

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL  
ADVISORY COMMISSION

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TUESDAY  
MARCH 19, 2023

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

PRESENT

TAMMY STIDHAM, Chair, representing the Director  
of the National Park Service

MICHAEL MCGRAW, Secretary, National Capital  
Memorial Advisory Commission

JOE IMAMURA, representing the Architect of the  
Capitol

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

THOMAS LUEBKE, representing the Chairman of the  
Commission of Fine Arts

DAVID MALONEY, representing the Mayor of the  
District of Columbia

PAUL MCMAHON, representing the Secretary of  
Defense

MICHAEL SHERMAN, representing the Chairman of  
the National Capital Planning Commission

MINA WRIGHT, representing the Administrator of  
the General Services Administration

## ALSO PRESENT

LAUREL HAMMING, National Capital Area Acting  
Memorials Program Manager

CHRIS WILSON, Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation

DANIEL FOX, National Park Service

SARA DOWNING, Daughters of the Republic of Texas

KITTY MELLEN HOECK, Daughters of the Republic of  
Texas

CAROLINE LEVINS, Daughters of the Republic of  
Texas

ALLEN HARWOOD, National Desert Storm War  
Memorial Association

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

2 12:25 P.M.

3 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, good afternoon.

4 Welcome to the first meeting of the National  
5 Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, for 2024.

6 I am Tammy Stidham, and I am here  
7 representing the Director of the National Parks  
8 Service.

9 Present for today's meeting are  
10 Michael Sherman, representing the Chairman of the  
11 National Capital Planning Commission.

12 Joseph Imamura, representing the  
13 Architect of the Capital.

14 Thomas Luebke, for the Chairman of the  
15 Commission of Fine Arts.

16 David Maloney, representing the mayor  
17 of the District of Columbia.

18 Mina Wright, representing the  
19 Administrator of the General Services  
20 Administration.

21 Paul McMahon, representing the  
22 Secretary of Defense.

1                   And, Edwin Fountain, representing the  
2                   Chairman of the American Battle Monuments  
3                   Commission.

4                   Also here representing the Advisory  
5                   Council on Historic Preservation is Chris Wilson.  
6                   Mr. Wilson participates with the Commission in a  
7                   non-voting advisory capacity.

8                   Also with us today is Laura Hamming,  
9                   the National Parks Service Memorials Program  
10                  Manager, along with Michael McGraw, our  
11                  Commission Secretary and Legislative Affairs  
12                  Specialist.

13                  Before we get started, I would really  
14                  like to thank Dan Fox and the Commission of Fine  
15                  Arts, for all of your help with today's meeting  
16                  and the technical support, and the use of Zoom.

17                  Without you, we, I don't know where  
18                  we'd be, but thank you, you gave us the ability  
19                  to hold this meeting today.

20                  So an overview of today's business.  
21                  As most of you know, the Commission was  
22                  established by the Commemorative Works Act of

1 1986 and is required by that Act, to advise the  
2 Secretary of Interior, the Administrator of the  
3 General Services Administration, and committees  
4 of Congress on the establishment and  
5 commemorative works in the District of Columbia,  
6 and its environments.

7 And to provide its views to the  
8 appropriate committees of Congress, when the  
9 committees are considering legislation to  
10 authorize commemorative works within the District  
11 of Columbia, and its environs.

12 The Act also requires the sponsors of  
13 authorized memorials to consult with this  
14 Commission regarding site, and design concept  
15 proposals.

16 Today we will not, we do not have any  
17 pieces of legislation to review, but we do have  
18 one design concept review, and one request to  
19 extend the authority to establish a memorial  
20 under the Commemorative Works Act.

21 So, to our first item on the agenda is  
22 a design presentation for the Texas Legation

1 Commemorative Work.

2 Commissioners, you should find a copy  
3 of the design proposal in your briefing packets.

4 In 2020, Public Law 116-248 authorized  
5 the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to  
6 establish a commemorative work on federal land in  
7 the District of Columbia and it's environs, to  
8 commemorate and honor those who as  
9 representatives of the Republic of Texas, served  
10 in the District of Columbia as diplomats to the  
11 United States, and made possible the annexation  
12 of Texas as the 28th state of the United States.

13 The Commission last reviewed the Texas  
14 Legation Commemorative Memorial at the site  
15 selection stage, which was at the 600 block of  
16 Indiana Avenue, Northwest.

17 Here with us today is Ms. Kitty Hoeck,  
18 I hope I pronounced that right, Kitty, with the  
19 Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who will give  
20 a short opener and turn it over to the members of  
21 the design team to give today's presentation.

