

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

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TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 18, 2022

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The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
met via Videoconference, at 1:00 p.m. EST, Peter  
May, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

PETER MAY, Chairman, representing the Director  
of the National Park Service

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

MINA WRIGHT, representing the Administrator of  
the General Services Administration

PAUL McMAHON, representing the Secretary of  
Defense

EDWIN FOUNTAIN, representing the Chairman of  
the American Battle Monuments Commission

JOSEPH IMAMURA, representing the Architect of  
the Capitol

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

AGENDA 1 SPEAKERS - THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM  
MEMORIAL SITE ASSESSMENT PLAN  
JASON CROW, U.S. Representative  
ALAN HARWOOD, AECOM  
MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ, President & CEO, Global War  
on Terrorism Memorial Foundations  
MICHAEL WINSTANLEY, Winstanley Architects &  
Planners

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Adjourn

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

(1:01 p.m.)

CHAIR MAY: Good afternoon. Welcome to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

I want to thank the Commission of Fine Arts for hosting this meeting on their Zoom platform. And I also want to say a special thank you to Daniel Fox, CFA, who is helping us manage the meeting today. And of course, Secretary Luke Keiger is the co-host in case we need any help.

My name is Peter May. I'm here representing the Director of National Park Service at this meeting.

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, Mina Wright, representing the Administrator of the General Services

1 Administration, Paul McMahon, representing the  
2 Secretary of Defense, Edwin Fountain,  
3 representing the Chairman of the American Battle  
4 Monuments Commission, and Joseph Imamura,  
5 representing the Architect of the Capitol.

6 And representing the Advisory Council  
7 on Historic Preservation is Chris Wilson. Mr.  
8 Wilson participates with the Commission in a non-  
9 voting advisory capacity.

10 Finally, we are also joined by Sophie  
11 Kelly, the Memorial's Program Manager and Beth  
12 Porter, who is the Commission Secretary and  
13 Legislative Affairs Specialist for the National  
14 Park Service National Capital Legion.

15 So, a quick overview of today's  
16 business. We have a very short agenda today,  
17 just one item.

18 And as most of you know, the  
19 Commission was established by the Commemorative  
20 Works Act of 1986 and it is required by that Act  
21 to advise the Secretary of the Interior, the  
22 Administrator of General Services Administration,

1 and committees of Congress on the establishment  
2 of commemorative works in the District of  
3 Columbia and its environs, and to provide its  
4 views to the appropriate committees of Congress  
5 when the committees are considering legislation  
6 and to authorize legislation to authorize  
7 commemorative works within the District of  
8 Columbia and its environs.

9 The Act also requires sponsors of  
10 authorized memorials to consult with this  
11 Commission regarding site and design concept  
12 proposals.

13 Today, we have one major agenda item,  
14 the Global War on Terrorism Memorial site  
15 assessment. And we will provide an update on  
16 other memorials in progress.

17 All supporting materials for this  
18 meeting can be found on the Commission's website,  
19 that public facing meeting web page is  
20 parkplanning, one word,  
21 parkplanning.nps.gov/ncmac, N-C-M-A-C, October  
22 2022. And if you have any questions, I think we

1 typically put that link into a chat or something  
2 so that folks can access it.

3 If you are just joining us and seeing  
4 that information already.

5 If you are not scheduled to speak  
6 today but would like to make a comment on the  
7 site assessment, please contact Commission  
8 Secretary Beth Porter immediately on her cell  
9 phone, 703-346-2948, that's 703-346-2948.

10 Thank you.

11 So, we will move into agenda item  
12 number one. Let's see, on August 18, 2017, the  
13 Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act is enacted  
14 into law authorizing the establishment of a  
15 Global War on Terrorism Memorial in Washington,  
16 D.C.

17 On December 27, 2021, President Biden  
18 signed the Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
19 Location Act into law which authorized the  
20 establishment of the memorial within the reserve  
21 as defined by the Commemorative Works Act.

22 The -- furthermore, as an act of the

1 law requires that the memorial be located within  
2 the reserve. So, today's presentation will focus  
3 on the reserve sites.

4 Representatives of the memorial  
5 sponsor, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
6 Foundation are here to present their findings in  
7 the site selection process.

8 Before we begin, I will note that the  
9 Commission received letters of support for the  
10 memorial and the site assessments from the Four  
11 Country Caucus, a bipartisan group of Veteran  
12 members of Congress and from Senator Joni Ernst.  
13 Both letters are posted on the NCMAC meeting  
14 page.

15 And we received the presentation and  
16 his findings from Michael Rodriguez, President  
17 and CEO of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
18 Foundation. So, if we can make sure everyone has  
19 it brought up and the Commission members can all  
20 turn off their cameras so that we can focus on  
21 the presentation.

22 And hopefully, Mr. Rodriguez will soon



1 appear. I'm not seeing anybody yet. There we  
2 go.

3 Okay, Mr. Rodriguez, I understand you  
4 will introduce yourself and each of your  
5 colleagues, including Representative Crow. So,  
6 we're happy to hear from you now. And once  
7 you're done, we may ask some questions when we  
8 move into some discussion of the proposal.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.

10 Esteemed members of the National  
11 Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, my fellow  
12 Americans, my name is Michael Rodriguez. I'm the  
13 President and CEO of the Global War on Terrorism  
14 Memorial Foundation.

15 I am extremely proud to be here and  
16 looking forward to working with every single one  
17 of you.

18 Last December, the Foundation succeed  
19 in one of our most important missions to date,  
20 Congress passed the bipartisan Global War  
21 Terrorism War Memorial Placement Act which  
22 authorized the construction of our memorial

1 within the reserve.

2 We have overwhelming and bipartisan  
3 support from our legislative allies on The Hill  
4 both of whom and project say is here today to  
5 voice her support for this memorial and for your  
6 hard work and ensuring we adequately honor all  
7 those who have served our country during our  
8 nation's longest war.

9 Following my remarks, we will hear  
10 from our lead sponsor of the House of  
11 Representative, Congressman Jason Crow.

12 Never have we existed as a nation  
13 where parents who have served in combat are now  
14 watching their sons and daughters go off to fight  
15 the same enemies in the same war that they did.  
16 I can't image what it would have been like for my  
17 father watching me deploy to Vietnam to fight the  
18 Vietcong, any more than I can imagine what it  
19 would have been like for my grandfather to watch  
20 my father go off to fight the Nazis or serve in  
21 the Pacific.

22 However, that's our reality today.

1 It's my family's reality as well as that of tens  
2 of thousands of others. The hardest point for me  
3 was not one of my ten deployments during my 21  
4 years of service, but when I hugged my then 19-  
5 year-old son and watched him deploy to the  
6 Helmand Province of Afghanistan to perform a  
7 similar mission both his mother and I had done  
8 some years prior.

9 This memorial will honor all uniformed  
10 and non-uniformed personnel who have sacrificed  
11 and given so much to our nation over the past two  
12 decades and this incredibly complex multi-  
13 generational conflict that has profoundly changed  
14 our country.

15 We have a passionate Board of  
16 Directors and sponsors deeply invested in this  
17 process and ensuring this space is maintained  
18 long after dedication.

19 As an artist myself, I understand the  
20 power of the arts to heal, connect, and inspire  
21 us all. Art is the purest form of communication.

22 This memorial will be a space for

1 people to honor, heal, empower, and unite behind  
2 those who serve and continue to serve in the  
3 global on terrorism.

4 This memorial will be a piece of  
5 public art for all Americans and its visitors.  
6 Our goal of this memorial is not only to honor  
7 the sacrifice and heroism of all that have served  
8 since 9/11, but also to enhance the beauty of the  
9 reserve and its most sacred space in our nation's  
10 capital.

11 Thank you for your time today. I'll  
12 now pass it over to a fellow GWOT Veteran and  
13 brother in arms, Representative Jason Crow from  
14 the state of Colorado.

15 Jason?

16 REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Thank you,  
17 Michael, and thank you to members of the Advisory  
18 Commission. Thank you, Chairman Luebke, for the  
19 opportunity to speak to you all today.

20 It was really one of my honors as a  
21 Member of the House of Representatives to pass  
22 the bill last year authorizing the placement of

1 this memorial. This was the culmination of many  
2 years of work between the House and the Senate.

3 And, ultimately, there was an  
4 overwhelming bipartisan response in both bodies.  
5 So, we're 56 Senate co-sponsors, hundreds of  
6 Members of the House of Representatives as well  
7 from both sides of the aisle, overwhelmingly  
8 passed the bill authorizing the placement of this  
9 memorial.

10 Like many of you, listening and  
11 participating today, this is a personal issue to  
12 me. My life changed drastically over the last 20  
13 years of the global war on terror.

14 I first served as a paratrooper with  
15 the 82nd Airborne Division in the invasion of  
16 Iraq. And then, later, became an Army Ranger and  
17 served two combat tours in Afghanistan in 20014  
18 and again in 2005.

19 And like millions of Americans who  
20 either served directly or supported their loved  
21 one serving over the two decades of the global  
22 war on terror, our entire lives changed

1       drastically. And that's one of the real drivers  
2       behind this memorial, is recognizing this change  
3       in the course of American history and the lives  
4       of so many millions of our countrymen and  
5       countrywomen as well.

6               One of the things that we've learned  
7       as Veterans over the past few decades is the  
8       importance of the healing power of place, how  
9       having a place and a location to bring our family  
10      members, our sons, our daughters, our friends,  
11      and then, the family members of fallen comrades  
12      to a location where we can reflect, where we can  
13      recount memories, where we can say their name.

14             We've seen that with the Vietnam Wall.  
15      We've seen that with the World War II Monument.  
16      We've seen that with all of the incredible  
17      monuments and locations on our National Mall.

18             It's that, ultimately, that we  
19      endeavor to achieve, is to have a location for  
20      this next generation of Veterans and those who  
21      have sacrificed and given so much, that we can  
22      reflect on the nature of sacrifice. We can

1 reflect on the nature of this conflict. But even  
2 more importantly, reflect on our brothers and  
3 sisters who gave so much in that to be -- to help  
4 them.

5 I believe that the Foundation has done  
6 a remarkable job to that end doing a thorough,  
7 thoughtful, and professional analysis of site  
8 location. And I would encourage the Advisory  
9 Commission to look very hard and consider the  
10 Foundation's assessments for potential sites as a  
11 fitting tribute to our GWOT Veterans. And an  
12 appropriate place to do that reflection and that  
13 remembrance.

14 And I'd also encourage the Commission  
15 to do so with all haste as well. You know, the  
16 World War II Monument is an incredible monument  
17 to the service and sacrifice of the greatest  
18 generation, but taking 59 years to build. So,  
19 that's so many of those who actually served in  
20 that great war were not around to see that  
21 monument.

22 It's not something that we should do

1 again. It is important that we do this when we  
2 still have the Veterans around to bring their  
3 family members, to bring their sons and daughters  
4 and do that reflection themselves. And to do  
5 that healing before it's too late for too many of  
6 them.

7 So, that's my ask here today, that you  
8 take under serious consideration and advisement  
9 the thoughtful and professional analysis of the  
10 Foundation, which is many years in the making.  
11 And that you do so with great haste so we can get  
12 a shovel in the ground and get this memorial  
13 built so our Veterans can start bringing their  
14 loved ones and reflecting and remembering and  
15 healing.

16 So, thank you for the opportunity to  
17 address you all today and I appreciate your  
18 professionalism and your service to the country  
19 on this Commission.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Jason, for  
21 taking the time out of your incredibly busy  
22 schedule to share your thoughts. And, again,



1       thank you for your continued leadership.

2                   At this time --

3                   CHAIR MAY: Mr. Rodriguez, if I can  
4       interrupt here for just a second.

5                   MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

6                   CHAIR MAY: Understanding  
7       Representative Crow's schedule, and the fact that  
8       I don't know if you intend to stay for the  
9       entirety of this meeting, but if you -- if our  
10      Commission has any questions for you and you need  
11      to leave soon, I would want to give them that  
12      opportunity now.

13                  But again, it's up to you and your  
14      schedule.

15                  REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Yes, yes, yes,  
16      Chairman, I would be happy to stay around for a  
17      couple more minutes. I do have to go to another  
18      obligation.

19                  CHAIR MAY: Sure.

20                  REPRESENTATIVE CROW: But if there are  
21      any questions by the Commission, I'd be happy to  
22      take those now.

1 CHAIR MAY: All right, chances are,  
2 they are not, but it's our normal thing to give  
3 the Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions  
4 if your time allows.

5 So, with that, I would ask if any of  
6 the Commissioners have questions, to just turn on  
7 your camera and then we can call on you.

8 (No audible response.)

9 CHAIR MAY: Okay, turns out I think we  
10 do not have any questions, but I really do  
11 appreciate your taking the time out of your busy  
12 day to spend a few moments with us to share your  
13 views.

14 REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Yes, and thank  
15 you, Chairman May. And I apologize earlier for  
16 saying Chairman Luebke. I meant to say Chairman  
17 May, but I appreciate your service and time and  
18 the opportunity to address you all.

19 CHAIR MAY: You know, if there was  
20 actually -- a little bit funny because just  
21 before the meeting started, we were joking about  
22 the possibility that Tom Luebke could actually

1 take over as Chairman because he actually has  
2 controls over the Zoom platform that I don't.

3 REPRESENTATIVE CROW: I sensed that.

4 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: No, no, not  
5 today.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CROW: Yes, thank you  
7 very much.

8 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thanks again, Jason,  
10 I appreciate it.

11 All right, at this time, I will now  
12 turn it over to Mr. Michael Winstanley and Mr.  
13 Alan Harwood who will provide more details about  
14 how we plan to do this, about all the work that  
15 has gone in the site selection process thus far.

16 Michael, you're up.

17 MR. WINSTANLEY: Thank you.

18 Is someone bringing up our  
19 presentation? There we go. Okay.

20 Good afternoon, my name's Michael  
21 Winstanley. I'm the principle and founder of  
22 Winstanley Architects and Planners.

1                   We joined the GWOT, the Global War on  
2                   Terrorism Foundation about four years ago as the  
3                   Executive Architect to help shepherd this through  
4                   and we've been working with our partners, AECOM,  
5                   and Alan Harwood and his team throughout all of  
6                   this and we're pretty happy to be here to present  
7                   our findings and what we've done.

