed from 1836 to 1845. The
15 Texas public dispatched members of its diplomatic
16 corps to London, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, and
17 Washington, D.C. The business of the Republic of
18 Texas Legation included seeking protection of the
19 republic from the Mexican invasion, to negotiate
20 treaties of amity, commerce, navigation,
21 boundaries, and securing loans, and to seek
22 annexation by the United States. The legation

1 ceased to operate when the Texas Republic was
2 admitted as the 28th state.

3 Next slide. Public Law 116-248 of the
4 116th Congress says that the Daughters of the
5 Republic of Texas may establish a commemorative
6 work on federal land in the District of Columbia
7 to commemorate and honor the diplomats from the
8 Republic of Texas who served in the District of
9 Columbia.

10 Next slide. The memorial program for
11 the Republic of Texas Legation to the United
12 States is to have a memorial at or near one of
13 eight sites in Washington, D.C. where the
14 diplomats had their official residence and
15 performed some of their official duties. The
16 memorial will be of a modest size envisioned as
17 possibly a plaque mounted on the small marker
18 stone event of other small monument in a
19 contemplated area associated with Texas legation
20 historical sites. The memorial could potentially
21 be -- include a small map illustrating the
22 locations of the Texas Diplomat Official

1 Residences.

2 Visitors from the United States,
3 Texas, and international travelers will visit the
4 Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as they do in
5 London and Paris. The memorial will tell the
6 story of the Republic of Texas, and have their
7 own voice to the United States. The memorial is
8 envisioned as a singular focal feature such as a
9 plaque, a small stone monument, that may or may
10 not be accompanied by a small amount of accessory
11 landscaping and features such as a vent. The
12 entire site is envisioned to be less than 100
13 square feet, but may be as small as a footprint
14 -- the footprint of a singular plaque or pedestal
15 less than 20 square feet. Next slide. These
16 images are examples of small, modest size
17 memorials that we're interested in putting in
18 Washington. Next slide. This map is a
19 combination of the official legation sites or
20 boarding houses of the Texas ministers marked
21 with a red number, and candidate sites that are
22 in proximity to the official residences marked by

1 a blue letter.

2 Candidate sites were analyzed by these
3 criteria: program suitability, thematic nexus,
4 site prominence, transportation, universal
5 accessibility, tranquility, shade,
6 infrastructure, and site availability. The sites
7 were judged to be suitable, partly suitable, not
8 suitable, not available, or unknown based on
9 these criteria. The three most important
10 criteria are program suitability, thematic Nexus,
11 and site prominence. The memorial should be as
12 close as possible to one or several of the
13 original boarding house sites. Although none of
14 the original boarding houses still exist, the
15 boarding house locations have been documented
16 through historical research. Historic Texas
17 legation sites are just defined as boarding
18 houses where the Texas diplomats lived. The
19 practice of working out of boarding houses was
20 well documented during the 19th century.
21 Senators, congressmen, and others who came to
22 Washington to work temporarily, usually stayed in

1 boarding houses.

2 The memorial sites considered have a
3 geographic thematic nexus to the locations
4 associated with the Texas Legation. The
5 rectangle in figure 7 illustrates an area where
6 five original sites are located within an area
7 covering approximately 0.3 square miles.
8 Additionally, a plaque for the Republic of Texas
9 Navy is associated -- excuse me -- is located at
10 the nearby Naval Heritage Center. Site
11 prominence is the third most important criteria.
12 The memorial should be easily seen and be able to
13 be located by visitors. How were the viable
14 candidate sites determined? Eleven candidate
15 sites were chosen because of their proximity to
16 at least one of the original official residences.
17 Each candidate site was evaluated according to
18 online criteria. Through a process of
19 elimination, we had in the first round, if a site
20 was considered partly suitable or not suitable
21 within any of the three -- first three criteria,
22 that site was eliminated. The second round of

1 elimination, if a memorial site had two or more
2 criteria, they are partly suitable or not
3 suitable, that site was eliminated. The third
4 round of elimination, all Area 1 sites were
5 eliminated. There were three prospective sites
6 left: D, E, and F for further research. Site D,
7 which is the site where Indiana Avenue, D Street,
8 and 6th Street converge. There's a triangle
9 there. It's being considered by the District of
10 Columbia and so that now just leaves us with
11 sites E and F as viable sites.