22 So, Dan, could you promote up Kitty

1 and the design team, please?

2 MR. FOX: Yes, I see Kitty, Caroline,  
3 and Sara are here.

4 CHAIR STIDHAM: Great, thank you.

5 MR. FOX: So, please turn on your  
6 cameras and unmute yourselves.

7 (Pause.)

8 CHAIR STIDHAM: Kitty, you can go ahead  
9 and turn on your camera and unmute yourself.

10 (Pause.)

11 MS. HOECK: Okay, how's that?

12 CHAIR STIDHAM: There you are. That's  
13 great, perfect, thank you.

14 MS. HOECK: Okay, good afternoon  
15 National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

16 My name is Kitty Mellen Hoeck, of the  
17 Daughters of the Republic of Texas. I am the  
18 Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Special  
19 Committee Chairperson.

20 Thank you members of the Commission  
21 for your time, and your guidance in development  
22 of this project into something that not only

1 honored the men of the Texas Legation to  
2 Washington, but will befit our nation's Capital.

3 Thank you for all your help.

4 CHAIR STIDHAM: Kitty, who will be  
5 kicking off your presentation?

6 MS. HOECK: Caroline.

7 MS. LEVINS: Hi everyone, Caroline  
8 Levins, with Beyer Blinder Bell.

9 I'm going to kick off the presentation  
10 and walk you through the latest design intent,  
11 and then we'll have landscape jump in. Sara's  
12 going to present the landscape concepts.

13 Next slide.

14 I believe Laurel, are you running the  
15 slide deck?

16 (Pause.)

17 If we can go to the next slide.

18 (Pause.)

19 CHAIR STIDHAM: Some technical  
20 difficulties, I believe.

21 MS. LEVINS: Okay, there we go.

22 This first slide is a site plan giving

1       you an idea of the location of the proposed  
2       memorial. It is on Indiana Avenue Northwest, in  
3       between 6th and 7th Streets.

4               Next slide.

5               Next slide.

6               Here is a zoom in of the site there.  
7       The yellow dot indicating the location of the  
8       existing granite surround just north of the  
9       National Bank of Washington.

10              It's east of Indiana Plaza, flanking  
11      Indiana Avenue, as well as Pennsylvania Avenue  
12      Northwest.

13              Next slide.

14              This is an image of the existing  
15      granite surround. The red line surrounding it is  
16      showing that existing condition.

17              It's an existing granite planter. And  
18      this site was carefully selected by the DRT  
19      because of it's location with in the city, and  
20      we'll go through in just a moment, the slides  
21      indicating the significance.

22              As you can see on this slide, there

1 is, there's three existing trees there. And then  
2 you can see that granite surround in the red  
3 line.

4 Next slide.

5 So, this is a slide indicating some  
6 existing memorials and significance around the  
7 site.

8 You can see the yellow dot there just  
9 east of the number 4. All the way going west  
10 from the U.S. Navy Memorial, we have Indiana  
11 Avenue.

12 Number 7 indicating the Darlington  
13 Memorial Fountain up to the north, all the way  
14 over to the D.C. Courthouse to the east.

15 Next slide.

16 So, this is giving you an  
17 understanding of what the proposed program is for  
18 this memorial. The goal of the memorial is to  
19 provide information about the history of the  
20 annexation of Texas into the United States.

21 And to honor the diplomats who made this  
22 possible.

1                   It's location is important because it  
2                   sits in the middle of multiple locations where  
3                   these diplomats lived and worked.

4                   Next slide.

5                   So, this is a map of the site. The  
6                   yellow indicating the proposed location. The  
7                   numbers are indicating diplomats.

8                   It's indicating the location of where  
9                   they lived and worked, and the dates with which  
10                  they were there. Some buildings were there now;  
11                  some are not.

12                  So, the purpose of the memorial is a  
13                  centralized location for those to understand, and  
14                  be educated on where these diplomats lived and  
15                  worked.

16                  Next slide.

17                  So, this is a slide of the existing  
18                  conditions. As you can see, there are three  
19                  trees that we do plan to remove.

20                  There are two existing light poles we  
21                  plan to remove. And in removing that, we do plan  
22                  to incorporate a new memorial plenith, as well as

1 new landscaping elements.

2 Next slide.

3 This is a slide giving you some  
4 understanding of site photos; some context  
5 surrounding.

6 Next slide.

7 Jumping in to a site plan, the first  
8 step we took in thinking about the design of this  
9 memorial, had to do with pedestrian paths, and  
10 thinking about how people are going to walk  
11 around the site, and it's best location within  
12 the constraints for best viewing.

