



Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission

SHPMC minutes for May 14, 2015 at 7:30pm

Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown
Council Chambers

In Attendance: Joanne Brunetti, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Daniel Krauss,
Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou, Kyle Lyddy (Chairman), Alan Martin (Vice-Chairman),
Sarah Middleleer, Tricia Pinto and Donna VanWaalwijk
Staff: Lynn Kovack (recording clerk)

Approval of Minutes:

April 9, 2015 minutes (M) Alan (2nd) Donna

April 28, 2015 minutes (M) Alan (2nd) Steffan with the following corrections: Add Rebecca Kowalski and Joal Bacon to the attendace at the meeting. All approved with corrections

Public Participation: No public participation. Richmond Jones was available to answer any questions on his Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Park

Discussion surrounding 26 Family Special Meeting and Key Learning's/Family Outreach

The Special Meeting went well for most part. Mr. Engel thought meeting was a little lengthy. Got some feedback on it being a hard process, some not sure about having outsiders coming in and seeing the memorial. It will take time and we have to understand that everyone will not be happy and they want to be heard. Having someone else control the message bothered some family members. So it is good that we are finding out what some families DO NOT want and that is very helpful. We need to keep moving forward and keep families and Community updated on our progress. The word Competition was brought up and many families did not like that wording at all if it is decided to go along with the Memorial choice. We are here to listen and do the best we can do in moving forward. Will keep meetings with families to a minimal.

Location approach- Inventory/ Outreach Process- Sub Committee Update. Next steps. Land consideration and Private Land outreach

Alan went over updates on potential sites. Donna and Alan met with the Newtown Forest Association and they were very receptive. He went over site criteria that they selected. They are very open to working with us. At their meeting next week they will review their properties. They are the largest Land Use Agency in CT and the oldest. Alan and Donna also met with Terry Sagati at FFHA. They will be adding the High Meadow which is 80 acres to the site sheets. It is very accessible and quiet. We have 4 or 5 promising parcels. The goal is by September to have top 3 sites for Commission to evaluate and go over.

They will then meet with the families to go over. We have very good options and are moving right along. The Newtown Forest Association will get back to us.

Discussion of Design Selection/ Consideration Process- Sub Committee Update. Presentations moving forward, Family Involvement

Sarah went over and discussed all possibilities for design process. She wrote up a summary of 4 options they discussed that are very reasonable. They realized we don't know how some memorials were arrived at so they would like more time to do research on that. She went through the format and criteria for submission of designs. Sarah went through advantages and disadvantages. Everyone would get the design criteria for their submission. This is an ongoing process. (Design process selection and criteria sheet attached)

Fundraising Discussion and Efforts Surrounding Financial Account

Commission is not at this stage yet because we do not know the scope of the project and what it will cost. Kyle state approximately \$100,000 - \$120,000 is in the account as of today. Joanne will start working on the research of Grant info

Miscellaneous/ Q & A distribution

Kyle gave out Q & A #2 to post after reviewing with Commission. Kyle went through it briefly and would like any feedback with questions to him by Friday May 15, 2015. Kyle gave Columbine contact info for Sub Committee's as needed. Lisa Barrett sent Invite for her Memorial presentation she is doing at Aqua Scape in Portland, CT on May 23, 2015 if anyone is interested.

With no other discussions the meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM

These minutes are subject to approval of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission



May 14, 2015

Committee members: Steffan Burns, Dan Kraus, Sarah Middleleer and Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou

First Meeting: 5/4/2015

Agenda: Discussion of possible design selection methods

FOUR DESIGN SELECTION OPTIONS

Note: for each of the options listed below, the prospective designers would be given feedback received by the commission from families and the community during our outreach phases prior to them submitting designs. They will also be given information about the chosen site, including a site survey, location, surroundings, etc., along with program requirements such as parking capacity, accessibility, safety measures, seating, etc.

I. BROAD-BASED INVITATION TO SUBMIT DESIGNS

Invitation to a wide audience to submit designs. The notices could be posted to professional organizations such as American Society of Landscape Architects, American Institute of Architects, university programs in landscape architecture, architecture, or art; design and art publications, etc. Commission to decide whether to post this invitation locally or nationally, etc.