12 Next slide. On this slide you can see
13 sites E and F are within less than a half mile
14 from the Natural History Museum, National
15 Archives, National Gallery of Art, and many other
16 science and cultural museums. You can see that
17 site E is located at the Navy Memorial in the
18 area that's in -- behind the Area 1 is in Area 2.
19 It runs from the tip of the building back to D
20 Street. And site F is an area where Indiana
21 Plaza and Indiana Avenue meet with 7th Street.
22 Next slide. Okay. Site E is at the National

1 Navy Memorial and just outside Area 1 to the
2 north. It is part of Reservation 101 of the
3 Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. Note
4 all the bus stops, Metro stop, Bikeshare, and
5 parking. Also, note the vistas. Site E has a
6 viewshed to the north to the National Portrait
7 Gallery and the American Art Gallery, and to the
8 south, to National Archives. The second viewshed
9 from the curb of Pennsylvania Avenue runs to the
10 southeast to the U.S. Capitol and to the
11 northwest to the Treasury building.

12 Site E includes a grass courtyard. I
13 apologize for the orange fences in the pictures,
14 but there's a nice, green little courtyard and
15 with a nice view of National Archives and the
16 Portrait Gallery to the north. Opportunities and
17 challenges for site E. It's within 0.03 square
18 miles of five other Texas Legation boarding house
19 sites. It's also within walking distance -- a
20 short walking distance -- to the Navy Heritage
21 Center where the Texian Navy Plaque is located.
22 It can accommodate the program for the memorial,

1 it meets eight out of nine of the criteria.

2 There's Capital Bikeshare, commuter bus stops,
3 Metro stops, major roads, parking with meters,
4 parking garages, and a Metro entrance. Nearby is
5 National Archives, museums, art galleries, and
6 the National Mall, and restaurants. The
7 challenges for this site are the national -- the
8 memorial cannot block any foot traffic, the
9 memorial height must not be -- must not block any
10 of the viewshed. Area pets visiting the grass
11 courtyard must be considered and only shade --
12 the only shade is from the buildings. The grassy
13 area is a fire lane.

14 Next slide. So this is another angle
15 of the grassy courtyard. You can see that the
16 two areas that we were -- we thought might be a
17 nice idea, but we're not limited to this, is to
18 either embed a plaque into the curb or over along
19 the side there's three benches, and in the middle
20 -- they're concrete benches -- and in the middle
21 near in the center -- in the middle of one of the
22 benches or in front of the benches or behind the

1 bench or some area like that. Next slide. Okay.

2 These are the opportunities and challenges. I

3 think I got out of sync. Okay. Next slide.

4 This is site F on Indiana Avenue in Indiana

5 Plaza. It's part of Reservation 101, the

6 Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, but

7 not part of Area 1 or the reserve. The area that

8 is available for without further congressional

9 approval, is Area 2 which starts at the front of

10 the Argentine Naval Attache Building and the

11 front of the Apex Building and goes up to the

12 fire lane. There's a slide that will illustrate

13 that a little bit better coming up. There's a

14 vista, a viewshed from Judiciary Square down to

15 the Temperance Fountain, and another viewshed

16 that runs between the two buildings that form

17 Indiana Plaza and goes over to 6th Street.

18 Next slide. This is Indiana Avenue.

19 There are two planters along Indiana Avenue. One

20 has vegetation, bushes, and a street light, and

21 the other planter has a low decorative fence,

22 small trees, and mulch. If you look behind the

1 clock -- the planter on the left side, the fire
2 lane runs right behind it. So the area of the
3 Argentine Naval Attache is -- runs from the
4 corner of the fire lane down to the front of the
5 building and over. Next slide. Opportunities
6 and challenges for site F on Indiana Avenue. The
7 opportunities for Indiana Avenue site and Indiana
8 Plaza are basically the same, but the challenges
9 are different. So I'll take the opportunities
10 together for both of them and then I'll separate
11 the challenges. It's within 0.03 square miles of
12 the cluster of five Texas Legation boarding
13 houses. But it's nearer the Texian Navy Plaque
14 at the Navy Heritage Center across the street.
15 At site F, there's -- it's near a Capital
16 Bikeshare, commuter bus stops, Metrobus stops,
17 major roads, parking with meters, parking
18 garages, and a Metro entrance. The National
19 Archives, museums, art galleries, and the
20 National Mall and restaurants are located within
21 a half mile. The site access is good. There's
22 some shade from the buildings and some trees.