8                   Next slide?

9                   So, I'm going to start with a project  
10                  overview, really show you what we've accomplished  
11                  in the last four years.

12                 Then I'm going to get into how we  
13                  developed the program and what actually the  
14                  program is in terms of defining the memorial.

15                 And then, Alan will follow up with the  
16                  site selection criteria and some evaluations and  
17                  site analysis.

18                 Next slide?

19                 So, we started four years ago working  
20                  with Rod and his team, really trying to interview  
21                  and solicit ideas from the participants of the  
22                  global war on terrorism.

1                   And we spent a good year and a half  
2                   interviewing well over 200 people and really got  
3                   a lot of feelings and a lot of information from  
4                   them.

5                   And from those meetings and those  
6                   interviews, we developed a mission statement  
7                   which you've seen in this package and it  
8                   integrates all of the GWOT goals and aspirations  
9                   for the project. And so, all of that has been  
10                  done.

11                  Following that, we developed a  
12                  program, and in the program, developed these four  
13                  key tenants to guide the design of the memorial,  
14                  the location of the memorial. And those are to  
15                  honor, to heal, to empower, and to unite. And  
16                  those will be a common theme that you'll see as  
17                  we go through the program. And we've completed  
18                  all those tasks so far.

19                  We are in the process and we've gotten  
20                  pretty far along in terms of integrating the  
21                  historical context of the global war on terror.

22                  We've had four scholars who have

1 written pieces on it and I believe have been, in  
2 some of the information that has been sent to  
3 you, and we've created a contextual brief for the  
4 memorial so that we can explain it to people and  
5 people can understand it -- the memorial.

6 We've also developed a whole series of  
7 precedents. And the precedents were not only for  
8 our team but for the supporters of the memorial  
9 to understand what has been done in the past, how  
10 has it been done, where has it been done. Just  
11 so we had a real good sense of it.

12 And from these precedents we were able  
13 to develop the program and understand the  
14 topology of the memorial that we think should be  
15 located within the reserve.

16 The site selection process studies is  
17 what you're going to see today. And, as you  
18 know, they're in progress.

19 And then, last, we'll talk briefly  
20 about the designer selection process that the  
21 Foundation is intending to go through.

22 First, we believe that sites are

1 different enough that it warrants us waiting  
2 until the site is selected until we actually  
3 select the designer.

4 And a lot of work has been put in it  
5 prior to that in terms of methodologies and even  
6 a long list of names, the two group.

7 The Foundation has asked that we  
8 develop a five-person design advisory board which  
9 will help us do a review of potential candidates  
10 to be the designer. The selection will be a  
11 competitive selection, but it will base solely on  
12 qualifications with no drawings done prior to the  
13 selection of the designer.

14 And all of that is in process and the  
15 Board, at the end of the -- the GWOT Board will  
16 be the selection board entity that will actually  
17 select the designer when we're done.

18 Next slide?

19 Next slide?

20 So, the program as it relates in terms  
21 of like a functional program, as we said, was  
22 based on four tenants of honor, heal, empower,

1 and unite.

2 And in the honor tenant, obviously, we  
3 want to salute and celebrate all those who served  
4 in this conflict, which is a diverse group. And  
5 we've listed here the general categories, the  
6 people that we believe need to be honored here.

7 Healing is obviously an important  
8 component to this memorial. And what we heard  
9 over and over again in the interviews and the  
10 information that we got, interviewing Veterans  
11 and others, is that the connection to water or a  
12 water feature was hugely important to everybody  
13 in their belief that that's the best way for  
14 healing preferred.

15 Empowerment was really about  
16 education. And in this particular case, as we  
17 all know, that the global war on terrorism is a  
18 very complicated and complex war that involves  
19 lots of geopolitical and non-state advisories.

20 And all of that, we don't believe can  
21 be accomplished in terms of the interpretive  
22 explanation of all of this on the memorial



1       itself. And, therefore, one very important  
2       component to this is that there's going to be a  
3       very strong online access to a broad range of  
4       interpretative resources.

5               We're working with some technologists  
6       now to begin to block that out. We wanted to  
7       assure the Commission that all of the, say, heavy  
8       lifting of the interpretative discussion on the  
9       memorial will be done online and not at the site.

10              And last, is to unite. We want to  
11       create a series of small and large spaces in  
12       which gatherings can occur. And people can come  
13       together and unite.

14              Next slide?

15              So, the physical aspects of the  
16       program are listed here. And relative to area,  
17       we are proposing a point two-five quarter of an  
18       acre as the nucleus of the memorial. We are  
19       proposing an acre as a setting and we'll  
20       illustrate that a little bit further in the next  
21       slide.

22              In the height, we really want the

1 memorial to feel open and connective to the rest  
2 of The Mall and, therefore, manmade objects such  
3 as walls, we're proposing should not be higher  
4 than eye level. We'll illustrate that as well.

5 And yet, we believe that sculptural  
6 elements which are not monolithic in their form  
7 can be taller than human scale.

8 In terms of the context, obviously, we  
9 want to incorporate existing topography  
10 variations in sight lines and connect to other  
11 memorials on The Mall, making it a part of the  
12 story of The Mall.

13 And, again, preferences for sites that  
14 have physical relationships to the water and  
15 we'll show you how that transpires. Alan will  
16 walk you through all of that.

17 And then, last, on the environmental,  
18 obviously, there's a lot of issues to consider  
19 for us physically in terms of environmental  
20 aspects of the location. But I think most  
21 important from the Foundation's perspective is to  
22 contribute positively to the overall environment

1 of the context of the reserve, which they believe  
2 is critically important in terms of their  
3 participation -- their location within The Mall.

4 Next slide?

5 So, to just illustrate very quickly  
6 the scale issues. We talked about the nucleus of  
7 the memorial being point two-five acres, which is  
8 essentially a hundred feet across.

9 And then, the setting itself could be  
10 set within an acre. We're not proposing  
11 necessarily that the memorial is round, we're  
12 just using circles as a way to illustrate the  
13 areas.

14 Next slide?

15 And to show you how that relates to  
16 other memorials, while in your package that we  
17 sent you, we had more examples, I'm just  
18 including three here.

19 One which is very close to the side  
20 that we're proposing is the National Japanese  
21 American Memorial on D Street and New Jersey.  
22 And you can see that the memorial nucleus itself

1 is approximately point two-five acres and that  
2 the island that it sits in is approximately  
3 innate.

4 Next slide?

5 Comparing it to the Martin Luther King  
6 Memorial, you can see that the point two-five  
7 acres really only encompasses the statute itself,  
8 and yet, all of the other components of the  
9 memorial are quite larger. And this proposal is  
10 to be much smaller than MLK.

11 Next slide?

12 And last, is to show its relationship  
13 to World War II where our proposal of the point  
14 two-five acres is no bigger than the fountain  
15 only in this particular case, the setting itself  
16 is, again, greatly smaller than the World War II  
17 Memorial.

18 Next slide?

19 As it comes to heights of walls, as we  
20 discussed, you can see the graphic down below  
21 that we are proposing that walls would not be  
22 higher than five feet. And yet, still gives the

1 ability for interpretative displays and other  
2 devices to be used within the design of the  
3 memorial.

4 Next slide?

5 And then, objects, while they're not  
6 monolithic, you can see here examples of objects  
7 such as the Einstein Memorial or the Native  
8 American Veterans Memorial and the Japanese  
9 American Memorial where objects or obelisks are  
10 places within the memorial where we're proposing  
11 that these can be over five feet and larger than  
12 human scale to accomplish the goals of whatever  
13 it is that the designer decides to express.

14 Next slide?

15 We talked about context and site  
16 lines. You know, there are obviously clear site  
17 lines throughout The Mall. And three very clear  
18 examples of sight lines and connections from  
19 memorials to other memorials really establishing  
20 the relationships of these.

21 And the diagram down below, just the  
22 most obvious on The Mall is the axial locations

1 of the monument and the White House and the  
2 memorials, et cetera.

3 Next slide?

4 And in context, you know, we have the  
5 nucleus and point two-five and the setting as an  
6 acre, but we do believe that, you know, it needs  
7 to be buffered and landscaped.

8 And you can see here that our thinking  
9 is that trees, berms, and under story plantings  
10 similar to that that exists on the three examples  
11 here on the slides.

12 Next slide?

13 Alan?

14 MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, Michael.

15 So, the site selection process that we  
16 undertook was extensive and highly iterative.

17 In the interest of time, we'll try to  
18 simplify the evolution of the process, the  
19 evaluation criteria, the successive rounds of  
20 analysis and elimination, and the possibilities  
21 that offered by the favored sites.

22 Next slide, please?

1                   So, just quickly, the stated -- as  
2                   stated in the authorized legislation, the global  
3                   war on terrorism shall be located in the reserve.  
4                   The law is clear.

5                   Next slide, please?

6                   So, the most important criteria, I  
7                   won't go through all of them, but the most  
8                   important one is the location in the reserve, but  
9                   also, the availability of the sites, that there  
10                  isn't a competing use.

11                  And then, the third one, the thematic  
12                  nexus which is achieved primarily through  
13                  relationships with other memorials.

14                  Next slide, please?

15                  So -- and next slide is fine.

16                  We identified eight clusters of sites  
17                  and inside and outside the reserve. These are  
18                  the total of 35 locations.

19                  And looking outside the reserve helped  
20                  us reveal potential thematic connections and also  
21                  clarify the relationship between prominence and  
22                  scale. And that the most prominent sites are the

1 ones that require the most compact memorial and  
2 vice versa, the most remote sites have -- have  
3 the grandest kind of memorial.

4 Next slide, please?

5 Consistent with the congressional  
6 mandate, we eliminated the 19 sites that are  
7 located outside the reserve.

8 Next slide, please?

9 Which left us with 16 locations inside  
10 the reserve.

11 Next slide, please?

12 So, for the second round -- go ahead  
13 and next slide, please?

14 We applied the evaluation criteria to  
15 the 16 remaining sites within the reserve. And  
16 the evaluation of the sites was -- a number of  
17 these sites were eliminated primarily due to the  
18 availability, the construction of the D.C. water  
19 facilities, or because it was simply too far from  
20 The Mall center of gravity.

21 So, we -- next slide, please?

22 So, we --



1                   COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:    Alan, Alan,  
2                   this is Mina.   Could you go back?   This is like  
3                   the Evelyn Wood School of Memorial Site Selection  
4                   and I can't -- I'm not as fast as you are.

5                   Can you go back two slides?

6                   MR. HARWOOD:    Sure.

7                   COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Just for a  
8                   second?   No, yes, I just want a minute to look at  
9                   this.

10                  MR. HARWOOD:    Okay, sorry.   And these  
11                  were in your materials in advance, but sure.  
12                  We're trying to get you the fun stuff.   I know,  
13                  Mina, you like the real design related things  
14                  that we're going to get to.

15                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Well, I know.  
16                  But I mean I'm still -- I'm sorry to interrupt  
17                  you, but I don't understand how it is that we get  
18                  these laws that come and say, it shall be in the  
19                  reserve which directly contradict Congress's own  
20                  declaration of the reserve being sacrosanct.

21                  I -- can you just address this for a  
22                  second so that -- for those of us who don't

1 understand it get some clarity.

2 CHAIR MAY: Well, actually, maybe I  
3 should handle that one.

4 MR. HARWOOD: Yes, I was going to  
5 suggest that.

6 CHAIR MAY: Yes.

7 So, you know, the Congress established  
8 the reserve. The Congress can grant exceptions  
9 to it. And they have done exceptions in the  
10 past.

11 This is unusual because it is the  
12 first time the Congress decided that an entirely  
13 new memorial should be within the reserve.

14 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: That's why I'm  
15 asking, yes.

16 CHAIR MAY: In the past, they did  
17 grant an exception.

18 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes.

19 CHAIR MAY: For like the Bob Dole  
20 plaque, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of  
21 Remembrance, the FDR plaque at World War II --

22 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right.

1 CHAIR MAY: -- those are all  
2 exceptions.

3 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Got it.

4 CHAIR MAY: So --

5 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: But those aren't  
6 -- yes, those are more -- that's why I'm asking  
7 because I wanted to -- I know that we've done it  
8 before as addenda, but not like this.

9 So --

10 CHAIR MAY: Right. Yes, this was an  
11 unusual circumstance and it was quite a  
12 contentious matter. And I won't mention any of  
13 that.

14 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay.

15 CHAIR MAY: But Congress has done what  
16 it is -- done and so, we follow their direction.

17 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, okay. Just  
18 checking to make sure with the program here.

19 Okay, Alan, could you just -- could,  
20 you know, some of us are not as skilled with vim  
21 and verve as you are. So, take it easy on us.

22 MR. HARWOOD: Okay, sure.

1 CHAIR MAY: It's all right, I'm going  
2 to take the blame for that, too, because I told  
3 them to keep it brisk.

4 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Well, okay, but  
5 we only have one thing. We do have some time.

6 Okay, sorry.

7 MR. HARWOOD: Right, well, so, I think  
8 it was important that we did look outside the  
9 reserve just for context, just for potential  
10 connections.

11 But these are the 16 locations within  
12 the reserve that we really kind of took a look at  
13 and that we applied the criteria, the evaluation  
14 criteria against.

15 And when we did that, we eliminated  
16 about ten of them right off the bat. And that's  
17 what kind of the matrix that we show a little bit  
18 later kind reflects.

19 We gave each one a score, a soccer  
20 score, by criteria. And you have three points if  
21 you were fully providing that criteria. And you  
22 got one point if you only partially. And you got

1 no points if you did not.

2 So, by adding those up, we ended up  
3 with -- if you go to the next slide, please?

4 We ended up eliminating a number of  
5 the sites. And, in fact, also combined one of  
6 the sites. B and C were seen as a little too  
7 close and not quite right, either, so they became  
8 a single -- about in the middle of those two.

9 But these sites that are X'd out, they  
10 were eliminated mostly because they either  
11 weren't available or because there was a little  
12 too far for the one down on Ohio Drive, the  
13 farthest one, a little too far from the center of  
14 gravity from The Mall.

15 So, that's really kind of where we  
16 ended up with -- if we go to the next slide --  
17 these are the five sites that kind of got the in  
18 depth analysis, the round two analysis. And  
19 that's what's included in your book, your read  
20 ahead book.

21 In the interest of time today, we've  
22 kind of mashed that in with the round three so

1       that we're not redundant about that.