13 So, the yellow dot is an indication of  
14 an understanding of how people are walking around  
15 the site.

16 Next slide.

17 A zoom in of the site. It's roughly  
18 27 x 20 feet in plan.

19 Next slide.

20 This is an understanding of just the  
21 plinth design. Sara is going to jump into the  
22 landscaping elements here in a moment.

1                   So, to honor the Texas flag, the Lone  
2                   Star is a very important element for the state of  
3                   Texas.

4                   So, we are proposing a star to be a  
5                   base. Emerging from the pentagon shape within  
6                   that star will be the plinth.

7                   We're going to have information etched  
8                   into the plinth on three sides, and there is a  
9                   medallion roughly 11 inches in diameter that the  
10                  DRT will provide, that will go on top of that  
11                  plinth.

12                  We also plan to have the top of the  
13                  plinth slightly angled in order to increase  
14                  legibility of that medallion.

15                  Next slide.

16                  This is an elevation view of that  
17                  proposed plinth. On the center point, we plan to  
18                  have an etched map of the Republic of Texas, the  
19                  shape of that Republic prior to it becoming a  
20                  state within the United States.

21                  And then on either side flanking, to  
22                  the right will be a list of the names of those

1 diplomats.

2 And to the left will be text  
3 indicating the purpose of the memorial. And to  
4 the right is a key plan indicating those three  
5 elevation markers.

6 And then on the top there, you can see  
7 an image of that DRT medallion that will sit on  
8 top of the plinth.

9 Next slide.

10 And here is a more zoomed in view of  
11 the text that we are proposing. The plinth will  
12 be roughly 29 inches tall. Each side of the  
13 pentagon will be roughly 2 feet wide.

14 The text is planned to be a half-inch  
15 size. The title text is 1 and 3/8 inch. And you  
16 can see that etched Republic of Texas map there  
17 in the center.

18 Next slide.

19 And here is a page indicating the  
20 materiality selection for the plinth, and the  
21 granite base. We plan for this to be white Mount  
22 Airy granite.

1                   Next slide.

2                   And here is a schematic section,  
3                   giving you an understanding of the height of the  
4                   plinth in relationship to viewing.

5                   We were very thankful for staff  
6                   meetings that we had with the various agencies,  
7                   and working together to try to find a location  
8                   most suitable for viewing, pulling it as far to  
9                   the edge as we could for visibility.

10                  But also leaving a border there for  
11                  the landscaping.

12                  This is also giving you an indication  
13                  of the existing condition of the 1 foot 8 inch  
14                  granite surround.

15                  The memorial will be roughly 4 feet  
16                  from that outside face.

17                  And then there you can see the roughly  
18                  29 inch plinth emerging up from the new  
19                  landscaping elements.

20                  Next slide.

21                  And I'm going to give it over now to  
22                  Sara Downing with OVS, to walk through the

1       landscaping elements.

2               Thank you.

3               MS. DOWNING: Thank you, Caroline.

4               We pulled a broad leaf from three  
5       culturally significant time periods since Texas'  
6       history to inform our planting concept.

7               The pre-Republic timeframe, which was  
8       really a time period of colonization and  
9       influence.

10              The Republic timeframe when Texas was  
11       independent for almost 10 years; and then, when  
12       it was annexed as part of the United States as  
13       that third time period.

14              Next slide.

15              Likewise, we used the ecological  
16       narrative of Texas to inform this concept, as  
17       well.

18              Texas is at a unique crossroads of  
19       regional habitats and due to it's size, it  
20       possesses a really wide breadth of diversity.

21              We focused on the overall division  
22       between the eastern and western portions of the

1 state, divided by the Brazos River basin.

2 The eastern region with piney woods  
3 and higher moisture and fertility; and, the west  
4 Texas region, which is really semi-arid to arid  
5 desert.

6 There was also some intersection here  
7 with the cultural history as Texas signed its  
8 declaration of independence from Mexico, at a  
9 location called Washington on the Brazos, which  
10 was within that Brazos River basin.

11 Next slide.

12 And, we looked at the overall solar  
13 aspect of the proposed memorial site just to  
14 understand more about the plant palette.

15 It's on the north side of the National  
16 Bank of Washington as Caroline mentioned, and the  
17 overall plant palette needed to be suited to  
18 part-shade conditions.

19 But you can see that it's getting a  
20 lot of noon and afternoon light, which tells us  
21 that sunnier loving plants can survive here.

22 Next slide.

1                   And we studied the surrounding matrix  
2 of trees as a way to better understand the  
3 context.

4                   This included a lot of crepe myrtles  
5 and surrounding planters. There's honey locust  
6 on either side of our proposed site, and the  
7 street tree makeup is really a series of  
8 different species of oaks.