1 Site F is available.

2 The challenges for site F on Indiana
3 Avenue is that it may encroach on the Argentine
4 Naval Attache as the planters are near a door.
5 Those planters may need a small amount of
6 landscaping. This site has some street noise
7 from 7th Street and Indiana Avenue. And the
8 smaller planter is damaged on the side facing the
9 fire lane. It may need some repairs. Next
10 slide. Okay. This is a view of the Indiana --
11 not the Avenue side -- but the plaza side. You
12 can see the Argentine Naval Attache is on the
13 left and the Apex Building which houses the
14 National Council of Negro Women, is on the right.
15 In the middle, there's two small pillars that if
16 we were to use this area, I think those kind of
17 pillars might be a good choice. But again, we're
18 open to all kinds of ideas. Next slide. Okay.
19 The challenges for site F on Indiana Plaza. It
20 may encroach on the Argentine Naval Attache, the
21 Colton atlas from 1855 shows a location of
22 several places near the National Mall where

1 slaves were auctioned and one auction site was on
2 Square 460, which is where the Apex Building is
3 located and houses the National Council of Negro
4 Women. There is a need to be mindful of placing
5 a memorial in this area that may encroach on part
6 of the African American Heritage Trail and the
7 National Council of Negro Women.

8 In conclusion, sites E and F are
9 within the cluster of five Texas diplomat
10 residential -- official residences. The Navy
11 Heritage Center houses a memorial plaque that the
12 Texian -- for the Texian Navy and commemorates
13 Memucan Hunt as one of the Republic of Texas's
14 secretaries of the Texian Navy. And he also was
15 one of the diplomatic ministers that came to
16 Washington during the time of the republic.

17 Candidate sites E and F have parking,
18 Metrobus, access to the Metro station, Bikeshare,
19 and access to many federal and district offices,
20 as well as museums and restaurants. Sites E and
21 F both meet eight out of nine criteria for the
22 memorial. Sites E and F on Indiana Avenue may be

1 the better choices than site F on Indiana Plaza
2 out of consideration for the National Council of
3 Negro Women, the African American Heritage Trail,
4 and the slave auction that existed at site F at
5 Indiana Plaza. Thank you.

6 CHAIR MAY: That concludes your
7 presentation?

8 MS. HOECK: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very
10 much. So do we have any questions for Ms. Hoeck
11 from the members of the Commission? Not seeing
12 any indication of questions. Mr. Wilson, do you
13 have any questions? Mr. Wilson is not here.
14 Okay. And let's see. Ms. Porter, do we have
15 anyone else who signed up to testify?

16 MS. PORTER: We do not.

17 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So then thank you
18 very much, Ms. Hoeck. We will now move to some
19 discussion of the site selection presentation.
20 Mr. Fox, you can let Ms. Hoeck leave the
21 presentation since we don't have any questions.
22 And I would look for anyone who wants to start us

1 off with discussions. I will say actually before
2 we get started, just that where we are at in this
3 process is that, you know, because we are not
4 looking at Area 1, this is really is about making
5 sure that there are some viable sites within the
6 shortlist with some constraints, right? I think
7 that there are challenges associated with each of
8 these, but given the modest proposal for what
9 this thing would actually be, what this memorial
10 would actually be, you know, there are ways I
11 think that it can be worked into, some very much
12 smaller scale kinds of sites. But again, it's a
13 matter of determining what's, you know, what
14 seems to be viable for advancing to Commission of
15 Fine Arts and the NCPA for their review. That's
16 really kind of a threshold question for us. So
17 Mr. Maloney, you had your hand up?