2               But these five, we kind of took a  
3 closer look at. And after that close look, we  
4 actually -- if you go to the next slide, please?

5               We eliminated two of them, one up in  
6 the northwest there to avoid confusion with the  
7 future adjacent Desert Storm Memorial. The  
8 global war on terrorism is confused with Desert  
9 Storm quite a bit so we didn't want to do that  
10 with this site.

11              And then, the site in the upper right  
12 corner is part of the President's Park. And that  
13 has some operational concerns. When there's a  
14 presidential movement that parcel is not  
15 accessible. The entire President's Park is  
16 closed.

17              So, because of those operational  
18 constraints, that one was eliminated.

19              So, what we ended up with was -- if  
20 you go to the next slide, please?

21              This is where we get to the fun stuff  
22 and this is where I was intending to slow down

1       anyway.  Sorry, Mina.

2               So, this round, this third round, we  
3       looked at these three locations.  These are  
4       looking at context, and potential opportunities.  
5       Essentially, we looked at how a memorial might  
6       work at one of these sites.

7               And this based on our experience with  
8       memorials as well as scholarly input from the  
9       historians, and a number of work specialists with  
10      the Park Service staff.

11              And again, to avoid redundancy, some  
12      of the round two analysis and the round three  
13      analysis kind of mashed together just for kind of  
14      convenience here.

15              But these three sites, these three  
16      favored sites, Constitution Garden's in the tidal  
17      basin -- they're all terrific locations.  And  
18      they're all situated on a body of water.  That  
19      wasn't initially intentional, that's what kind of  
20      came out it.  But it was mostly because water is  
21      so important.

22              And the reason the water is part of it

1 because it has so many great qualities. You've  
2 heard it can heal, but it also can be soothing  
3 and it can serve as a symbol of the vastness  
4 that's associated with global war on terrorism.  
5 And that's both in terms of the spatial and  
6 temporal aspects of this.

7 But it's a global effort and it has  
8 been called the Forever War. So, water becomes  
9 very important.

10 If we can go to the next slide,  
11 please?

12 So, just this third round of criteria  
13 really is graphically based. And if you look at  
14 the contextual analysis on the left column, we  
15 compared scales. We recognized existing  
16 memorials. We identified potential thematic and  
17 visual connections.

18 We looked at site specific existing  
19 conditions and potential approaches, pedestrian  
20 pathways and potential constraints.

21 But relative to the site studies as  
22 shown in the right hand column, we also looked at



1       ways that the memorial -- the sites can be  
2       developed for a memorial, that's included in the  
3       nucleus about to make it 10,000 square feet,  
4       about a quarter of an acre.

5               And you'll see it changes, depending  
6       on the sites.

7               A site setting that's in light purple  
8       and then the surrounding kind of buffer area  
9       that's not part of the site, but is an area where  
10      maybe there's some context sense of prepared and  
11      re-vegetation may occur.

12              So, we will look at the these sites in  
13      order of scale from small to the largest.

14              Next slide, please?

15              So, Constitution Gardens, that site is  
16      situated in a quiet area next to the pond. It's  
17      got a mix of lawn and trees. That's a feel of an  
18      urban oasis.

19              Next slide, please?

20              So, the sites area -- this site was  
21      included in the memorial's museum's national  
22      planner, it was Site Number 10. This is one of

1 the prime sites because it's a wonderful, bucolic  
2 settings. And because it has views of the  
3 Washington Monument.

4 Next, please?

5 So, in a broader context, this site  
6 is just south of Constitution Avenue near 20th  
7 Street and it's east of the Vietnam Veteran's  
8 Memorial. But it's outside of the important view  
9 corridor -- the usable corridor to the Washington  
10 Monument, that very strong, diagonal line.

11 That's a very intentional line from  
12 Vietnam to the Washington Monument. So, we're  
13 staying outside of that.

14 And just note that -- and you'll see  
15 on these some of the flood plain that -- we  
16 didn't try to cover the entire map with the flood  
17 plain map, but just the area -- the portion of  
18 the map that borders the site.

19 Next slide, please?

20 So, we take a closer look at that same  
21 image, but with a little bit more detail. You  
22 can see the core and the nucleus and its setting

1 half kind of three primary directions of  
2 approach.

3 And what is really interesting also is  
4 that the global war terrorism has an historically  
5 high level of participation by female service  
6 members. And so, the site relates really well to  
7 the Vietnam Women's Memorial to the west.

8 And it's also in proximity to the  
9 Signer's Memorial which you can see in the island  
10 in the upper right corner. And that's important  
11 because there were constitutional questions  
12 raised by the initial response to 9/11 that  
13 became the global war on terrorism. And that's  
14 individual liberties versus collective security  
15 debates.

16 The memorial site here is also -- it's  
17 located away from the east/west levy as you can  
18 see there in the red dots. The centerline was  
19 just a little bit closer to the Reflecting Pool,  
20 but we wanted to stay away from that levy. So,  
21 our friends at the Park Service made sure we did.

22 But the Park Service is about to

1 undertake a master plan for the Constitution  
2 Gardens. And so, this memorial could be  
3 coordinated with that and be part of that effort.

4 Next slide, please?

5 So, looking at the -- so, the  
6 potential ways that the sites could be developed,  
7 we just kind of studied the possibilities. We  
8 wanted to -- really, these are not designs, these  
9 are studies. And we just wanted to provide a  
10 sense of scale and illustrate how it could work.

11 And for this location, we're  
12 suggesting the that nucleus can be off kind of  
13 the edge of the trees and surrounding by  
14 additional plantings.

15 And it relates to the water and it has  
16 views of the Signer's Memorial and the Vietnam  
17 Veteran's -- the Vietnam Women's Memorial, this  
18 statue.

19 And we can also suggest some new  
20 pathways to kind of strengthen the approach  
21 directions. And there's a food kiosk there at  
22 the very junction of those pathways to the north.

1 They'll be relocated further north to kind of  
2 enhance the foot entry to the memorial.

3 Next slide, please?

4 For each of these, there are two ways  
5 of doing this. And this is one -- the second one  
6 of each is the way that's kind of more directly  
7 engaged with the water.

8 And in this situation, the nucleus  
9 we've moved further north and kind of focused on  
10 the pond. And the location would have an even  
11 stronger location -- stronger connection to the  
12 Vietnam Women's Memorial and the Washington  
13 Monument. Because when you get a little bit  
14 further like this, you can actually see the  
15 Washington Monument beyond the trees.

16 This memorial would also contribute to  
17 the improvement of the Constitution Gardens'  
18 shoreline. It'll be right adjacent to that  
19 shoreline.

20 And the food kiosk and the restroom  
21 would be relocated to the west in this particular  
22 scheme.

1                   Next slide, please?

2                   So, the Tidal Basin site, that  
3 includes trees, lawn, and also a surfaced parking  
4 lot. And this is kind of the operational center  
5 for the Cherry Blossom Festive.

6                   But it also feels a little bit  
7 incomplete. It seems like a remnant from another  
8 more car-centric era.

9                   Next slide, please?

10                  This site is really interesting. It's  
11 in the northeast portion of the Tidal Basin.  
12 It's kind of triangulated from the Jefferson  
13 Memorial to the south and the Martin Luther King  
14 Memorial to the west.

15                  It has distant views of the Air Force  
16 Memorial and filtered views of the Pentagon as  
17 well as some views through the trees of the  
18 Washington Monument and even the World War II  
19 Memorial. It's kind of -- it's not a very strong  
20 connection, but you can see some of the columns  
21 there.

22                  Let's zoom in a little bit closer on

1 the next slide, please?

2 So, looking at this location, the  
3 memorial would be outside the protected view  
4 corridor that extends from the White House to the  
5 Jefferson Memorial.

6 And it may displace the surface  
7 parking which might be a good thing because  
8 surface parking is not the best use of waterfront  
9 land.

10 And the site currently has two primary  
11 points of approach and the Park Service is about  
12 to undertake some improvements of the Tidal Basin  
13 as well. And so, we'd have to coordinate with  
14 that effort as well.

15 Next slide, please?

16 So, this is kind of a really kind of  
17 interesting kind of take on this location. And  
18 we're suggesting that maybe the memorial gets a  
19 little bit closer to the edge of the water and  
20 kind of -- near a protruding portion of the Tidal  
21 Basin, but not quite at the point because that  
22 would be in the view corridor from Jefferson to

1 the White House.

2 But you can see that there could be a  
3 kind of a directionality to this site and really  
4 kind of guiding the site toward the Air Force  
5 Memorial and the Pentagon. And you can see the  
6 Air Force Memorial very, very readily and the  
7 Pentagon right in front of it and you can only  
8 see that in the winter.

9 But we're essentially saying that the  
10 memorial could be positioned on the current  
11 parking lot and that the parking could be  
12 relocated to a less prominent position and be  
13 among trees, maybe shaded by vegetation so it's  
14 not quite waterfront.

15 And this new parking would provide a  
16 third host direction. And then, we're suggesting  
17 some repairs to the parking lot and some other  
18 buffers. We kind of provide some visual  
19 separation to the paddle boat dock that's -- the  
20 concessions that's just to the east there.

21 And we're also kind of providing a  
22 view as you walk around the Tidal Basin. Must



1     like Martin Luther King, you can see it from a  
2     distance, but then when you're walking toward it,  
3     you really don't see it until you're on it and  
4     there's a nice reveal that happens.

5                 We looked at another -- if you go to  
6     the next slide, please?

7                 We looked at another option where  
8     maybe we could put the memorial to the west of  
9     that view corridor. And this is probably the  
10    smallest site in terms of scale. It has to be  
11    really tight to fit in here.

12                But we thought, well, the compact  
13    site, it could actually be right up -- the  
14    nucleus could be right up on the water's edge.

15                And it's a chance to really kind of  
16    take advantage of the prominent location, but  
17    also to really kind of fully engage with the  
18    water. And then, maybe even have a walkway that  
19    extends out over the water that gives it a little  
20    bit more of an institutional or, excuse me,  
21    international kind of feel.

22                But that's not necessarily part of the

1 memorial, but we thought it'd be a nice way to  
2 kind of let people see the historic seawall as  
3 well as the memorial from a different vantage  
4 point.

5 Go to the next slide, please?

6 So, the third site is the largest in  
7 terms of scale on the Potomac River. It's a very  
8 open lawn with some trees. Very kind of real  
9 great potential. It feels like it has the  
10 opportunity to make a grand statement here.

11 It's got the real vastness of the  
12 Potomac River.

13 And if you go to the next slide,  
14 please?

15 It also is identified as a site in the  
16 master plan and it is Site Number 70 because of  
17 its Mall proximate location and its expansive  
18 waterfront views.

19 Next slide, please?

20 But in broad context, this is really  
21 kind of -- this takes advantage of some of the  
22 things that we saw when we were looking beyond

1 the reserve. And that's direct relationship to  
2 the Air Force Memorial and the Pentagon in front  
3 of it.

4 But also, to Arlington Cemetery and  
5 the Arlington House as well as nice views of  
6 Arlington Memorial Bridge. It's really got some  
7 interesting kind of visual connections.

8 And you can see the Lincoln Memorial  
9 from this location which is more of a visual  
10 connection than a thematic connection but still,  
11 very important kind of connections.

12 So, if we zoom in a little bit closer,  
13 what you can see is that the site really kind of  
14 is centered on these three roadways, West Basin  
15 Drive and Ohio Drive. It could really be kind of  
16 a nice location that gives it three major  
17 approach directions.

18 And it's also -- it's close to the  
19 water taxi stop. And so, it gives an even more  
20 accessibility.

21 The Park Service is also undertaking  
22 improvements to this part of the seawall and so

1 we would have to coordinate with that.

2 So, the next slide, please?

3 So, in this location, in this -- we're  
4 suggesting that maybe because of the narrow  
5 dimensions from the -- between the roadway and  
6 the water, that maybe the bending of Ohio Drive  
7 inward away from the river would kind of really  
8 give -- increase the promise of this site and  
9 give say a little bit more breathing room.

10 So, it could be really centered on  
11 those three locations to give it some visibility  
12 on a three view -- three visual axes that  
13 really kind of create a quadrangle to the  
14 location.

15 And so, you know, the direct views to  
16 the Arlington Cemetery and Air Force Memorial can  
17 be framed by the memorial components.

18 And so, we're just suggesting that  
19 maybe there's some practical elements that could  
20 help with this framing inside the memorial site  
21 and that those green blobs are really kind of  
22 vegetative buffers that really, you know, allow

1 views, but really don't show on the axes but  
2 shelter kind of noise and maximum roadway traffic  
3 or parking areas.

4 And the tan forms that kind of are on  
5 the outer edge, those are -- we're suggesting  
6 that those could be noise buffers, maybe acoustic  
7 screens or decorative canopies that could help  
8 define the site and help protect against sound  
9 intrusion and provide some intimate areas of  
10 solitude or also further guide views to these  
11 different connections across the river.

12 And the last thing that I think we're  
13 suggesting is the water taxi lane could be  
14 relocated to a nearby position and expanded  
15 because we think that's, you know, the -- one of  
16 the key features of The Mall.

17 So, we'll go to the next slide,  
18 please?

19 So, this is a slide that varies to  
20 that where maybe the -- where the memorial kind  
21 of extends out closer to the water and maybe,  
22 even out over the water and on the waterfront.

1                   In this case, the, if you notice the  
2                   pathway along the river actually goes out around  
3                   the memorial. But very similar kind of situation  
4                   but just a different kind of configuration.

5                   And these rings, these could be  
6                   elevated or, you know, kind of elevated pieces of  
7                   noise restraint or something that helps define  
8                   the site a little bit more and reinforce that  
9                   form of the nucleus.

10                  So, those are the -- go to the next  
11                  slide, please?

12                  So, those are the kind of studies of  
13                  the three sites. You know, there's two, and you  
14                  see The Mall across here that the A sites are  
15                  across the top and the B sites are along the  
16                  bottom.

17                  You can see then they move from scale  
18                  from particularly the A studies, 8,00- square  
19                  feet for the Constitution Gardens, 9.00 square  
20                  foot nucleus for the Tidal Basin, and about  
21                  10,000 square feet for along the Potomac River.

22                  These are just estimates and just kind

1 of relative scales to what fits the best. These  
2 are round numbers intentionally because it's not  
3 specific.