9                   Next slide.

10                  And, we came up with three alternative  
11 planting concepts, all of which are included in  
12 the packet for reference.

13                  And here, you see the selected  
14 concept. It's organized by two plant palettes,  
15 which sweep across the planter diagonally,  
16 drawing inspiration from the ecological regions  
17 of Texas, and the dynamic east and west habitats.

18                  The foreground is made up of a native  
19 evergreen low-growing sedge, which permits visual  
20 access through to the memorial plinth.

21                  Beyond that, an inter-planted field of  
22 native meadow plants, which are blue grama grass

1 and blazing star, create a taller backdrop.

2           Soil is actually bermed at the rear,  
3 rear of the planter, which is the southeast  
4 corner where a sweet bay magnolia tree is located  
5 on the visual access from that memorial plinth.

6           The solitary tree with its pronounced  
7 white blossoms recalls the Lone Star state, and  
8 Texas' time period as a republic.

9           And the two juxtaposed native planting  
10 zones recall the diversity, orientation, and  
11 unique breadth of Texas' ecological regions.

12           The plants were all selected for their  
13 native status either to Texas, the mid-Atlantic,  
14 or both.

15           Early spring flowering bulbs will be  
16 introduced to recall the Declaration of  
17 Independence from Mexico being signed in the  
18 month of March.

19           Next slide.

20           And, this is just giving some  
21 additional botanical information about each of  
22 the selected plants.

1                   The magnolia semi-evergreen in our  
2 climate, and may hold its leaves for the majority  
3 of the winter.

4                   It's also native to both eastern  
5 Texas, or eastern United States, and to east  
6 Texas.

7                   The blue grama grass is an iconic  
8 short grass prairie grass, and it's native mostly  
9 to the western United States, including Texas.

10                  This species of blazing star has very  
11 striking blooms in summer; attracts pollinators;  
12 and, is native to the eastern U.S. but it also  
13 serves to recall a western variety of the same  
14 genus of plant, which grows very prolifically in  
15 Texas.

16                  And then the bunny blue sedge is  
17 native to the eastern United States, and  
18 evergreen.

19                  Next slide.

20                  And this is just a concept rendering  
21 showing a view looking to the southwest of a  
22 planting palette, and the general heights of the

1 plants surrounding the plinth.

2 Next slide.

3 I think that's it.

4 (Pause.)

5 CHAIR STIDHAM: Sorry, great, thank you  
6 so very much.

7 Are there any questions from, sorry,  
8 from the commissioners regarding the presenters  
9 and the design that we just looked at?

10 If so, just raise your hand and we'll  
11 walk through it.

12 Commissioner Fountain?

13 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes, I had a  
14 question on the inscription. I think you  
15 referred to them as, individuals as diplomats  
16 sent to Washington City.

17 And just curious how you chose on that  
18 phrasing. I don't know if they had a title. If  
19 they were considered ambassadors, or if they were  
20 something else.

21 Whether they might be something more  
22 along the lines of ambassador to the United

1 States, or something like that?

2 So just curious about your thinking  
3 behind that.

4 CHAIR STIDHAM: Kitty, did you want to  
5 take that question?

6 MS. HOECK: Yes.

7 I used that terminology because they  
8 were known as ministers plenipotentiary --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:  
11 Plenipotentiary?

12 MS. HOECK: Pardon?

13 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes, I know the  
14 word.

15 MS. HOECK: An Envoy Extraordinaire.

16 And in order to keep it, because this  
17 is for everybody that comes by, but I'm kind of  
18 gearing it towards the students that come up from  
19 Texas to see our Capital, I wanted it to be  
20 something more simple.

21 So I just kept at some of them were  
22 charg, d'affaires, and some of them were the plen

1 -- say it again? Plenipotentiary?

2 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:

3 Plenipotentiary.

4 MS. HOECK: Potipitentiary. Well.

5 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Plenipotentiary.

6 It was a standard diplomatic term for ambassadors  
7 in the 19th century.

8 MS. HOECK: I mean --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Not just Texas,  
11 but everywhere.

12 MS. HOECK: Right, right.

13 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Okay. All  
14 right, thank you.

15 CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you.

16 Any other questions?

17 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: I've got a  
18 comment I guess, Chair Stidham.

19 CHAIR STIDHAM: Go ahead, Commissioner  
20 Imamura.

21 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Thank you.

22 Yes, I don't have any questions, just

1 want to comment that I think it's an elegant  
2 design solution.