18 MEMBER MALONEY: Yes. Thank you. And
19 I will do my best mean of right and say I think
20 that site F is hands down the best site. And
21 here's why. It is very rare to find in
22 Washington any sense of what the city was like in

1 the 1830s and 1840s. But this site is one of
2 those rare exceptions. Because adjacent to site
3 F, there are a handful of buildings that actually
4 were in existence when the Texas Legation was in
5 existence. There's two or three buildings just
6 to the north of the site on Indiana Avenue that
7 are the oldest buildings, the oldest commercial
8 buildings in downtown. They're from the 1820s,
9 '20s and '30s I think. And also around this
10 time, there was a collection of buildings that
11 are later 19th century buildings. But
12 nonetheless, convey a consistent sense of what
13 the scale and character of the 19th century city
14 was like. There's the lovely iron railing,
15 Victorian iron railing in front of the Argentine
16 Naval Commission building. That gives you a
17 wonderful sense of the quality of streetscape
18 that might have been around in the 19th century.
19 The small (audio interference) on there, also
20 very small scale 19th century memorial. Very
21 much the character of the kind of streetscape I
22 think that the Texas memorial would shape very

1 well in.

2 And in contrast, this Site E is
3 dominated by 20th century buildings, massive in
4 scale. The scale of the National Archives, the
5 Navy Memorial Plaza, and the mark of square
6 buildings adjacent to it with the huge columns,
7 that, you know, give you a completely different
8 sense of the 20th century city that I think a
9 very small, delicate memorial like this would get
10 lost in. So that's why I would argue for site F
11 being clearly the most appropriate for the
12 monument.

13 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

14 MEMBER MALONEY: And also, by the way,
15 one minor comment that takes me back to a former
16 life, but on figure 54, I think there was a --
17 there's a diagram showing some elements in the
18 center of the street. In my former life, I was
19 involved in the creation of an easement on that
20 street, and I believe those -- the area of the
21 stone was repaired red arrows in the -- it's kind
22 of in the middle of the slide, pointing it to

1 bollards. I believe that's the easement. So I
2 stake that and the area outlined by -- you can
3 see little granite curbing in the street or
4 granite paving in the streets marking sort of a
5 center traffic lane. I believe that is easement
6 area, so probably would not be eligible for
7 placement of a memorial in that area.

8 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you. Other
9 comments? Mr. Luebke, you leaned forward. I'm
10 interpreting that as a desire to speak.

11 MEMBER LUEBKE: Not necessarily, but
12 I will say that I was very -- I found Mr.
13 Maloney's comments quite convincing. My one
14 observation about this, it's tricky. And hearing
15 in these other consultations you had already,
16 trying to find what is the appropriate typology
17 and setting for this. It's a memorial. And what
18 is that? So, you know, there have been the
19 discussions as modest as a plaque on a building
20 or it would -- looks to be an interpretive sign.
21 You know, I would, you know, if it's really --
22 it's somehow a memorial of inhabitants, maybe a

1 -- I tend to sort of think that means maybe
2 something that's freestanding. But, you know,
3 it's kind of up to the applicant.

4 But I will say that the Indiana Plaza,
5 while it's confusing because of the layering of
6 state names, does provide a pretty interesting
7 setting. There is of course this kind of
8 dissonant, you know, history and they're
9 celebrating the, you know, the question of this
10 short life to the public. This is the fact that
11 it was a slave market location. It's tricky. So
12 having said that, you know, I think it's
13 perfectly reasonable. I think other sites could
14 probably work as well, but I will say it's a
15 little strange -- I find it a little odd to do it
16 as a plaque on a building because it usually kind
17 of says, on this spot was X, and we don't really
18 have that situation here. So that's why I think
19 something a little bit more -- and it's somehow
20 free-standing, its own thing that can speak to a
21 broader context, would be more appropriate.
22 That's all I have. I don't -- I'm not strongly

1 in favor of and I could be persuaded obviously.

2 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very
3 much. I will note that I think one of the
4 reasons why we're even reviewing this is simply
5 because of the Commemorative Works Act. It's the
6 sort of thing that in any other city could be
7 marked with a marker or interpretive, you know,
8 something that's more interpretive in nature, but
9 because of the Commemorative Works Act, we really
10 can't do that here. So it does mean that we have
11 to review some things that are -- that don't fit
12 sort of the normal norm. But they did, you know,
13 my hat's off to the Daughters for their efforts
14 because, you know, they went through the trouble.
15 They looked at this and I think explored a lot of
16 different ways that they could incorporate this
17 piece of history into the Washington landscape,
18 and concluded that the only way to do it would be
19 with a marker that would trigger the
20 Commemorative Works Act and they went to the
21 effort of getting that legislation. So it's been
22 a studious effort on that part. I appreciate

1 that. Mr. Sherman?

