

Memorial commission meets with families

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-- Relatives of the 26 children and adults killed at [Sandy Hook Elementary School](#) will have many chances to express their thoughts on a proposed memorial to the victims, members of the project's commission told a small group of family members Thursday.

"You are the first group we are reaching out to," Chairman [Kyle Lyddy](#) said. "We want to find out what you want and what you don't want."

A half-dozen people, mainly parents of the 20 first-graders who died on Dec. 14, 2012, attended the meeting of the [Permanent Memorial Commission](#). The 12-member group has been meeting for the past six months to come up with a fitting tribute to the victims and others impacted by the tragedy.

But the commission is in no rush to get the job done, its members assured the families.

"There's no timeline for this. It's going to be a fluid process," said [Sarah Middleleer](#).

"We're going to be very deliberate in what we do," commission member [Alan Martin](#) said.

Earlier this month, the commission distributed a survey to the families, seeking opinions on a variety of topics concerning the memorial, including its location, elements they would like to see included or excluded and the overall feel they think the design should evoke.

They also invited the families to meet with them on Thursday, prompting one of the six who attended, [Mark Mattioli](#), to ask if the session would be their only chance to provide any input on the project, and how long the commission thought the process might take.

Lyddy and others said there would be a number of other opportunities for the families to meet with the commission, but the group wanted to start the process before the end of the school year.

The meetings could be individual or in small or large groups, Lyddy said. Other groups and individuals impacted by the shooting would also be consulted, he said.

Lyddy said the commission has met with members of the [9/11 Memorial Commission](#) to get their thoughts on the process, and commission members have also heard from the group that designed the memorial at [Columbine High School](#) in Colorado, which offered suggestions about developing a protocol to solicit suggestions and recommendations about how they should proceed.

"We want to hear what you have to say," commission member [Joanne Brunetti](#) said. "We're going to do our best to make it work for the families."

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