3 Appreciate the plant palettes, and  
4 borrowing from sort of the ecological narratives  
5 of Texas.

6 I come from west Texas, so not, so I  
7 really like the selection of the blue grama.  
8 Certainly the sweet bay magnolia I think is a  
9 nice touch there.

10 Just from the landscape design  
11 solution, I think this is really well done. So,  
12 I just want to, I think OVS did a great job here.

13 CHAIR STIDHAM: Great, thank you.

14 Anyone else?

15 (Pause.)

16 CHAIR STIDHAM: Mr. Maloney?

17 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: I have one  
18 question I guess it is, or an observation maybe.  
19 And first of all, I agree it's a nicely developed  
20 solution.

21 I think it's really suitable to the  
22 subject matter, and to the modesty of the site.

1 It's really very well done.

2 One question I had was related to the  
3 sedge and the star, the granite star that's in  
4 the ground.

5 And since that's not a flat plant  
6 material, it will have some height to it. I  
7 wonder whether or not there might be an issue  
8 with the sedge sort of confusing the ability to  
9 read the star.

10 The legibility of the star I think, I  
11 have similar plants in my own yard and they grow  
12 up over the stones, and they sort of muddy things  
13 up.

14 And, I think it's a nice use of ground  
15 cover but I wonder whether or not the star might  
16 perhaps be elevated a little bit higher out of  
17 the ground so that you don't get that fuzzy  
18 reading of it when the plant material grows over  
19 the edges.

20 And the sharpness of the star I think,  
21 might get sort of covered up a little bit.

22 Then my other observation was relative

1 to Mr. Fountain's question. I like the notion of  
2 saying that they were ministers to Washington  
3 City.

4 The notion that they were coming to a  
5 city, it was a very young city, and the use of a  
6 term that we don't hear much nowadays, and we  
7 don't typically call it Washington City now,  
8 seems appropriate to the period.

9 What I would do is make sure you check  
10 newspapers or whatever of the time, to see what  
11 terminology they did use.

12 I think they probably did call it  
13 Washington City. Originally the first term was  
14 City of Washington, but I think pretty soon  
15 thereafter, it became commonly called Washington  
16 City.

17 And I think that's a nice touch,  
18 reminding people that this was very early in the  
19 formation of the country.

20 And not sort of the United States as  
21 we think of it today. It was a much smaller  
22 nation; much more sort of domestic in terms of

1 the environment in Washington, and I think that's  
2 a nice touch.

3 CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you.

4 Commissioner Luebke?

5 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Thank you.

6 I was just going to, the Commission of  
7 Fine Arts did review this for it's design in its  
8 meeting on the 15th of February.

9 And I just wanted to, interestingly,  
10 Mr. Maloney honed in on one of their points  
11 precisely, which was that they were concerned  
12 about the plantings overwhelming the base, the 5-  
13 pointed star base.

14 And that exactly the same comments.  
15 It should probably be elevated a little bit  
16 higher, a more, a bigger piece of stone at the  
17 base so that it wouldn't become obscured by the  
18 planting.

19 Their other comments were, there was  
20 generally very much support for the design in  
21 general.

22 The one other, two other comments was

1       that they were just concerned about the  
2       legibility of the inscriptions, as this marker is  
3       set within the planter; you're not too close to  
4       it.

5               Just to study the scale of the  
6       inscription so that they are legible from  
7       something like 5 feet away.

8               So that's just a question we can,  
9       we'll be working with you we assume on that, on  
10      the graphic design of that just to make sure it's  
11      good.

12              And finally, regarding I think it was  
13      just about the planting. They were endorsing the  
14      whole conceptual approach.

15              And they also really liked keeping the  
16      sweet bay magnolia. There were some other  
17      options that were chosen, or suggested and they  
18      weighed in on that as being appropriate.

19              And that's really all the comments  
20      that we had.

21              Thank you.

22              CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you.

1 Commissioner Sherman?

2 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Yes, good  
3 afternoon and thanks for the presentation from  
4 the sponsors. Our Commission also saw this on  
5 March 7, and just had overall support for the  
6 memorial.

7 As it did back in December 2021 it  
8 reiterated its support for the memorial, and just  
9 noted that the planting that was native to both  
10 D.C. and Texas, was appropriate for such a small  
11 area.

12 And it's supported by our recent  
13 guidance for cultural landscapes.

14 And finally, just recommend that the  
15 applicant continue to evaluate the size and  
16 treatment of the proposed text to ensure it's  
17 easily legible for all visitors.

18 As it stands from the designs and the  
19 drawings, it just seems a little small in the  
20 kerning and the text itself.