2 MEMBER SHERMAN: I just want to
3 associate myself with comments of both Mr.
4 Maloney and Mr. Luebke. I think we would support
5 site F. And I do think being very sensitive to
6 the context of the prior slave market, as well as
7 the other African-Americans institutions in that
8 area is going to be a bit of a challenge in how
9 do you tell the story from a thematic standpoint
10 amongst those other symbolic facilities there.
11 But from a pure planning and thematic point of
12 view, site F seems to be the best.

13 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Mr.
14 McMahon, I don't want to go to you last every
15 time.

16 MR. MCMAHON: That's okay. I listen
17 to smart people talk about these things and I was
18 not sure which way, you know, this would go, but
19 Mr. Maloney and what the other members of
20 commission have gave me a lot of education on
21 this and I support site F. Thanks.

22 CHAIR MAY: Ms. Wright?

1 MEMBER WRIGHT: Mr. Maloney has his
2 hand-raised. I defer to him.

3 CHAIR MAY: I'm sorry.

4 MEMBER MALONEY: Go ahead of me. I
5 didn't mean to interrupt.

6 MEMBER WRIGHT: No. Well, I was just
7 going to say, you know, you've already made, you
8 know, Sherman Williams covered the globe
9 comments. All that's left is the design. I have
10 a really hard time conceiving of what this is
11 going to be, so I'll defer to what's already been
12 said. And if the logic is impeccable for the
13 location, I think the design is going to be a
14 challenge. Not necessary -- I mean, I hear what
15 Mr. Sherman is saying, but I think if it's not a
16 plaque, I'm not really -- I can't get my arms
17 around what a three dimensional thing looks like
18 for this. So I'll wait till the next time.

19 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

20 MEMBER MALONEY: What I was going to
21 say was that we can offer our services in --
22 considering your question of the history of the

1 slave market on this site. Again, it's a little
2 bit like the Georgetown situation. Exactly where
3 it was is something that I think deserves
4 research, and I think we would be happy to work
5 with the applicants to put them in touch with
6 appropriate materials in Washington and
7 Washington archival institutions where they could
8 maybe track this down a little bit more. I think
9 that story could be connected with either the
10 Center Market, which occupied all of Market
11 Square, or it could be associated with some
12 buildings sites a bit farther down the street
13 towards 6th Street. But nonetheless, I think we
14 can do more research on that. And the notion
15 also of placing it near Indiana Avenue, I think
16 also does make some sense. I think the
17 Argentines may be willing to entertain something
18 that might be placed within that landscaped area
19 within the iron fence. They were very tolerable
20 when we worked with them in the past. And also,
21 Indiana Avenue provides directly up to City Hall,
22 which is another building that would have been

1 built, not in its current form, but it would've
2 been standing again also in the 1830s and '40s.
3 So adds another sense of the context to the
4 buildings that were around at that time period.

5 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Well, thank you
6 very much. I am sure that Ms. Hoeck and her
7 colleagues will want to take you up on that
8 offer. I have always found them to be quite
9 thorough and thoughtful and ready to avail
10 themselves as I'm sure you'll explore these
11 resources more thoroughly. I will note that the,
12 you know, all of the areas that we've talked
13 about, it's that weird collection of sidewalks
14 and plazas that Park Services inherited from the
15 NCPC. And so, you know, we do control the
16 sidewalk in front of -- along Indiana Avenue
17 there. So yes, we certainly will be consulting
18 with the architectural buildings that were
19 affected by this as the process moves forward.
20 It is property in which, you know, the Park
21 Service has authority, so we'd be able to move
22 that. I'm not sure about the situation of the

1 easement between the buildings because there are
2 some different things happening there. Our
3 authority ends at a certain point, I just don't
4 remember exactly where but we would be looking at
5 that very thoroughly.