4 But the B studies are all a little bit  
5 smaller than that. But except particularly the  
6 Tidal Basin B is much smaller because of its kind  
7 of tight location there.

8 And, like I said, these are all  
9 wonderful opportunities. You have the quiet and  
10 intimate Constitution Gardens, the picturesque  
11 and popular Tidal Basin. You have the prominent  
12 multi-modal Potomac River.

13 But none of the sites are perfect.  
14 They all have some minor issues. They all have  
15 things that need to be relocated, whether that's  
16 restrooms or parking or a roadway.

17 And all of them are undergoing  
18 changes. They're all part of things that are  
19 happening, so they can be kind of part of that.

20 And the Foundation is committed to  
21 being a good neighbor and committed to  
22 contributing to these context sense of

1 improvements.

2 And so, these are -- I think we'll  
3 leave it at this kind of page. And on behalf of  
4 Rod and Michael, we're ready to answer your  
5 questions.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much.

8 So, at this point, I would ask the  
9 members of the Commission if they have any  
10 particular questions that they would like to ask  
11 about the presentation before we get into a  
12 discussion of the merits of these particular site  
13 options.

14 Yes, so, I see Mr. Luebke has turned  
15 his camera on, so, questions from you.

16 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I had a talk  
17 and I think Mike Sherman had his hand up first.

18 CHAIR MAY: Oh, I'm sorry, yes, okay.

19 Mr. Sherman?

20 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Good afternoon  
21 and thank you, Mr. Winstanley and Mr. Harwood for  
22 your presentation.



1 I just had a question about how much  
2 weight did the flood plain factor into your  
3 criteria given that two of the sites are in the  
4 100-year flood plain? And if you could talk  
5 about that a bit?

6 CHAIR MAY: Alan?

7 MR. WINSTANLEY: Actually, all of the  
8 sites are partially or fully within the flood  
9 plain. And that is a challenge, that is  
10 something that the sites will have to be designed  
11 to be resilient to any flood events.

12 They will not likely, you know, the  
13 scale of a memorial won't affect the flood plain  
14 itself, but the flood plain could have an effect  
15 on the memorial design. And so, that's something  
16 that has to be taken into account. And we're  
17 conscious of that.

18 It is part of the -- it's the other  
19 flip side of the coin to be on the water which is  
20 very, very important for the healing and soothing  
21 purposes. But also for the message of openness.

22 So, it was part of the criteria, but

1       it wasn't an eliminating factor.

2                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN:   Okay, thank you  
3       for that.

4                   CHAIR MAY:   Is that it, Mr. Sherman?  
5       Okay.

6                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN:   Yes, I have  
7       some comments later, but I think that's it for my  
8       initial questions.

9                   CHAIR MAY:   Mr. Luebke?

10                  COMMISSIONER LUEBKE:   Yes, this is a  
11       really fascinating problem to try to solve.   Like  
12       where do you -- where does thing suitably go?

13                  And I wonder if anybody who's touching  
14       this process from who hasn't been used to it, or  
15       people who've been on it for a long time or  
16       anything in between, please understand, we are --  
17       we do this because we really care about it.

18                  And we try to bring our best judgment  
19       and it always raises really interesting issues  
20       and it changes our generations.

21                  We had the comment that the World War  
22       II Memorial took something, I can't remember what

1 the number was given, 60 years or something, to  
2 come about.

3 But the other part of that story is  
4 that there were no such things as national war  
5 memorials in Washington, D.C. until the '80s.  
6 So, it's a kind of -- and we weren't there.

7 So, anyway, it's always a changing  
8 lens.

9 But my question -- and this maybe just  
10 for Peter May, I recall when this thing came  
11 through for authorization that there was some  
12 question about its suitability within the  
13 Commemorative Works Act and the idea that this is  
14 some would criticize it as a metaphorical war,  
15 i.e., not one that follows conventional  
16 definitions of an identifiable enemy and a  
17 military solution, et cetera, et cetera,  
18 location.

19 And also, duration, which is  
20 undefined. And if you could --

21 So, my couple questions are, how is --  
22 how will the resolution of that kind of

1 definition of a memorial within this frame work  
2 that we are working?

3 And number two, understanding -- what  
4 I'm trying to understand is, this will get to my  
5 comments later, does it broadly include other  
6 military -- I say other, associated military  
7 conflicts which occurred simultaneously or later  
8 or during --

9 I'm not sure exactly how to  
10 conceptualize this, but I'm talking about  
11 Afghanistan. I'm talking about Iraq. I'm  
12 talking about the Horn of Africa. Other areas  
13 where there's -- there are actually military  
14 things.

15 Do we expect other memorials  
16 independent of this one to come forward? Can you  
17 just give us a little bit of context for that  
18 background so we know to evaluate this particular  
19 proposal?

20 CHAIR MAY: Right. So, this memorial  
21 has been an exceptional circumstance from the  
22 very start. And so, it's been a long time, but

1       when we considered whether or not there should be  
2       a memorial, the issue of it never really ending  
3       was something that we took into consideration at  
4       this Commission.

5               And our response, our advice to the  
6       congressional committees was that we recognize  
7       the importance of the conflict and we are of the  
8       -- or sorry, of the war on terror, and noted that  
9       it was -- it technically conflicted with the  
10      Commemorative Works Act, which required a ten-  
11      year separation from the end of a conflict to its  
12      commemoration.

13              But we, you know, we basically  
14      recognized that this is a different circumstance.  
15      And so, maybe it should be considered  
16      differently.

17              And the Congress, when they did vote  
18      to approve it, accepted -- I think explicitly  
19      noted that it was an exception to the -- that  
20      provision of the Act.

21              So, that was done knowingly by the  
22      Congress this is a different thing.

1                   As for other conflicts, I, you know,  
2                   I want to think that this is the memorial that  
3                   would commemorate and help folks remember all of  
4                   the conflicts that you explicitly mentioned.  
5                   And, God forbid, potentially anything that comes  
6                   new in the future.

7                   But I, you know, realistically  
8                   speaking, I don't know that that will be the  
9                   case. I think that it's quite possible that  
10                  there will be, at some future time after the end  
11                  of the war in Afghanistan, that there will be  
12                  folks who want to have something that's  
13                  explicitly about Afghanistan.

14                  And I mean, I think that is to some  
15                  extent a consideration here because if there is  
16                  going to be something more that it would make  
17                  sense that there be, you know, space to do more  
18                  than just one. Right? To tie them together, to  
19                  create a -- or to allow for future nexus.

20                  However, the reserve siting makes that  
21                  really problematic. I'm very concerned that, you  
22                  know, if we were to site in any one of these

1 locations, that there is really no opportunity  
2 to, you know, add on information about or  
3 additional commemoration -- commemorative pieces  
4 that focus on these other specific conflicts.

5 And I think that's one of the things  
6 that we should talk about when we get to our  
7 deliberation because I think, you know, maybe one  
8 out of the three sites might lend itself to some  
9 -- to that sort of approach and the other two I  
10 think really don't. But we can talk about that  
11 more later.

12 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: And just to --  
13 I'm afraid my memory is not as sharp as it could  
14 be, there have -- have we or have we not even  
15 seen any other proposals for -- Just of the  
16 should it exist or not variety on anything since?

17 Is this the latest of those Middle  
18 Eastern current --

19 CHAIR MAY: Yes, there --

20 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: -- 21st century  
21 conflicts? Is this the first one? Has there  
22 been any --

1 CHAIR MAY: We've not seen any  
2 legislative proposals for a memorial for the war  
3 in Iraq, for example.

4 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Yet.

5 CHAIR MAY: We haven't gotten -- not  
6 yet.

7 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Thank you,  
8 that's -- thank you.

9 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Chairman May, if I may  
11 offer a couple comments that may be helpful?

12 CHAIR MAY: Sure, please.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Tom, thanks for  
14 bringing that forward.

15 You know, the question you just posed  
16 to me is the question I get quite a lot. Right?  
17 It's really it's always been the Foundation's  
18 enduring mission to be as inclusive as possible.

19 So, as one of those Veteran's that  
20 have served under -- in several different  
21 theaters that you referenced, this is all  
22 encompassing. This memorial will honor these



1 service sacrifices of all the men, women that  
2 have served whether it be in Afghanistan or, you  
3 know, we're no longer at, or the other various  
4 locations where we do have men, women, you know,  
5 following the Use of Military Force Act signed by  
6 -- in September of 2001 which has governed all  
7 use of force in this conflict, they still fall  
8 under that and it's still used today.

9 So, this is all encompassing to those.  
10 Now, I can't speak for any other efforts that may  
11 come. I know how challenging it has been for us.  
12 To my knowledge, since, you know, we began in  
13 2015, we are the only effort to be as inclusive  
14 and to recognize all the conflicts that you  
15 report, all the places and locations where you  
16 find men and women in harm's way fighting  
17 terrorism across the globe.

18 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Thank you, I  
20 appreciate that.

21 CHAIR MAY: Any other questions from  
22 the Commission about the presentation?

1 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes.

2 From the sublime to the ridiculous.

3 How many parking spaces are at the site near the  
4 paddle boat place that you -- that would be  
5 displaced by the memorial, about, Alan?

6 MR. HARWOOD: Roughly a hundred, it's  
7 a fair number, but they wouldn't be displaced,  
8 they'd be relocated.

9 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, well,  
10 displacement is not so bad. But I think that's a  
11 -- I'm varying into comment territory, but that's  
12 a plus for that site because I agree with you,  
13 the parking is not a good use of waterfront  
14 property.

15 And so, that's a big bonus to move  
16 that road. I mean, yes, displaced, replaced,  
17 moved, whatever. You know, that's a big feature.

18 So, a hundred-ish?

19 CHAIR MAY: About how many, Alan?

20 MR. HARWOOD: I'm sorry -- we would --

21 CHAIR MAY: How many total?

22 MR. HARWOOD: It's about a hundred

1 total. There's kind of -- it's one long parking  
2 lot, it just has a little bit of a -- it feels --  
3 it looks like two in plain view, but when you're  
4 there, it feels like one long parking lot. And  
5 everyone wants to be kind of down by the  
6 Jefferson Memorial.

7 It's one way in and one way out kind  
8 of --

9 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right.

10 MR. HARWOOD: -- relation.

11 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay.

12 MR. HARWOOD: But it's really a  
13 widened road with a head in parking on both  
14 sides.

15 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, okay.

16 CHAIR MAY: To be clear about the  
17 concepts that you showed us, all of those 100  
18 spaces are intended to be relocated on site  
19 within that same general vicinity?

20 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, well,  
21 that's how I read it. I just wanted -- I was  
22 trying to get some sense of how -- the number

1       that we're talking about.

2               Thank you.

3               CHAIR MAY: All right. I'm not very  
4       good at pulling up my participant list. I don't  
5       see any other hands raised. Oh, I do now.

6               Commissioner Imamura?

7               COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: All right,  
8       thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9               Just to build up Commissioner Wright's  
10       comment about the Tidal Basin, and I'd be showing  
11       my hand here a little bit.

12              But just curious about the  
13       conversation or if there was a conversation about  
14       that particular site. I think slide 29 was  
15       really should have -- the best with -- you had  
16       three prominent figures in our nation's history  
17       that kind of encompasses the Tidal Basin.

18              So, I'm sort of -- I'm curious sort of  
19       the connection or if there's a dialogue about  
20       that at all in terms of what that relationship is  
21       with this particular memorial and its location  
22       there? What that dialogue looks like

1 architecturally, as well as that conversation  
2 that might happen?

3 MR. HARWOOD: Should we bring up slide  
4 29 to make sure we're talking about the same  
5 thing? Is that what you said, site 29?

6 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: I believe it's  
7 slide 29, yes. So, we see FDR, MLK, and  
8 Jefferson there kind of wrapped around the Tidal  
9 Basin location P.

10 MR. HARWOOD: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: So, any  
12 dialogue or conversation about that at all and  
13 it's relationship in terms of that location?

14 MR. HARWOOD: Well, so, I guess one of  
15 the things that we did, we thought about thematic  
16 connections and those were the solid lines that  
17 made connections to other military memorials.

18 We also had some dash lines that we  
19 wanted to be for visual connections, visual  
20 considerations to make sure that we are outside  
21 of that view corridor from Jefferson to the White  
22 House.

1                   But we did think that the visibility  
2                   to FDR and to MLK and to Jefferson was important  
3                   but they weren't part of what was the thematic  
4                   connection.

5                   So, we tried to suggest that maybe the  
6                   buffer or the vegetative screening that happens  
7                   adjacent or beyond the site as you repair the  
8                   parking areas, that maybe that those could kind  
9                   of help views to that so that you wouldn't create  
10                  an impact on those memorials.

11                  But there has not been conversation  
12                  within other than with the Park Service.

13                  COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Sure, okay.

14                  I think that answers my question.

15                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16                  CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

17                  So, once again, losing track of my  
18                  participant list, I'm not seeing any raised hands  
19                  there. So, I think maybe we are done with the  
20                  questions.

21                  So, if that's all right, we don't need  
22                  to excuse you from the -- from being a panelist

1 but if you could turn off your cameras and I'll  
2 ask the members of the Commission to turn their  
3 cameras on.

4 And if anybody has technical  
5 difficulties and needs to turn it off, that's  
6 fine, too, but it would be good to have everybody  
7 see everyone's face.

8 So, let's see, I know Mr. Fountain,  
9 you had some time constraints, so, I will go to  
10 you first to see what comments you might have.

11 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman.

13 I have several thoughts and this is  
14 without the benefit of listening to the other  
15 members of the Commission. And so, I reserve the  
16 right to be influenced by them.

17 But I'll cut to my bottom line and  
18 then I'll explain how I get there.

19 And, you know, and I freely  
20 acknowledge I may be a victim of being stuck on  
21 my first thought when I started thinking about  
22 where this was all going to go, but I still wind

1 up there.

2 And I think the best site for this  
3 memorial is between Vietnam and the Desert Storm  
4 Memorial. That site up on Constitution.

5 So, having given the spoil to the  
6 surprise, I'll explain my reasoning here.

7 Very broadly, you know, I feel like  
8 one of our responsibilities on this Commission is  
9 not to look at individual -- not simply to look  
10 at individual memorial proposals in a vacuum, but  
11 to think about the memorial program in Washington  
12 over time.

13 And understanding that other war  
14 memorials, unfortunately, other types of  
15 memorials, will be coming along. And that they  
16 all need to fit into a comprehensible memorial  
17 landscape.