21 So, that was pretty much all our  
22 comments from our Commission.

1 CHAIR STIDHAM: Great, thank you.

2 Commission Fountain?

3 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: This is piece  
4 of advice more than anything. With respect to  
5 the plantings, your overall plan is not too  
6 complicated, nor is it too simple.

7 And, I can speak from personal  
8 experience that a complex planting plan will  
9 require a lot of maintenance. Fortunately, you  
10 have a very manageable site.

11 But be prepared to make some small  
12 investment to maintaining the plant health as  
13 this goes forward.

14 That's all.

15 CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you.

16 Okay, last try, anyone else before I  
17 propose a motion?

18 (No audible response.)

19 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay.

20 So, I would like to propose a motion.  
21 So and as such, the National Capital Memorial  
22 Advisory Commission reviewed the design of the

1 Texas Legation Memorial at the Commission's March  
2 19, 2024 meeting.

3 The Commission commends the Daughters  
4 of the Republic of Texas and its dream, its  
5 design team on concept of this modest memorial.

6 The Commission notes that attention  
7 should be paid to the legibility of the 5-pointed  
8 star base alongside the plant material requires  
9 more attention so as not to obscure, be obscured  
10 by the planting.

11 Close attention should also be paid to  
12 the text to ensure that it is using the language  
13 of the times.

14 And, the legibility of the text from  
15 a distance.

16 And so, I would look for a second for  
17 approval of this design?

18 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Second.

19 CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Imamura.

21 And so, let's take an overall vote.

22 Mr. McMahon, sorry, Mr. McGraw, would

1       you call a roll call and take a vote of the  
2       Commission, please?

3               MR. McGRAW: Yes.

4               Commissioners, please respond with  
5       your vote when I call your names.

6               Commissioner Maloney?

7               COMMISSIONER MALONEY: Yes.

8               MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Fountain?

9               COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes.

10              MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Sherman?

11              COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Yes.

12              MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Imamura?

13              COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Yes.

14              MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Luebke?

15              COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Yes.

16              MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Wright?

17              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes.

18              MR. McGRAW: Chairman Stidham?

19              CHAIR STIDHAM: Yes.

20              MR. McGRAW: Commissioner McMahon?

21              COMMISSIONER McMAHON: Yes.

22              CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, is that, that's

1 everyone. Sounds like we're a go. The vote was  
2 unanimous for approval of the design.

3 Thank you very much.

4 Our second agenda item is a request  
5 for administrative extension for the Desert  
6 Shield/Desert Storm Memorial.

7 On March 8, 2024, the Desert Storm  
8 War, the Desert Storm, the title of the memorial  
9 always twists my tongue for some reason.

10 The National Desert Storm War Memorial  
11 Association requested from the Secretary of the  
12 Department of the Interior, issuance of an  
13 administrative extension pursuant to the  
14 Commemorative Work Act of 1984, 40 USC, Chapter  
15 89, pursuant to Section 8903(e)(2).

16 The Congress approved Public Law 113-  
17 291 authorizing the National Desert Storm War  
18 Memorial Association to establish a memorial on  
19 Park land in the District of Columbia, or its  
20 environments, to commemorate and honor those who  
21 as a member of the armed forces, served on active  
22 duty in support of Operation Desert Storm, or

1       Operation Desert Shield, pursuant to the  
2       provisions of the Commemorative Works Act.

3               Additionally, Congress passed Public  
4       Law 115-18 and acted on March 31, 2017,  
5       authorizing the memorial to be located within  
6       area 1 as defined by the CWA.

7               So the Association's authority will  
8       expire on March 31 of this year. Under the CWA  
9       in Section 8903(e), the Secretary of the Interior  
10      may grant the Association a one time extension of  
11      legislative authority, for a period not to exceed  
12      3 years.

13              Prior to considering the extension,  
14      the Secretary is required to first consult with  
15      the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee  
16      on whether the Association has met two criteria.

17              1) have they obtained final design  
18      approvals from the National Capital Planning  
19      Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts; and  
20      2) have they raised 75, at least 75 percent of  
21      the amount estimated to be necessary to complete  
22      the memorial.

1                   Before moving on to this request, I'd  
2     like to add that there is another option, the  
3     only other option for extending the authority,  
4     which would be done Congressionally by  
5     legislation.

6                   However, there is no current  
7     legislation introduced that would grant an  
8     extension.

9                   Therefore, the only real option and  
10    because of the short deadline, is this  
11    administrative extension that they are seeking  
12    through the Secretary of Interior.

13                  Members of the Commission have been  
14    provided a memo from myself that includes a  
15    summary of what we are here to consider.