6 So it seems to me that the consensus
7 is that -- well, if there's -- while there's a
8 preference for the site F options, either site is
9 not completely off the table, but even in site F
10 there are possibilities. So what -- again, what
11 I'm hoping to get out of this is a reasonable
12 shortlist that we would be able to take to the
13 Commission of Fine Arts for the full commission
14 reviews there. And it sounds like we have that.
15 So unless there are further comments to add, I
16 think that we would simply want to summarize
17 these comments and share them with the memorial
18 sponsors and work with them as they prepare for
19 the next step in the process: commission reviews
20 as well as section 106 consultations and more
21 research that Mr. Maloney has assumed. Any other
22 further comments or thoughts on this before we

1 wrap it up? Okay. I am not seeing an indication
2 of anything. So thank you very much, Ms. Hoeck
3 and your team for your efforts. And we're ready
4 to move on to the last couple of items on the
5 agenda.

6 Everybody ready? This is the really
7 exciting part, the bylaw revision. So hopefully
8 everybody has gotten a chance to look at these
9 proposed amendments to the bylaws. The basic
10 gist of what we were dealing with is just to
11 codify what has been the practice over the last
12 many, many years with regard to commemorative
13 works that are approved through the District of
14 Columbia's commemorative works process, which
15 affects any sort of commemorative work within
16 public space under control of the district. That
17 has gotten a little bit more complicated because
18 for a variety of reasons. But most recently, the
19 district has begun to refer to us, commemorative
20 works that would be located in what's called
21 public parking, that front yard space that is
22 technically part of the street right-of-way but

1 is under the control or operation, management of
2 the individual property owners. So, you know, my
3 front yard, the first ten feet of it it's part of
4 public space.

5 So memorials in that space, the
6 district could not traditionally been forwarding
7 to us for review, but they have more recently.
8 And what we thought made sense was to draw a line
9 between memorial that are in a true public space
10 like a park or perhaps a sidewalk in front of a
11 public building versus those that are in the
12 private -- more private space that is the public
13 parking between the building facade and the
14 sidewalk typically. And basically empower the
15 chairman, me, to review those and determine what
16 actually would benefit from a full review by the
17 Commission. So we have in the past reviewed
18 numerous memorials that were in D.C. public space
19 like the Carter Woodson Memorial, Chuck Brown
20 Memorial, and even the Marion Barry Memorial,
21 which I think technically is in a front yard but
22 it's in a very public front yard. And those are

1 the sorts of things that we will continue to
2 bring to the full commission. Whereas some where
3 they are simply placed in the front yard in front
4 of the building that we would not do those. So
5 we're trying to codify that.

6 And also clarifying that our
7 notification, because we stopped doing federal
8 registry notices a long time ago because the
9 process really became onerous and we didn't think
10 it was very effective in reaching people who were
11 interested in working for this commission. So
12 that's essentially it. I'm happy to answer any
13 questions that commission members may have or
14 entertain a motion if you are ready to sign on
15 and move forward with the rest of your day. I'm
16 not seeing any indication of questions, comments,
17 debate. How about a motion to approve?

18 MEMBER SHERMAN: I make a motion that
19 we approve the amendments to the state-made by
20 laws to accommodate a district review of
21 commemorate works.

22 CHAIR MAY: We got a second?

1 MEMBER MALONEY: I second.

2 CHAIR MAY: Excellent.

3 MEMBER LUEBKE: Just a friendly
4 comment is that we occasionally get these as well
5 before the Commission and so we're glad to have
6 maybe another voice, you know, because it's
7 tricky sometimes.

8 CHAIR MAY: Yes. Yeah. And I mean,
9 I think we're happy to share the expertise that
10 this commission has with memorial applicants. I
11 do think that that's beneficial, but we also --
12 it gets complicated because the counsel won't
13 approve certain things until they've heard that
14 NCMAC has reviewed it, and that applies to these,
15 you know, minor sort of front yard memorials as
16 well. And we don't want to hang those up because
17 we only meet twice a year as a rule. So very
18 good. Thank you very much. I have a motion and
19 a second. All those in favor please signify by
20 raising your hand. I see all the hands up in one
21 way and another. Right. So, we are absent Mr.
22 Fountain and the ANC representative, but

1 otherwise unanimous once again.

2 All right. I will not provide --

3 MEMBER WRIGHT: You can get us to say
4 yes to anything now.

5 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. After four hours
6 and 43 minutes.