18 And every time we consider a single  
19 memorial, we are redesigning that memorial  
20 landscape and need to be conscious of that.

21 Having obtained, as Chairman May said,  
22 the first exemption from the Commemorative Works



1 Act for a brand new standalone memorial, you have  
2 breech that dam and we can expect more exemptions  
3 to follow.

4 So, we have to think about what other  
5 memorials of commensurate national importance,  
6 again, war memorials or others, might lay claim  
7 to some of these same places in the reserve that  
8 you've been talking about.

9 So, that's the very broad context I  
10 start with.

11 When you went through -- when Mr.  
12 Harwood went through the criteria, I don't  
13 remember how many there were, but and this is an  
14 observation, you know, it kept occurring to me  
15 that, gosh, they want a lot in their memorial.  
16 They want a lot of features.

17 Obviously, you're looking for the  
18 ideal spot. And that's, you know, that's no  
19 fault to you.

20 But I was struck that in that one  
21 chart you put up with all the circles and the  
22 half-filled in circles and the -- there wasn't

1 one site that didn't give you at least part of  
2 every single thing you're looking for, which is  
3 to say, they seem to be all good sites.

4 Now, naturally, you're focused on the  
5 three that you think are the optimal but I guess  
6 I'm suggesting to my fellow Commissioners that we  
7 not let the conversation go directly to those  
8 three that you all selected, but exercise their  
9 own independent judgment.

10 I will say that I found a lot of the  
11 visual and thematic connections that were focused  
12 on to other locations to not always be convincing  
13 to me.

14 To start with, Mr. Harwood can  
15 certainly explain to you why I find the desire to  
16 be -- not to be away from the center of gravity  
17 of The Mall to be unpersuasive, having fought  
18 that thought once.

19 But you've won that, you're in the  
20 reserve. So, you are within the center of  
21 gravity.

22 But when you start talking about

1 connections to the Air Force Memorial or the  
2 Lincoln Memorial or Arlington House, Constitution  
3 Gardens, even the Vietnam Women's Memorial, I  
4 understood the connections, but to be honest, I  
5 didn't find them all that compelling. I often  
6 found them to be a bit of a reach.

7           You know, Martin Luther King stands in  
8 a very direct conversation with Jefferson. And  
9 so, it makes an awful lot of sense for that  
10 memorial to be on the Tidal Basin.

11           There's no sense that I see for this  
12 memorial in particular to be on the Tidal Basin  
13 or to be on Constitution Gardens.

14           And in that sense, this memorial's  
15 encroaching on other spaces of The Mall that have  
16 been carefully designed and thought out. And I  
17 question whether some of those encroachments are  
18 proper.

19           Again, going back to the overall  
20 memorial landscape, many people have criticized  
21 the proliferation, in their terms I guess, of war  
22 memorials on The Mall saying that's not what it

1 was designed for. And, you know, that horse is  
2 long out of the barn so we're not re-litigating  
3 that.

4 But some of the sites you selected,  
5 particularly, the one down on the -- along Hains  
6 Point really spread the footprint of war  
7 memorials within the reserve as with the one on  
8 the Tidal Basin.

9 One in Constitution Gardens is  
10 certainly within the zone physically. But,  
11 again, I question its encroachment on  
12 Constitution Gardens with what, to me, is a  
13 discordant theme to that site.

14 There is now a de facto precinct of  
15 war memorials focused between World War II and  
16 Lincoln. And I would urge that this memorial and  
17 future memorials ought, if possible, be located  
18 within that precinct and not begin to proliferate  
19 throughout the reserve.

20 Because there likely will be and ought  
21 to be other proposals for that -- those sites,  
22 other nationally important for projects that lay

1 uniquely worthy claim to those ideal sites that  
2 you have identified that are not war memorials  
3 that we ought to reserve those for.

4 So, I'm very wary of pushing war  
5 memorials out from the precinct that has been  
6 established through a series of decisions over  
7 the last, what, 40 years.

8 And you all object --

9 CHAIR MAY: Oops, I think we lost Mr.  
10 Fountain. We'll give him a second to come back.

11 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I was --

12 CHAIR MAY: Commissioner Fountain, you  
13 broke up for a second there.

14 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I think I've  
15 got a bit of unstable internet connection.

16 CHAIR MAY: Yes, if you want to turn  
17 off your camera, that might help. And you were  
18 about to say something about you object.

19 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Well, yes, you  
20 know, this memorial's sponsors did not like being  
21 across the street from the Desert Storm Memorial  
22 because they were concerned about overlap or

1       confusion between the two conflicts.

2               And I had the exact opposite reaction  
3       when I started thinking about where this memorial  
4       ought to be sited. Because I think those  
5       conflicts are inextricably intertwined  
6       historically, thematically.

7               You know, I think it is an open  
8       question and I'm sure that you all have  
9       historians that would explain this to me better  
10      than I know. I think it's an open question  
11      whether if we hadn't fought Iraq in 1991 whether  
12      we would have fought Iraq in 2003.

13              More than two-thirds of the fatalities  
14      in the war on terror occurred in Iraq. Desert  
15      Storm and the war on terror are essentially part  
16      of ongoing American entanglement in the Middle  
17      East for the last 75 years since the creation of  
18      Israel as a --

19              CHAIR MAY: We lost him again. Give  
20      him a second longer and then we might move on to  
21      somebody else and return to him.

22              COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: They'll be

1       separate site.

2                   COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   There he is.

3                   COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:   They'll be  
4       different memorials.

5                   CHAIR MAY:   I'm sorry, Edwin.

6       Commissioner Fountain, we lost you again after  
7       your comment about entanglement in the Middle  
8       East.

9                   COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:   All right, I'm  
10       hearing you fine.   How am I now?

11                  CHAIR MAY:   You sound better now.

12                  COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:   All right,  
13       hold on, I've got -- hold on one second.   I've  
14       got two dogs making noises.

15                  All right, I'm back.   Can we please  
16       get back to in person meetings?

17                  In any event, I find both those  
18       conflicts to be part of the longstanding American  
19       entanglement in the Middle East that we've been  
20       experiencing in one way or another for the last  
21       75 years.

22                  And so, historically, I consider them

1 very closely related and that, to me, speaks very  
2 strongly in favor of locating the two memorials  
3 near each other. They will be separate. They'll  
4 be divided by a road. They will have different  
5 memorial designs. They will have different  
6 memorial interpretation.

7 I don't think there's a risk of  
8 confusion. I think by linking them together,  
9 there are very strong historical lessons to be  
10 drawn.

11 I'm just looking over my notes. Well,  
12 I think that about says it. I would, again, I  
13 haven't considered a lot of these sites from the  
14 perspective that a lot of the other Commissioners  
15 will. You know, I know that the National Mall,  
16 as a whole, has been in the object of a lot of  
17 comprehensive planning and others can speak to  
18 how these sites fit within those plans far better  
19 than I.

20 CHAIR MAY: Okay, well, we certainly  
21 appreciate that comments you had and hopefully we  
22 will be able to go all the way through this



1 discussion without losing you because I think we  
2 might have some further discussions.

3 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I recognize  
4 our great sites for memorials, but I don't see a  
5 compelling case for this memorial in particular  
6 at those sites.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So, I'm sorry, we  
9 lost part of your concluding comments, but we did  
10 get your last -- your very last thought there.

11 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Let me boil it  
12 down. I think there's a whole of reason to put  
13 this at the site between Desert Storm and  
14 Vietnam.

15 CHAIR MAY: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: And I don't  
17 see any compelling reason to put this memorial in  
18 particular as opposed to other future memorials  
19 in those three ideal sites that they have focused  
20 on.

21 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Thank you.

1       So, apologies for the --

2                   CHAIR MAY:   That's --

3                   COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:   -- use.

4                   CHAIR MAY:   That's okay, hopefully,  
5       we'll be able to -- you'll be able to stay on  
6       long enough to participate further if we need  
7       your further insights.

8                   So, Mr. Luebke, you've raised your  
9       hand?

10                  COMMISSIONER LUEBKE:   Yes, thank you.

11                  And Edwin outlined a lot of my exact  
12       observations as well.

13                  It might have been more productive for  
14       the proposal study to actually come with a wider  
15       range up front instead of three.  It's a little -  
16       -

17                  CHAIR MAY:   Let me just point out that  
18       in preparing for this, we made it very clear to  
19       the applicants that what comes out of this is not  
20       necessarily going to be a blessing of three sites  
21       or some subset of that.  But that there may be  
22       other sites that are thrown into the mix.

1                   And whether they, you know, how we --  
2                   how it goes from here is to, you know, is still  
3                   to be determined.

4                   But, you know, it was their interest  
5                   in focusing on these three sites. We were okay  
6                   with advancing that but knowing that they could  
7                   wind up with four or five at the end of this  
8                   meeting or, you know, two. We'll see.

9                   COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: So, again, I  
10                  pretty much associated myself with Ed Fountain's  
11                  comments.

12                  Basically, I'm finding that there's  
13                  this sort or tension between, you know, this sort  
14                  of unending, undefined conflict which could be an  
15                  -- create an interesting sort of prototype for a  
16                  memorial of sort of an endless war. Right?

17                  It is big enough to encompass  
18                  Afghanistan, Iraq, and the 21st Century, et  
19                  cetera. It needs to be -- I think we want to be  
20                  able to accommodate that one way within this  
21                  memorial or, we don't know whether there will be  
22                  additional ones. So, it's for once probably that

1 space to expand.

2 Now, the obvious question is, is it --  
3 does it make so much space that it has to be --  
4 you have to find some new setting. Which, of  
5 course, starts to push you out of the reserve  
6 because it's that important, it may not be a site  
7 that's big enough to take all of that stuff.

8 Now, I -- nobody knows the future.  
9 The great kind of fulcrums of The Mall right now  
10 are these huge sort of I consider them like 80-  
11 year cataclysmic cornerstones of our shared  
12 history.

13 We have the -- we have sort of a  
14 monument to the Revolution in the middle. The  
15 Lincoln Memorial is, in a way, a proxy to the  
16 Civil War.

17 We've got the World War II which is  
18 probably the other most all-encompassing thing  
19 that the country ever went through which is right  
20 there in the middle as well.

21 These are the great things that  
22 everything hangs on and works off of.

1                   I would also agree that this -- that  
2 Tidal Basin site sits in an area that is really  
3 defined by aspirations, ideals, ideas of  
4 independence, autonomy, equity, you name it.  
5 It's a place that is actually about ideals and it  
6 seems strange to start to put in a war memorial  
7 down there.

8                   And the other thing is, of course, and  
9 I don't, Peter, I don't know how this plays in,  
10 but it was actually legislated originally to be  
11 recreational. I mean, and that's where I -- when  
12 we talk about getting rid of parking lots people  
13 use to enjoy this landscape, I'm -- okay, well,  
14 maybe we're moving them, but they're -- it's not  
15 a bad thing to have good access to a lovely, you  
16 know, body of water in the middle of this  
17 landscape.

18                   So, I just think that's truly a  
19 troubling thing.

20                   For the other side on the Potomac, you  
21 know, if it were just a standalone one off thing,  
22 maybe so. But again, I'm with Edwin on this,

1       that it belongs near the Desert Shield Desert  
2       Storm Memorial. That's -- it's all part of a  
3       kind of a change in our history that starts in  
4       the very late '20s and we don't know where it's  
5       going to go, but I believe --

6               My first thought, also, was look at  
7       the panel where the Vietnam -- that was  
8       originally supposed to be for the Vietnam  
9       Visitor's Center. I think that's an excellent  
10      idea.

11             So, there may be others that make  
12      sense. But then the other question I have is,  
13      does it have to be in the reserve even though it  
14      may -- is it may be in the reserve or must be in  
15      the reserve?

16             CHAIR MAY: Shall be.

17             COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Shall be.

18             COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Okay. So, that  
19      answers that.

20             The other point is that, if there is  
21      more to come on this story, which needs to be  
22      told, that part of the city has a place to go.

1 It has that sort of -- there's all sorts of ideas  
2 and NCPC is looking at this, what happens to that  
3 whole -- it was a part of the memorial frame of  
4 things, let's look at expansion to that  
5 northwestern area where the Potomac Parkways  
6 comes in. It doesn't -- it has --

7 If we're going to aggregate war  
8 memorials in this spot, that's actually the one  
9 that provides the best.

10 You know, I could entertain the idea  
11 of the Con Garden site as well, but it's not as  
12 strong as up there on Constitution Avenue.

13 I think that's it, thank you very  
14 much.

15 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

16 Ms. Wright, your hand is up.

17 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, I -- you  
18 know, we all, I think Mr. Fountain's observation  
19 that we all respond to these things from  
20 different places is really true because I  
21 immediately cued to the design and planning end  
22 of it.

1                   And I, of course, my curiosity is  
2                   peaked by the moving those parking spaces at  
3                   least away from the water's edge because, come  
4                   on.

5                   But because they end up creating a  
6                   boundary to the very thing that people are there  
7                   to visit.

8                   But I also kind of felt like some of  
9                   the illusions and, you know, the, yes, the  
10                  drawings are clear. The site lines, yes, yes,  
11                  yes. But to what end?

12                  I mean, they -- the story around the  
13                  Tidal Basin is one of hope and it's laden with  
14                  more optimism. And references to some of the  
15                  best moments and not the grimaced.

16                  And while we need to focus on those  
17                  things, I also feel like it's important that they  
18                  be clustered together because if you think about  
19                  the visitor experience, sorry, I've got a barking  
20                  dog downstairs.

21                  If you think about the visitor  
22                  experience, you're trying to create in that



1 person or allow -- enable that person to avail  
2 themselves of thoughts and emotions that are more  
3 -- that we -- that the placement of memorials  
4 should help facilitate. Right?

5 So, if you're going to a recreational  
6 area, I mean, the whole moved thing is important.  
7 And while I know that there are lots of people  
8 who will object to the idea of this site which I  
9 think is a good idea, Mr. Fountain.

10 Because, you know, why are we  
11 glorifying war with all these memorials? And  
12 isn't it kind of -- doesn't it make for  
13 relentlessly morbid experience? Well, no.

14 And I think, with all due respect,  
15 Alan, I think it's the idea that people would be  
16 confused between two memorials is kind of odd.