16                  Specifically, whether all final  
17    approvals have been granted by both Commissions,  
18    and whether they've met the 75 percent of funds  
19    needed to complete the memorial have been raised.

20                  With regards to the Commission  
21    approvals, you will see that the final letters  
22    were provided, and they have met both final

1       approvals from NCPC and CFA.

2               And a chart that goes over their  
3       expenses that states that they have documented at  
4       least 83 percent of the expected funds for the  
5       project have been raised, exceeding the 75  
6       percent requirement in the CWA.

7               Mr. Scott Stump is not available  
8       today. He was going to be here to say a few  
9       words but he's actually on a plane.

10              So I would ask Mr. Allen Harwood, on  
11       behalf of the Association, to read a statement  
12       before the Commission proceeds.

13              Mr. Harwood?

14              MR. HARWOOD: Thank you.

15              Thank you, can you hear me okay?

16              CHAIR STIDHAM: Yes.

17              MR. HARWOOD: All right, good afternoon  
18       Chair Stidham and Commissioners. On behalf of  
19       Scott Stump, I'm going to read his letter, so  
20       these are his words.

21              It's truly remarkable to think that  
22       our interactions go back more than 10 years to

1 the infancy of this project.

2 So many things have transpired along  
3 the way. Many twists and turns. However, one  
4 constant has been our collective collaboration  
5 and commitment to achieving the absolute best  
6 outcome for this memorial. An outcome we can all  
7 be proud of.

8 Our memorial team is working  
9 diligently across multiple artistic and  
10 fabrication fronts, with outstanding progress  
11 being made.

12 Our overarching goal is to raise the  
13 remaining funding in order to receive our  
14 construction permit this spring, with complete  
15 occurring before Veterans Day 2025.

16 And many thanks to this Commission,  
17 the National Parks Service, and the Department of  
18 the Interior, for granting us an administrative  
19 extension so that we can keep pushing towards the  
20 finish line.

21 We appreciate all of your help and  
22 guidance through this extremely daunting and

1       meticulous process.

2               I, along with the rest of the project  
3       team, continue to be honored to work with you and  
4       your respective agencies, and we look forward to  
5       the completion of what we believe will be a  
6       stunning new addition to the landscape of the  
7       National Mall.

8               Sincerely, Scott C. Stump, President  
9       and CEO, Desert Storm Memorial Association.

10              And I would just add as half of the  
11       project team speaking for myself, it has been a  
12       wonderful collaborative effort and it does show  
13       that the process works, and does result in  
14       improved and enhanced outcomes.

15              So, thank you for that. That's all.

16              CHAIR STIDHAM: Great, thank you Mr.  
17       Harwood.

18              And now to the Commissioners. Are  
19       there any questions? With us is as I mentioned,  
20       Laurel Hamming, the memorial's program manager  
21       who has been working closely with the Association  
22       to determine if they've met the criteria.

1                   And can answer any questions since Mr.  
2                   Stump is not here with us today.

3                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Madam Chair,  
4                   this is Mike Sherman. I had a clarifying  
5                   question just to confirm.

6                   What is the length of the  
7                   administrative extension?

8                   CHAIR STIDHAM: 3 years.

9                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: 3 years, okay,  
10                  thank you.

11                  CHAIR STIDHAM: Not to exceed 3 years.

12                  Okay, any other questions?

13                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes, let's vote,  
14                  man, I mean this --

15                  (Simultaneous speaking.)

16                  CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, here we go, all  
17                  right.

18                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- been going on  
19                  for 10 years. What are we going to do, turn it  
20                  and say sorry, you didn't make the deadline?

21                  I mean, I don't know. I don't really  
22                  get why we're spending time on this. They need

1 more time, so what? Okay.

2 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, so I'll take that  
3 as a motion.

4 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: That's a motion.

5 CHAIR STIDHAM: Which I will put in  
6 Commissioner Luebke, did you want to say  
7 something before?

8 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Oh, all I was  
9 saying is this project has been going, they're  
10 doing their work and they're doing it very well.

11 We have two items that we're still  
12 delegated to finally work out, and we're well on  
13 our way.

14 So there is no question in my mind  
15 that this makes sense. So I'm seconding the  
16 motion.

17 CHAIR STIDHAM: Great.

18 Okay, so the motion for the vote would  
19 be the National Capital Memorial Advisory  
20 Commission recommends that the Secretary of  
21 Interior grant the National Desert Storm War  
22 Memorial Association, an administrative extension

1 of their authority to establish a Desert  
2 Shield/Desert Storm Memorial for 3 years from  
3 April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2027.