7 MEMBER WRIGHT: I can't sleep tonight
8 because you forced me to have coffee at 4:00 p.m.
9 I'm going to call you and wake you up.

10 CHAIR MAY: Feel free. Just know that
11 I don't keep the phone anywhere near me. Anyway,
12 I think I'll just save you on the memorials
13 update unless there are questions about anything.
14 You know, we did -- I believe this was provided
15 to you directly, if not, we will share it with
16 you but, you know, we typically run through
17 status of all the memorials that are in the
18 legislative process or the site selection process
19 or the design process just so you know where
20 things are.

21 I will note quickly two things. The
22 Liberty Memorial authority expired in September

1 and the sponsors for that told us that they are
2 seeking new legislation to renew that authority.
3 And the other thing is that we are right now in
4 the middle of the throes of the potential passage
5 of the global war on terror reserve act, don't
6 think I have the name exactly right. But they're
7 seeking an exception to the reserves so that they
8 can locate the memorial within the reserve. The
9 bill has already passed the House. We've had
10 some discussion with the senate about that and
11 the chair of our committee has so far objected to
12 its passage of consent. We will see what happens
13 in the end, but it does seem like it very well
14 could pass and there may be some tweaks to it
15 that would grant some flexibility and subject it
16 to the full site selection process, but we'll see
17 what happens on that. That's something that's
18 pending.

19 MEMBER WRIGHT: Would you send us sort
20 of a written run-down. I hate to make work for
21 you, but I'm going to ask anyway. Can you send
22 us sort of a written run-down of what you would

1 normally do, a status check on where we are in
2 the whole list?

3 CHAIR MAY: You mean a full list of
4 all the memorials and what's happening with them?
5 Is that what you're asking for?

6 MEMBER WRIGHT: Yeah. Kind of. Not
7 -- just a bullet point or two about where we are
8 because somebody asked me -- is it in my packet
9 and I missed it?

10 MS. PORTER: It's in the packet.
11 Yeah.

12 MEMBER WRIGHT: Okay.

13 CHAIR MAY: It should be in the
14 packet, if for some reason you don't have it, I'm
15 happy to provide it.

16 MEMBER WRIGHT: All right. I missed
17 it. Sorry. Thank you. Someone asked me the
18 other day about one of them and I thought, God.
19 I mean, I just lost track of it.

20 CHAIR MAY: Yeah. There's not a lot
21 of detail on that, we're happy to provide more
22 information if you need it. You can contact me

1 or Sophia Kelly to help with that.

2 MEMBER WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

3 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

4 MS. PORTER: I would just add, Peter's
5 -- this is Beth -- Peter's comments about global
6 war on terrorism memorial and what's happening
7 with that. That isn't really, you know,
8 reflected in that packet. So if anybody wants
9 more information to understand what's happening
10 there down there, you can certainly contact me.

11 CHAIR MAY: All right. So the last
12 thing I will mention, this is just a reminder,
13 which is that, you know, when we review
14 legislation regularly, sometimes that legislation
15 expires before it is passed by a different
16 congress and it gets reintroduced in the next
17 congress. And when that happens, as a matter of
18 course, the Commission sends out essentially the
19 same letter to the committees having jurisdiction
20 and the sponsors letting them know that this is
21 -- NCMAC, review this, and then somebody said,
22 well, we reviewed it two years ago. And that

1 goes, you know, House or Senate. If it's
2 essentially the same, we won't bring it back for
3 repeat in front of the Commission, we'll send
4 that letter once again in that circumstance.

5 So I have nothing else that I want to
6 mention. Anybody have anything else, any other
7 business? Just to keep this right here a little
8 bit longer.

9 No? Okay. Thank you very much. It's
10 been a pleasure. Thank you again to Dan Fox and
11 Fred Lindstrom for helping us out and supporting
12 us on using the Zoom. And of course to Mr.
13 Luebke for allowing us use of your Zoom license.
14 Hopefully next time the Park Service will be
15 completely Zoom-capable. We're trying.

16 MEMBER LUEBKE: We're happy to help.

17 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
19 went off the record at 5:19 p.m.)
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21
22

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In the matter of: National Capital Memorial
Advisory Commission Meeting

Before: U.S. NPS

Date: 10-05-21

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