17 First of all, as you're traversing  
18 physical space, it's not like you're reading, you  
19 know, two stories in a row and you could get the  
20 facts mixed up.

21 And I think they're thematic  
22 connections make more sense.

1                   So, all this is to say, I hope that we  
2                   don't have to expand it, but I don't know how we  
3                   can prepare for that, Tom, I mean in a meaningful  
4                   way inside the reserve as you noted.

5                   So, I don't -- this is one of the  
6                   reasons why I tried to slow down the preamble to  
7                   getting to the, you know, it's like a beauty  
8                   pageant and we're going, you know, directly to  
9                   the semi-finalist and I want -- I think I -- we  
10                  all might have benefitted from understanding more  
11                  about the process, the thought process of how we  
12                  got to the final three just for future reference.  
13                  It would be helpful to understand a little bit  
14                  more and take a little bit more time with that.

15                  But all of this being said, I think I  
16                  agree with Mr. Fountain. And if that's what  
17                  you've got when you think that you're -- that you  
18                  benefit from the comments of your colleagues,  
19                  bravo. Because I think I certainly have  
20                  benefitted from yours.

21                  CHAIR MAY: Great, thank you.

22                  Mr. Sherman has raised his hand.

1                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Yes, thank you,  
2 Mr. Chair.

3                   I want to concur with Chairman  
4 Luebke's, Chairman Wright, and Chairman  
5 Fountain's comments so far.

6                   I think a little bit of a different  
7 stand. I think our staff does recommend looking  
8 beyond the sites that are now in the reserve for  
9 all the reasons that have been previously stated.

10                  We'd like to put on the table the  
11 Belvedere. Thematically, it's not that  
12 geographically far from the Desert Storm proposed  
13 memorial and the Vietnam Memorial. It's near the  
14 water, as has been stated several times, this was  
15 a big factor in some of the surveys.

16                  And that area, as Mr. Luebke alluded  
17 to, is an area that we've been looking at and  
18 studying for quite some time. And it would be  
19 part of the precinct. And the precinct concept  
20 itself is something that we're starting as part  
21 of the twin plan update.

22                  So, I would say that for all the

1 reasons that I've stated earlier that we would  
2 encourage -- given the legislation, it's somewhat  
3 of a moot point, but I think we would not be  
4 doing our jobs if we didn't at least say look at  
5 some of these other sites that might make more  
6 sense from a thematic standpoint.

7 And my second comment is related to  
8 Constitution Gardens. And this is more Just a  
9 fact that the Constitution Gardens site was  
10 actually taken off the table when CWA was updated  
11 in 2006 I believe. So, technically, I was not in  
12 the two in plan.

13 I think just a small point of  
14 clarification, again, it's a bit of a moot point  
15 because Congress has given the exception.

16 But also, I'd just like to point that  
17 the trust of the National Mall is doing some  
18 renovation work there and planning some work  
19 there. So, if this does become the site for the  
20 Global War on Terror, I would say that, please  
21 consider that very carefully in terms of siting  
22 this memorial.

1                   So, and then, lastly, I just wanted to  
2                   thank Mr. Rodriguez for his service. As a fellow  
3                   combat Vet, I did two tours as part of this  
4                   global war on terror. So, I do appreciate your  
5                   service and work on this Foundation.

6                   So, thank you.

7                   CHAIR MAY: Okay, thank you very much,  
8                   Commissioner Sherman.

9                   Mr. McMahon, oh Mr. Maloney raised his  
10                  hand.

11                  COMMISSIONER MALONEY: Thank you, Mr.  
12                  Chairman.

13                  My thoughts are very similar to those  
14                  already expressed and I'm going to be relatively  
15                  brief I think and just sort of adding a few  
16                  nuances.

17                  First of all, I think the Tidal Basin  
18                  site is probably the least appropriate given the  
19                  character of the area both in terms of its  
20                  celebratory aspect and focusing on American  
21                  heroes Just seems to be a completely different  
22                  story of the Tidal Basin.

1                   But so importantly, it's a prime  
2 recreational site. And this conflict, as already  
3 talked about, of, you know, people want to walk  
4 around and have a nice time and it's somewhat of  
5 a little bit of oddity to put a war memorial in  
6 the middle of that.

7                   Also that the paddle boats and putting  
8 a memorial right next to that seems really sort  
9 of jarring. I hope that the paddle boats will  
10 stay for the future.

11                  I think a little bit of that applies  
12 also to the Potomac River site. It's also  
13 heavily recreational. Also noisy. And I think  
14 the idea that you would have to install some kind  
15 of noise barrier is sort of a flag that that's  
16 maybe not the wisest thing to try to put there.

17                  I'm a little more positive about the  
18 Constitution Gardens site. And probably because  
19 it does seem to be suitable in terms of the  
20 program that's proposed, the proximity to the  
21 water, the desire for a contemplative sort of  
22 protected site if you will.

1                   And I think it, to me, it is not  
2                   really impinging on Constitution Gardens. It's  
3                   on the edge of Constitution Gardens and, as was  
4                   talked about in the presentation, the lake in  
5                   Constitution Gardens is sort of -- would sort of  
6                   be borrowed landscape that would help form the  
7                   setting of what is really a rather modest  
8                   memorial in terms of its size.

9                   That's the other thing that I think is  
10                  -- makes it a good fit for that site because the  
11                  size is about right for that site.

12                  And compared to a larger memorial  
13                  proposal that might come along in the future for  
14                  some of the extensions of these conflicts that  
15                  we're having, I think using the site that is  
16                  quite fitting and also fitting in terms of its  
17                  size now while it's -- while we have a proposal  
18                  that I think would fit very well there, and  
19                  reserving Site A for something that might come  
20                  along in the future and is related, but is much  
21                  larger I think would be a better strategy in the  
22                  long run.

1 I think also the -- I'm struck by Mr.  
2 Rodriguez's discussion at the beginning of  
3 generations of families who have been in our  
4 military conflicts. That's another thing that I  
5 think is appropriate for Site B here and that it  
6 is halfway between World War II and Vietnam and  
7 is a little bit a part of that story, if you  
8 will, you know, that aren't lined up one, two,  
9 three chronologically. But there is that benefit  
10 of proximity and concentration of the memorials  
11 all in one location that I think other people  
12 have spoken about.

13 Those are my thoughts.

14 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much.

15 Okay, Mr. Imamura, Mr. McMahon,  
16 whoever -- Mr. McMahon's microphone is on, let's  
17 go.

18 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: Okay, I want to  
19 thank you and appreciate listening to everybody.  
20 My dog is downstairs, so I'll make some comments  
21 as long as my internet connection hangs in there.

22 The advantage of going later for



1 someone like me is I can listen to well-informed  
2 opinions and experience of the rest of my  
3 Commissioners and I appreciate what you're  
4 saying.

5 I shared some of the concerns; I have  
6 different perspectives. Certainly from Site B of  
7 the three that we're talking about that the  
8 global war on terrorism that Mr. Rodriguez and  
9 the applicant have brought and I appreciate their  
10 hard work of putting this together and the  
11 thoughtful analysis.

12 And also, Mr. Rodriguez, for your  
13 service. We talked generational. I was -- I'm a  
14 retired military, though I did not participate in  
15 the global war on terrorism not that long, but I  
16 do have a nephew who did. So, I understand that  
17 need.

18 But certainly, Site B, I was struck  
19 myself at least with really the recreational and  
20 broader area uses of that particular site, not,  
21 you know, not the least to be discarded as, you  
22 know, the events of every year in April how the

1 area is used.

2 Site J, is a very great viewpoint.  
3 It's probably a pretty impressive site. I'm a  
4 bit concerned about all the work that and Peter  
5 will talk about our share and his comments about  
6 the impacts of the road changes and all that  
7 requires there. Not to mention the fact that it  
8 is in a flood plain.

9 I suspect that sees a fair amount of  
10 water at the lower edge of this site.

11 So, I see a lot of merit. I'm going  
12 back, I'm looking not just at B and C, but also  
13 asking to take another look at Site E for that  
14 whole thought about the, you know, do we assign a  
15 new zone within the monumental area core for  
16 these kinds of important memorials?

17 But I was also, as I went through, and  
18 maybe those of you who worked these issues day to  
19 day, especially operational, I think Site E was,  
20 if I remember the report right, was discarded  
21 because of concerns about security issues for  
22 other events that happened on the ellipse. I'm

1 not sure how often that happens and how much of  
2 an issue that really is.

3 I think for all the reasons, I'm in  
4 line with going back and look at more B and C and  
5 maybe ask the applicant to reconsider Sites A and  
6 E as part of their analysis.

7 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

9 Mr. Imamura?

10 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman.

12 As Commissioner McMahon stated, it's  
13 much easier to go at the end, especially after  
14 listening to all of those who are a little more  
15 seasoned on this Commission than I am.

16 But I do align myself with the  
17 comments made by Commissioner Fountain and  
18 others. His comments and remarks are always very  
19 thoughtful and well-articulated and his delivery  
20 is always entertaining.

21 But I would say that I'm glad to hear  
22 others -- Commissioner Wright, Commissioner

1 Luebke, and Commissioner Fountain were able to  
2 articulate the same thoughts that I had about the  
3 Tidal Basin but in much more sort of expressive  
4 way.

5 So, it seems to me, as you mentioned,  
6 Mr. Chairman, this is an exceptional circumstance  
7 and I think Commissioner Fountain had mentioned  
8 that, you know, we might see other exceptions  
9 from Congress in the future.

10 And not to suggest that at the Tidal  
11 Basin with three prominent historical figures  
12 that there would be a fourth there, but, as  
13 Commissioner Wright had pointed out, it's really  
14 a theme about hope and ideals.

15 So, that seems a little more  
16 appropriate that it's an individual that would go  
17 there, if, in fact, there would be one, you know,  
18 in the distant future that -- beyond our time --  
19 our lifetime.

20 So, I think the comment about  
21 spreading the footprint of war memorials along  
22 Hains Point is certainly well taken.

1 I went back and read the record, and  
2 I think it was Commissioner Wright that mentioned  
3 this in previous meetings about thinking about  
4 the experience of families who are here for just  
5 a limited time and what that might look like for  
6 them to be able to visit other memorials along  
7 the National Mall.

8 Certainly, I think the Foundation  
9 understands that, you know, when something is in  
10 the reserve, it requires, you know, very  
11 sensitive intervention here.

12 So, I agree that maybe it might be  
13 more appropriate to locate something like this by  
14 the Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. It  
15 juxtaposed to the Institute of Peace right there  
16 has something sort of dialogue there as well.

17 I think all of the sites, I guess what  
18 I recognize is that it's really it seems like the  
19 shoe horned in where it could go. But I think,  
20 again, it's really important to look at the  
21 thematic connections more than anything.

22 So, with that, I think I've got a

1 number of other notes here, but sort of spread  
2 across my desk, but I will rely on comments of my  
3 fellow Commissioners here that have captured my  
4 own thoughts.

5 And so -- and also, I want to thank  
6 Mr. Rodriguez for his service. And their effort  
7 that I think is an exhaustive study and site  
8 analysis but I'm not sure that the three sites  
9 that they presented here represent really the  
10 best possibilities that do still exist there.

11 So, I think that concludes my  
12 comments, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIR MAY: All right, thank you very  
14 much.

15 So, I have some thoughts as well. And  
16 I will want to try to synthesize things and maybe  
17 we'll have a little bit further discussion.

18 But I also -- before I went there, I  
19 would like to just check in with Mr. Wilson to  
20 see if he had any thoughts or advice that -- for  
21 the Commission from the ACHP's perspective.

22 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

1                   So, we always look at the National,  
2                   sort of, Preservation Act in any impact an  
3                   ultimate site selection would have on other  
4                   sites.

5                   So, I hate to be broken record, and I  
6                   think I've said this in previous meetings, I'm  
7                   still -- I'm a little flummoxed about the  
8                   exemption for the reserve. But I realize that's  
9                   an act of Congress.

10                  So, really, the ACHP is only involved  
11                  once the Park Service takes up a case, there is  
12                  an undertaking -- a site has been selected and  
13                  then we look at the impacts of other sites.

14                  So, it's really sort of premature for  
15                  me to weigh in. My job will be, once the 106  
16                  process starts, and working with the Park Service  
17                  to that point.

18                  CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
19                  much, I remember your saying similar comments in  
20                  past considerations, but it's been a while since  
21                  we've done a site selection and I just thought it  
22                  would be worthwhile checking in with you.

1 MR. WILSON: I appreciate it.

2 CHAIR MAY: Yes, and I appreciate your  
3 being here.

4 Okay, so, let me hit on a few of the  
5 sort of the simpler questions or comments that  
6 have come up.

7 First of all, you know, I appreciate  
8 the desire to look beyond the reserve. And  
9 certainly, the Global War on Terror Team did look  
10 beyond and we did have extensive conversation  
11 about that.

12 But the bottom line is that the  
13 Congress said it shall be in the reserve. And as  
14 much as I tried to get the Congress to say, may  
15 be in the reserve, they were not willing to take  
16 the Park Service's advice on that particular  
17 point. So, it shall be in the reserve. And so,  
18 we are moving forward from there.

19 The -- as far as some of the other  
20 sites go, more technical disqualifications --  
21 Site E, you would actually be amazed. This is  
22 the site that's in the southeast corner of the



1 ellipse square. You would be amazed at how  
2 frequently the entire ellipse has to be closed  
3 for security reasons.

4 And I do believe for a memorial like  
5 this where we would expect substantial  
6 visitation, that that would be a deal killer,  
7 that it just would cause too many complications  
8 for the future visitors.

9 And, you know, it's an unfortunate  
10 circumstance but I think that that is the case  
11 that it would be highly problematic on that site.

12 Some of the other more technical  
13 considerations, you know, when it comes to Site  
14 J, the river site that is still under  
15 consideration or among the short list of three,  
16 and also this applies to the Tidal Basin as well.

17 I mean, moving roads is something that  
18 we can do and, in certain circumstances, it can  
19 make a lot of sense. Right? There, you know,  
20 there are positives to moving cars away from the  
21 edge of the Tidal Basin and there are positives  
22 to creating a real node at the intersection of

1 West Basin Drive and Ohio Drive as was proposed  
2 in the site analysis.

3 So, those are complications as are --  
4 I mean, those are complicated actions. Just put  
5 it that way, that it drives up the cost of the  
6 memorial to do all of this extra work.