4 So, Mr. Michael McGraw will --  
5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: That's exactly  
7 what I said.

8 CHAIR STIDHAM: -- take a vote.

9 Okay, got it. Word for word, Mina,  
10 thank you so much. Perfect.

11 MR. MCGRAW: Commissioners, please  
12 voice your vote to be recorded as I call the  
13 roll.

14 Commissioner Maloney?

15 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: Yes.

16 MR. MCGRAW: Commissioner Fountain?

17 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes.

18 MR. MCGRAW: Commissioner Sherman?

19 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Yes.

20 MR. MCGRAW: Commissioner Imamura?

21 COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Yes.

22 MR. MCGRAW: Commissioner Luebke?

1 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Yes.

2 MR. McGRAW: Commissioner Wright?

3 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Yes.

4 MR. McGRAW: Commissioner McMahon?

5 COMMISSIONER McMAHON: Yes.

6 MR. McGRAW: Chairman Stidham?

7 CHAIR STIDHAM: Yes.

8 MR. McGRAW: Vote is recorded.

9 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, thank you. So  
10 the yes have it. Thank you very much.

11 We will pass that on to Madam  
12 Secretary of Interior, and get a letter out to  
13 the Commission. So, thank you very, very much  
14 for that.

15 So just a few more things and then  
16 we'll let you guys get back to the rest of your  
17 days.

18 Ms. Laurel Hamming is here to go over  
19 the status of existing authorized memorials. As  
20 you know, there are a number that are currently  
21 in various stages of development.

22 So, I will pass it to Laurel.

1 MS. HAMMING: Hi, good afternoon.

2 One piece of note. The expansion of  
3 the First Division Memorial just outside of the  
4 White House on President Park grounds, broke  
5 ground for their construction a week ago, I  
6 believe.

7 So, aiming for a Memorial Day-ish  
8 construction completion, and that was the main  
9 item of, to report.

10 Happy to take any questions on other  
11 memorials in process.

12 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, I think Mr.  
13 Luebke, Commissioner Luebke already mentioned  
14 about the Desert Shield/Desert Storm and where we  
15 are there.

16 So if there's no other questions, I  
17 would ask if any of the -- Commissioner Fountain?

18 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes, I just  
19 figure I'd report that the Adams Memorial up  
20 here, which I think has been dormant for some  
21 time, is picking up some new steam.

22 I think they're under a new structure.

1 Congress created a commission I think, and they  
2 finally got enough members appointed that they  
3 could meet and elect, or appoint an executive  
4 director.

5 And they had called me for just  
6 advice, which I gave them. So, with any luck,  
7 that might be coming to us in some stage of the  
8 process before too long.

9 But there does seem to be new, some  
10 new momentum there.

11 CHAIR STIDHAM: Thank you, yes, we have  
12 been in touch with them as well, working through  
13 moving some funds in their direction, as well as  
14 providing some guidance.

15 They just recently had a quorum and  
16 had their, once they got a quorum, they had 45  
17 days to have their first meeting, which they did  
18 in January.

19 So, they are up and running again, and  
20 we will give you guys some updates as soon as  
21 when have them.

22 Is there any?

1 MR. WILSON: Tammy, this is Chris  
2 Wilson. I just had a question for Edwin.

3 CHAIR STIDHAM: Sure.

4 MR. WILSON: By the way, I was able to  
5 visit the World War I Memorial. I love it.

6 Any updates on when the final art  
7 installation will occur, or has it already  
8 occurred?

9 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Unveiling is  
10 scheduled for September 13.

11 MR. WILSON: And, I assume that will be  
12 well publicized? I'd love to see it.

13 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes, I expect  
14 it will be. Yes, so we've, I think the site will  
15 close early July I believe, yes, to, and start  
16 all the work of installing the thing.

17 Patinating it, and letting the  
18 patination cure. Adjusting the lighting, all  
19 that sort of thing, with what they're calling an  
20 illumination on 13th of September, which, we  
21 decided not to do it on Veterans Day, November 11  
22 because that's a week after the Presidential

1 election and we thought that might not be the  
2 best window of media opportunity.

3 But September 13 is General  
4 Pershing's, his birthday, so that seemed an  
5 appropriate date.

6 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

7 CHAIR STIDHAM: Do any other members  
8 have any other business to bring up?

9 (No audible response.)

10 CHAIR STIDHAM: Okay, hearing none,  
11 thank you for your participation today. We  
12 really appreciate it.

13 I call this meeting now adjourned.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 (Chorus of thank you.)

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
17 went off the record at 1:44 p.m.)  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

A			
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