Precedents: 9/11 memorial, Oklahoma City memorial, most Washington national memorials.

Process:

Most likely a certain set of format criteria for submitting will be necessary – how specific to be determined by the commission.

Once submissions are received, a selection process will unfold, with the goal of narrowing down the choices to a few.

Panel of initial selection committee to be determined: could be commission, with or without families, or a separate pool of jurists, or a combination of the above.

Once a “short list” is established, those participants will be invited to make presentations to the commission and families for a final choice. These presentations will include more detail specific to the site and other critical matters, such as materials and estimated costs.

Chosen design team to be interviewed and vetted to go over families' concerns and willingness to make necessary modifications, such as ideas contributed by people with close connections to the tragedy.

Advantages:

The chance to get blue-chip designers to participate, with the possibility of a world-class design as a result.

We get a variety of designs from a potentially large number of participants.

Disadvantages:

Design input from families and commission would come after initial design is presented.

Depending on how wide a net is cast, the process of reviewing submissions may be lengthy and challenging.

II. SELECT INVITATIONAL

One variation of the above process is to actually invite certain professionals from the areas of architecture, art and design to participate. The Commission may decide who and how many participants we wish to have.

Process:

As described above.

Advantages:

We can control the number of entries and who is submitting designs to us.

Coming from invited professionals, these entries will be easier to judge because they will most likely be more complete and adequate, compared to entries from anyone from the public with any type of background, some unrelated to architecture or landscape architecture.

Disadvantages:

Design input from families and commission would come after initial design is presented.

We limit ourselves to the creativity of the invited professionals. We will not get to see a large number of designs to choose from.

III. SELECTION OF DESIGN TEAM AHEAD OF DESIGN CREATION

The Commission may select one design firm/team to undertake the design of the Memorial.

Process:

The commission would interview invited firms in order to review their past work, interest in this project, and willingness to work with the commission and families to come up with a final design.

Once a design team has been selected, a series of meetings would ensue, with participation by victims' families and commission members. Eventually a design would be presented, with feedback determining adjustments and modifications.

Advantages:

Commission and families have earlier input into the design.

Earlier opportunity to incorporate ideas from submissions already received, such as one done by a family member and the design by a former Sandy Hook student.

Disadvantages:

This may be a lengthier process.

Limited to the design capabilities of one particular firm.

IV. DESIGN TEAM THAT INCLUDES THE COMMISSION

The Commission may assemble a team of experts to undertake the design of the Memorial. The experts can be from the field of architecture, landscape design, lighting design, etc. Members of our Commission may be a part of the design team, because they will be able to bring an intimate knowledge of the Commission's findings and overall culture. The design team can come up with 3-5 conceptual renderings and share them with the victims' families. After input from the victims' families and other considerations, the Commission may authorize the design team to proceed with the one design they feel is the best. If the families don't like any of the conceptual designs, the team can go back to the drawing board and produce some more ideas for them. This process may continue until the Commission feels we have an adequate number of families on board. Once the design is selected, the design team continues to refine it. The design team may call in experts to advise in certain areas as needed (i.e. security concerns, environmental/energy efficiency issues). The design team periodically meets with the victims' families to show progress, take input into consideration and update the rest of the Commission.

Advantages:

Total control over the design (and cost) of the Memorial.

The Commission still gets to see a number of proposed designs to choose from

We can draw elements from a variety of ideas we have seen so far and incorporate into the overall design (i.e. 4th grader, high school student, ideas that came from victims' families, ideas from design proposals that came from everywhere and are currently being stored)

Disadvantages:

This may be a lengthier process.

"Design by committee" may result in a less cohesive product.

Resources:

<https://oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/about/outdoor-symbolic-memorial/>

<http://www.911memorial.org/memorial>

<http://www.columbinememorial.org/Design.asp>

<http://hudsonberkshirellc.com/Dunblane-Memorial-Garden>

<https://www.weremember.vt.edu/memorial.html>

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26169582/aurora-victims-families-wait-permanent-theater-shooting-memorial

The committee has just begun this process. One effort we did not have enough time for before tonight's meeting is to research in depth certain memorials for which we have limited information, such as Dunblane and Virginia Tech.