7 Certainly, we went through that in the  
8 creation of the site for the American Veteran's  
9 Disabled for Life Memorial where a section of  
10 road was closed. And we went through it again  
11 with the Eisenhower Memorial where a road had to  
12 be closed.

13 Those are complications, but it can be  
14 done. It's a matter of money and I don't see  
15 that there's any technical reasons why these  
16 things couldn't be done.

17 But it's -- it isn't -- I think it  
18 would be a consideration from the Foundation's  
19 perspective whether they're willing to undertake  
20 that extent of work. And sometimes, it involves  
21 extensive utility relocations and things like  
22 that.

1 I don't think that's the case under  
2 Ohio Drive, but that certainly was the case with  
3 some of the other memorials where we did build  
4 over what were once roads.

5 The other point that I would make in  
6 Sites F and G which Mr. FOUNTAIN referenced to as  
7 being part of more of a war precinct between  
8 World War II and the Lincoln Memorial.

9 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Can we get the  
10 map up while you're talking?

11 CHAIR MAY: Oh yes, certainly,  
12 certainly.

13 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Would that -- I  
14 don't know, I'm a visual.

15 CHAIR MAY: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I'm an alphabet  
17 person.

18 CHAIR MAY: Yes, I know, that's the --  
19 I had the same struggle so I pulled up the map on  
20 my computer.

21 So, if Ms. Kelly can bring up the --  
22 or Dr. Kelly, if you could bring up slide 22 or

1 Mr. Fox, somebody, slide 22 I think is the one  
2 that shows everything.

3 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: So, you just  
4 mentioned J, okay, all right, I'm with you.

5 CHAIR MAY: Yes, Site J is the river  
6 site.

7 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay, okay, got  
8 it.

9 CHAIR MAY: It is one of the short  
10 list of three.

11 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes.

12 CHAIR MAY: And Sites F and G which I  
13 know Commissioner Fountain did not explicitly  
14 mention those sites, but he talked about  
15 something in that precinct.

16 And the difficulty that we had with  
17 those sites were that there aren't really any  
18 sites there without simply taking up the -- those  
19 open fields and we did not think that it was a  
20 good idea to completely reconsider that area for  
21 the sake of a single memorial. There wasn't  
22 enough nexus driving it. There isn't enough

1 space to kind of tuck it in anywhere. So, we  
2 thought that one didn't make any sense.

3 I really do appreciate the notion that  
4 Sites B and C sort of melded into just Site C and  
5 I think that that is one of the more viable sites  
6 from our perspective.

7 I think, though, I mean, going back to  
8 the bigger picture, I agree very much with the  
9 sort of the opening theme introduced by  
10 Commissioner Fountain about the viability of Site  
11 A and how that could and should be given further  
12 consideration.

13 I had raised with the team. In fact,  
14 it was not even on their first pass. They had  
15 nixed it the first pass then I insisted that they  
16 keep in on the table for the second pass. And  
17 that's when they eliminated that. And I don't  
18 think it's a surprise that this has been put --  
19 the Commission's effectively putting this back on  
20 their list.

21 The --

22 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Can we -- are we

1       able to hear some of the reasons why?

2               CHAIR MAY:   Not until I'm done  
3       talking.

4               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Okay.

5               CHAIR MAY:   The -- and I think -- are  
6       you asking for them to speak to that, right?   Why  
7       they were taken off?

8               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Well, I'd like  
9       to hear -- yes, I think it would be helpful to  
10      understand why it didn't pass muster.

11              CHAIR MAY:   Okay, so --

12              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   When you're  
13      finished talking, of course.

14              CHAIR MAY:   I didn't intend to hear  
15      that, but I'm sure they would like to come back  
16      and explain their decision to eliminate that.  
17      But I'm not sure that it will be persuasive.

18              What I did hear in terms of trying to  
19      summarize today is that I think there's a pretty  
20      broad consensus that the Tidal Basin site is not  
21      workable for this memorial for thematic reasons,  
22      primarily.   That it's -- it doesn't fit well

1 within the context of the Tidal Basin.

2 And I don't think that that can be  
3 resolved through clever planting of trees or  
4 things like that to kind of obscure it or keep it  
5 more inwardly focused.

6 I think it's -- I agree with the  
7 comments of the Commission, that one should be  
8 eliminated.

9 The river front site, I did -- the  
10 major objections that I was hearing were to do  
11 with more practical considerations like noise  
12 and, to some extent, it's the expansion, like  
13 moving away from the -- any sort of war themed  
14 memorials into that location.

15 And I can understand that. But I  
16 think what I -- what, in my mind, might be  
17 beneficial in that circumstance is that, if we do  
18 wind up with having to make additions to this  
19 memorial, if you will, that that is a site that's  
20 big enough that could actually could be expanded  
21 in some way.

22 I also agree with Commissioner Maloney

1 on Constitution Gardens. I didn't hear enough  
2 objection to Commission -- to the Constitution  
3 Gardens site, Site C specifically, I think, to  
4 want to take it off the table.

5 I do think it is very constrained in  
6 terms of size. But I think that's actually a  
7 good thing. It's going to be one of those things  
8 where in order to make it work, it's going to  
9 have to be modest in its overall scale.

10 And it is a very nice setting. And I  
11 think thematically, I do think it works. And I  
12 don't see the -- necessarily the conflict with  
13 Constitution Gardens and being on Constitution  
14 Gardens because of the other war memorials that  
15 are very close by. So, that makes a lot of  
16 sense.

17 I do think -- this one last comment  
18 that I would make which goes to the future in our  
19 process which has to do with the design of this  
20 memorial.

21 And what it has conjured for me when  
22 we considered the question of what constitutes



1 the global war on terror? What conflicts,  
2 specifically, should be called out as part of  
3 this memorial?

4 It seems to me that there are models  
5 already for memorials that have been expanded  
6 over time to recognize different conflicts and a  
7 First Division, Second Division, the Iwo Jima  
8 Memorial, all allow for that kind of expansion.  
9 Not that anybody wants to see that expansion, but  
10 creating a memorial that is not so singular and  
11 constrained that there could not be some future  
12 attempt to tie other conflicts in with that.

13 And some of this we already know.  
14 Right? We already know Iraq and Afghanistan and  
15 the Horn of Africa as places that Commissioner  
16 Luebke mentioned where we know the global war on  
17 terror to have fought or being fought now.

18 And I think that that planning, you  
19 know, the design for this should encompass those  
20 conflicts and should allow for that potential  
21 that there might be something in the future.

22 Now, they may need additional

1 congressional authority to do that and that may  
2 be an exception to the reserve prohibition at  
3 that point.

4 But, you know, as we have seen with  
5 the Korean War Veteran's Memorial Wall of  
6 Remembrance, such additions that are consistent  
7 with the original intent of the memorial not only  
8 can be accomplished without creating grave damage  
9 to the reserve, they can be done in a way that is  
10 very successful.

11 So, anyway, I think that's something  
12 that should be considered.

13 My inclination here is that we --  
14 what we recommend is that the Foundation advance  
15 Site C, Site J, and put Site A back on to the  
16 table. And I think we'll hear from them about  
17 why they took Site A off, but if we do, when we  
18 come to the conclusion of the meeting, I think we  
19 should make a decision about whether we want to  
20 see further analysis of any one of these sites or  
21 whether are satisfied with what we've seen today  
22 to allow a short list of sites to advance to the

1 Commissions who actually have to approve it.

2 We're certainly gatekeepers to that,  
3 but the Commission of Fine Arts and the NCPC are  
4 the ones who are actually going to approve the  
5 site.

6 So, all that said, I've talked quite  
7 a while, if we could hear from Mr. Rodriguez and  
8 Mr. Harwood and Mr. Winstanley, whoever wants to  
9 address the concerns that you had about Site A.  
10 And maybe if it's okay, we could take down the  
11 graphic.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Great, I'll begin.  
13 Thank you guys for your thoughtful assessment of  
14 this and I really hope that you guys have  
15 reviewed the materials that we sent you guys to  
16 show this.

17 We're really excited to continue this  
18 conversation with all of you.

19 There's three things I would like to  
20 address real quick, and we anticipated this, I  
21 did. This is my all day, every day, 24/7, 365.

22 So, let's talk about the never ending

1 nature of this and how could you frame that? How  
2 could you really do that? What's the definition?  
3 You know --

4 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Rodriguez, I'm sorry.  
5 I would like you to really focus on the question  
6 that asked having to do with why Site A was not -  
7 -

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Understood, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIR MAY: -- staying on the list.  
10 I mean, I don't think we need to revisit the  
11 never ending nature of the global war on terror.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Right, I was just  
13 going to address three things that you all had  
14 brought up, but okay, we'll talk about Site A.

15 Site A was taken given the height  
16 restrictions that would be -- that exist within  
17 Site A, you know, which drove the VVMF to try and  
18 build underground.

19 You know, and with the height  
20 restrictions, we were very concerned with the  
21 ability to effectively tell the story with that  
22 because the last thing we want to do is obstruct

1 any view, any vista, of the Lincoln.

2 You know, in addition to the, you  
3 know, and I understand the thematic issues in  
4 strength, but the confusion of the war on  
5 terrorism.

6 One can make assessments and opinions  
7 and we've heard them all. But we're really  
8 focusing on those men and women that served which  
9 whether they were related to global war on  
10 terrorism and the Desert Storm, I would just  
11 suggest that you speak with them.

12 Alan, do you have anything?

13 MR. HARWOOD: I think I've actually  
14 had this conversation with Edwin in the past.  
15 So, I'm not sure if he's still on the phone -- on  
16 the call.

17 But so, there is some shared geography  
18 and there's some shared enemy involved with  
19 Desert Storm and the global war on terrorism.  
20 But it's very different. It's removed in time  
21 and place.

22 They're the same kind of connection

1       between geography and enemy with World War I and  
2       World War II. Yet, we have two separate  
3       memorials, they're very separate conflicts.

4               The Desert Storm, Desert Shield,  
5       Desert Storm conflict in the early '90s and then  
6       the response to 9/11 in the global war on  
7       terrorism are very, very different actions.

8               And I think what Rod is saying is,  
9       Veterans of those two conflicts are -- look at  
10      them very, very differently and they have  
11      different experiences.

12              And I think wanting to have their own  
13      kind of moment and their own kind of clarity  
14      about those memorials and about those conflicts.

15              And I think it's really -- this  
16      clustering is a little bit kind of funny. I  
17      think saying there's a precinct for war  
18      memorials, if you could indulge the Commission,  
19      if we can go to slide 54, if that's possible to  
20      pull that up?

21              Because the clustering of memorials in  
22      the -- on The Mall is actually much more

1 differentiated than just war memorials.

2 There's Revolutionary Memorials and  
3 those are clustered around the White House.

4 There's Civil War Memorials and those  
5 are in different places.

6 And so, this is something that I think  
7 we developed -- I think the Commission's see it  
8 and it kind of seems foreign. It really is a  
9 matter that ten-ish -- it's the 21st Century war  
10 memorials, that's what's clustered in and around  
11 between Lincoln and World War II. And those are  
12 Vietnam and Korea and now Desert Storm.

13 But Desert Storm was the last of the  
14 20th Century. I'm sorry, I said 21st, I meant  
15 20th Century.

16 This conflict is the beginning of the  
17 21st Century war memorials and it's a very  
18 different kind of conflict and it's a very  
19 different kind of memorial.

20 It either needs to be in this location  
21 and kind of connected to them or in a new place  
22 to kind of start new growth of memorials away

1 from the central axis of The Mall.

2 And so, we thought the Tidal Basin and  
3 the Potomac River sites did that.

4 But Constitution Gardens is a much  
5 more, as Chairman May pointed out, is a much more  
6 intimate site, much more compact, and that's why  
7 the scale of what we showed you is much smaller  
8 there at the smallest of the locations.

9 Those are all reasons to kind of think  
10 about those three locations. That's why we chose  
11 those three locations. But specific to the panel  
12 between Vietnam and Desert Storm, it is kind of  
13 jarring juxtaposition of time and from the '70s  
14 to the '90s and then, in between, there's  
15 something from the 21st Century. It seemed -- it  
16 really annoys Veterans that say, oh you were in  
17 Persian Gulf I or you were in Persian Gulf II.  
18 That's like fingernails on a chalkboard and it's  
19 just --

20 So, we think this is an opportunity to  
21 kind of clarify that and be a little bit more  
22 separate from Desert Storm and provide its own



1 kind of setting and a distinct location. And to  
2 help clarify some of the ideas and these kind of  
3 misconceptions that are out there that they are  
4 so related, they are really kind of overlapping.  
5 They're not.

6 You know, you can say the same thing  
7 about World War II, we wouldn't have been in  
8 World War II if we hadn't punished Germany so  
9 much after World War I. And, you know, and so,  
10 anyway.

11 Those are some of the things that kind  
12 of went into the thinking that that location was  
13 not appropriate for this particular memorial.

14 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So, we have  
15 questions from Commissioner Wright and then  
16 Commissioner Luebke.

17 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: No, I don't have  
18 questions. I want to comment and disagree  
19 vehemently.

20 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So, I don't want to  
21 get into an extensive debate with the applicant  
22 here. So, if you have questions about what they

1 just said, let's talk about that.

2 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay. All  
3 right, then I'll frame it as a question Because I  
4 think it's an important point that I would ask  
5 that the memorial sponsors consider.

6 And, again, I can't help but think  
7 about this as a mom who brought my kids to  
8 Washington and, as a kid who got dragged through  
9 Washington relentlessly, spring break after  
10 spring break while everyone else was on the beach  
11 in the Caribbean. But I'm not there.

12 You've got to -- I think about this as  
13 a -- through the -- as a visitor. And we all  
14 know how short the average attention span is.  
15 So, I'm dragging my family through Washington and  
16 through The Mall.

17 And let's just say, for grins, the  
18 Tidal Basin is back on -- is really on the table.  
19 By the time I get from Desert Storm, Desert  
20 Shield, Desert Storm, to back down to the Global  
21 War on Terrorism, I may have even kind of  
22 forgotten.

1 I would ask that you consider that a  
2 juxtaposition and an adjacency, what kinds of  
3 questions that would foster?

4 Because if you're explaining this as  
5 a parent, let's just say, or you're -- I mean, I  
6 understand all that you've explained. But I  
7 would ask you, here's the question, have you  
8 thought about an adjacency and a juxtaposition  
9 and what that might do to foster the questions  
10 and answers and the curiosity that you're seeking  
11 to accomplish? Right? That people are able to  
12 distinguish one from another? That they learn by  
13 contrast?

14 Lots of times a very common  
15 pedagogical tool is to teach by contrast. And in  
16 this case, physical contrast and -- accomplished  
17 through adjacency or at least proximity, I think  
18 that it does -- a precinct for this kind of  
19 memorial, not because if you wanted everything  
20 close, let's get it over with and get to the  
21 happy stuff, Because this is making me sad.

22 It's not that, it's the relationship

1 of all these events through history, it may seem  
2 linear to us. It's easier to teach it in a  
3 linear way and we all learn that way in school.  
4 But it's also fosters more interesting thought  
5 processes to suggest that things don't just  
6 happen neatly lined up in a row.

7 And think about that because you're  
8 going from experience to the next. And I don't -  
9 - because you're physically experiencing it and  
10 not in a classroom where you're hopping from one  
11 to another, here comes the question.

12 Doesn't it make sense to think about  
13 it in a different way? Doesn't it make sense to  
14 imagine the experience cumulatively of how that  
15 family spends their day versus how history is  
16 taught?

17 There's my question.

18 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Hopefully the  
19 answer is shorter than the question.

20 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Well, I'm not  
21 answering the question.

22 CHAIR MAY: I know. Well, I mean, are

1       you actually looking for an answer from Mr.  
2       Rodriguez and Mr. Harwood?

3               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Well, I am  
4       actually asking --

5               CHAIR MAY: Okay, so --

6               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- has it been  
7       thought of that way? I mean, have --

8               CHAIR MAY: Okay.

9               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Has that ever  
10      been considered?

11              CHAIR MAY: Got it. Mr. Harwood, you  
12      want to try to field that one?

13              MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, I was going  
14      to let Mr. Rodriguez that.

15              But --

16              CHAIR MAY: No, you can both answer  
17      whatever.

18              MR. HARWOOD: No, I think it is  
19      something that we considered. I just -- it was I  
20      think you're looking at it, you said earlier in  
21      this meeting that everyone comes to this from a  
22      different perspective. And I think your

1 perspective is certainly always useful, always  
2 entertaining, and the perspective of a mom is one  
3 thing with the family coming in.

4 But from the perspective of Veterans,  
5 this is why I think Mr. Rodriguez might answer  
6 this best, from the perspective of Veterans, it's  
7 really a point of honor to have your own location  
8 that's kind of a separate identity for that  
9 particular memorial, that particular conflict.

10 And I think -- and as the son and  
11 grandson of Veterans, I can appreciate that. But  
12 I don't think I can really express it the way a  
13 true Veteran can.

14 So, I would let Mr. Rodriguez kind of  
15 speak to that.

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I'll just build  
17 on that. Thanks a lot, Alan.

18 Mina, I love your comments, by the  
19 way. I've just got to throw that out there. I  
20 really appreciate your thoughts.

21 So, we have, you know, and I hope  
22 everyone understands, when I speak, it's based

1 off of the conversations we've had for the past  
2 four years that brought us to this point.

3 You know, I'll give you an example  
4 even stated in our theme.

5 One group of Veterans that could -- or  
6 actually, there were 65 individual represented  
7 720 years of service and almost 200 years  
8 deployed. The goals of our families are a big  
9 voice that are stakeholders in this.

10 And every single one of them, almost  
11 to a person, has said, look, we don't want to be  
12 confused with that, because we brought this up,  
13 you know. In those discussion groups, we had  
14 these conversations with everybody and that's  
15 always been --

16 I understand the mom. I understand  
17 the visitor, teaching, I understand that. But  
18 we're looking at, you know, honoring the men and  
19 women that served. And, you know, we're just  
20 carrying their voice forward, ma'am.

21 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So, I don't know  
22 that we're necessarily going to resolve all this

1       today. So, what I would like to propose, at this  
2       point, is that we ask the Foundation to come back  
3       and to focus on three sites.

4               And if anything else, you know, they  
5       decide to reconsider, they can do that, too. But  
6       the three sites being Constitution Gardens, the  
7       Potomac River site, and Site A. And to look at  
8       them all as earnestly as possible and as  
9       positively as possible.

10              So, think about all of the positives,  
11       not just let your vision of what could happen  
12       here be guided by the negatives.

13              And, you know, bring up things like  
14       the potential height constraints on Site A.  
15       That's worthy of considering, but I think that  
16       based on the experience that we've all had with  
17       the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Center, I think  
18       that the guidance that was given in order to  
19       build something there is now kind of quaint and  
20       not applicable.

21              So, I think that it's quite possible  
22       to achieve something there that has, you know,



1 some vertical elements, not, you know, not huge  
2 things, but something.

3 And you know, just look at what's been  
4 done with the design from the Desert Storm  
5 Memorial where it is quite subdued, but it is  
6 very meaningful and it doesn't involve large  
7 objects way up in the air.

8 So, I think it's possible to design  
9 something there and get around that.

10 So, I mean, that's my proposal that we  
11 ask for a repeat and look at those three plus  
12 anything else you want to consider. But to give  
13 everything a very thorough look through. You  
14 know, start from about three-quarters of the way  
15 through the presentation and then actually  
16 embellish on that a little bit more about the  
17 positive educational benefits as Commissioner  
18 Wright cited and some of the other considerations  
19 mentioned here.

20 So, Mr. Sherman has his hand up.

21 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Yes, Mr.

22 Chairman, I just wanted to concur that I think

1 our Commission would appreciate having at least  
2 those three sites on the table.

3 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: But when you  
5 come to our Commission as well.

6 And then, I just want to offer an  
7 observation and it's pretty unique. But I  
8 actually served in both conflicts.

9 And I would be very appreciative if I  
10 was standing say at the Desert Storm Memorial and  
11 had a discussion about the global war on terror.  
12 I was a Lieutenant back in 1986 to 1991 and that  
13 was my first duty assignment.

14 And so, I know you're listening to a  
15 lot of different Veterans and different Veterans  
16 groups. But there's probably another subset of  
17 group of Veterans who are -- who served in both  
18 conflicts. And I would just ask you to keep that  
19 in mind from a personal standpoint.

20 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Luebke?

22 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: It's a very

1 interesting discussion. And I do -- I think it's  
2 obviously incredibly important that we understand  
3 the interest and issues that have been raised by  
4 the people who have served and to honor that and  
5 give them the focus.

6 As everybody is in this process, and  
7 this goes to the memorial sponsors to the  
8 designers to our sort of the group that have to  
9 regulate it, the important thing is to remember  
10 this is an undertaking which needs to last not  
11 just years, but decades and generations.

12 And it's important to think about  
13 that. Right now, the focus is on current people  
14 who served and their experiences. It sort of  
15 becomes a focus of grief and emotion.

16 Over time, that actually does go away  
17 and it becomes an historic thing. And over time,  
18 it either -- if it stops being useful that way,  
19 it either becomes a blob or it becomes a living  
20 memorial which actually has some kind of meaning  
21 for how did we get here?

22 And from that point of view, I would

1       strongly ask you all to think about that longer  
2       term legacy that these -- this one series is not  
3       imaginable without the events of the '90s setting  
4       the stage for it. It's an important --

5               And Alan, I'm sort of surprised at  
6       some of your comments. You've used the word  
7       thematic nexus practically every presentation  
8       we've ever seen from you in the last 20 years.

9               So, I really think you should consider  
10      this carefully. Because I think you owe the  
11      American people the story as well as the locus of  
12      their grief of the Veterans. How important --  
13      but I don't personally see that the  
14      differentiation is such a --

15              The differentiation is important, but  
16      you're not differentiating them by putting them  
17      nearby.

18              So, I hope you'll look at this with  
19      the longest lens.

20              Thank you.

21              CHAIR MAY: Okay, thank you.

22              So, unless I hear anyone with

1 significant concerns about that, we will ask the  
2 Foundation to come back again. We will schedule  
3 another meeting as soon as practical for this to  
4 continue.

5 And we'll, again, as that Tidal Basin  
6 site be taken off the table and then the other  
7 two remain and then adding Site A back into the  
8 mix and anything else that you might want to  
9 reconsider, it's up to you.

10 Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Woop, woop.

12 CHAIR MAY: All right.

13 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I just--

14 CHAIR MAY: Hearing an objection.

15 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Sorry, I'm just  
16 -- it's a question. I didn't --

17 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- hear a whole  
19 lot of support for the Site J on the Potomac  
20 River site between --

21 CHAIR MAY: Yes, I agree. It wasn't  
22 a whole lot of support, but there wasn't a whole

1 lot of objection, either. And so, I thought that  
2 that was something that would keep in, again, as  
3 perhaps as just something to contrast to other  
4 sites.

5 It's very different -- it's a  
6 different setting and I thought it was a  
7 worthwhile comparison.

8 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay, I'll take  
9 that.

10 CHAIR MAY: Okay, thank you.

11 All right, anything else? I think  
12 that wraps it up for this topic. Thank you very  
13 much, everyone involved, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr.  
14 Winstanley, Mr. Harwood, and the whole team  
15 behind you, we appreciate all of your efforts.

16 You know what? I neglected to ask if  
17 there were members of the public who wanted to  
18 speak about this.

19 Ms. Porter, did we ever actually get  
20 anybody else indicating an interest in speaking  
21 on this?

22 MS. PORTER: We did not.

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay, phew, I assumed you  
2 would have interrupted me if I had moved on too  
3 quickly.

4 MS. PORTER: Well, you're right on  
5 target.

6 CHAIR MAY: All right, thank you very  
7 much. I need a team behind me, very clearly.

8 Thank you.

9 Okay, so, with that, we'll move on to  
10 other business. And I think, you know, we have,  
11 as usual, prepared an update on memorials in  
12 progress. And that was posted with the materials  
13 for this meeting.

14 I would highlight just a few things  
15 from that, that recap.

16 There are now seven bills that are  
17 pending in the Congress, either in the House or  
18 in the Senate. Four of those, Service Animals  
19 Liberty -- the National Liberty Memorial, Gold  
20 Star Mothers, and the Slave Voyagers Water Front  
21 and Voyages Act have all passed the House. But  
22 we don't know at this point, any sense of whether

1 any of them will pass the Senate.

2 But this is sort of the time of year  
3 when things start to happen with memorials. So,  
4 we could very well see some or all of those  
5 authorized, who knows. We'll see what happens.

6 On some of the other ones, I would  
7 mention what we refer to as every word we utter,  
8 the 19th Amendment Memorial, also Women's  
9 Suffrage is how it's sometimes referred to, that  
10 has gotten some recent press.

11 They had an announcement today about  
12 First Ladies, former First Ladies joined together  
13 to support that effort as members of their Board.  
14 So, we'll see what happens with that.

15 The -- and again, they are preparing  
16 for site selection. They may be trying to go a  
17 similar route to global war on terror, I don't  
18 know that for sure, but we'll see what happens.

19 Desert Storm, Desert Shield Memorial  
20 is making substantial progress. And will be  
21 reviewed on Thursday at the Commission of the  
22 Fine Arts as they inch closer to final approvals



1       that are necessary before they can be given a  
2       permit to start construction.

3               The World War II FDR Pray Plaque is  
4       under construction right now and is expected to  
5       be completed in December.

6               And World War I Memorial continues to  
7       make progress on the sculptural element that is  
8       the centerpiece of that memorial.

9               The Memorial, of course, is open to  
10      the public but that centerpiece sculpture is  
11      taking a long time to create Because it is such a  
12      complicated undertaking.

13              And I think I may have mentioned to  
14      some or all of you, that I got to see some of  
15      that happening at Sabin Howard Studio in New  
16      Jersey where he is sculpting the components of  
17      that and shipping it off piece by piece to  
18      England to be cast. And then it'll be returned  
19      and installed in the fall of 2024 is what they're  
20      looking at. So, still a couple years from  
21      completion, but making great progress. And it is  
22      an unbelievable sculpture.

1                   That is everything that I have to  
2                   report. Do any other members of the Commission  
3                   have anything to bring up?

4                   MS. PORTER: This is your Secretary,  
5                   Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to -- thought you  
6                   might want to mention the progress on Fallen  
7                   Journalists and the legislation that was  
8                   introduced for everyone.

9                   CHAIR MAY: Oh, yes, of course. Thank  
10                  you, I did not highlight that one and I don't  
11                  know why.

12                  Fallen Journalists, yes, they have  
13                  introduced legislation to secure Area I  
14                  authorization. And they are hopeful that that  
15                  will get passed in the current Congress, that  
16                  joint resolution. And if it does, then they will  
17                  be back before us to get I think --

18                  Well, I think from here, they may go  
19                  straight to Commission of the Fine Arts and NCPC  
20                  with their site selection study once they've  
21                  gotten authorization to consider a site within  
22                  Area I. So, we'll see how that goes.

1 Commissioner Sherman?

2 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Thanks, Mr.

3 Chairman.

4 Just one last question, do we have a  
5 sense of the schedule for the global war on  
6 terror? When they will be coming back to both  
7 the NCMAC and the CFA and NCPC Commissions?

8 CHAIR MAY: No, I think we're going to  
9 take it one step at time but we will have to  
10 schedule another NCMAC meeting in a few months to  
11 consider further, you know, what comes after  
12 today's meeting.

13 I expect that it's -- it would take at  
14 least three months. And of course, we have the  
15 holidays as well that could slow things down.  
16 So, you know, once we get through that in January  
17 or February, something like that, then -- or  
18 maybe even March, depending on how long it takes,  
19 then it'll go to the NCPC and CFA after that.

20 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Thank you.

21 CHAIR MAY: Okay.

22 All right, no other business? No

1 other questions?

2 (No audible response.)

3 CHAIR MAY: Thank you all very much.  
4 It's been lovely seeing you and maybe next time,  
5 we will be in person. I don't know. Does  
6 anybody going to have an open meeting room that  
7 we can use?

8 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: We can. We  
9 still have Wi-Fi.

10 CHAIR MAY: All right. Well, we'll  
11 figure those things out if we decide to go in  
12 person.

13 Thank you very much. We'll see you  
14 soon.

15 This meeting is adjourned.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
17 went off the record at 3:18 p.m.)  
18  
19  
20  
21  
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A											
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