

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force and Flight 93 Advisory
Commission**
Meeting # 23

Somerset County Courthouse, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501
Saturday, February 7, 2009

Minutes prepared by:
Barbara Black, Flight 93 National Memorial

Commissioners Present :

Mr. Lawrence Catuzzi, Commissioner
Mr. Gordon Felt, Commissioner
Dr. Brent Glass, Commissioner
Ms. Donna Glessner, Vice Chair
Mr. Kenneth Nacke, Commissioner
Mr. John Reynolds, Chair
Mr. Gary Singel, Commissioner
Mr. Jerry Spangler, Commissioner
Mr. Dan Sullivan, Commissioner
Ms. Pam Tokar-Ickes, Commissioner
Mr. Mike Watson, Commissioner
Mr. Calvin Wilson, Commissioner
Joanne Hanley, Designated Federal Officer

Commissioners by conference line:

Mr. Edward Linenthal, Commissioner

Task Force Co-Chairs Patrick White and Jerry Spangler

Not in Attendance:

Mr. Jerry Guadagno, Commissioner
Mr. Gregory Walker, Commissioner

I. Welcome and Role Call

Flight 93 Advisory Commission Chair Reynolds and Flight 93 Memorial Task Force Co-Chair White called the meeting to order welcoming the Commissioners, Task Force and members of the public, formally opening the twenty-third meeting of the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was led by Pastor Robert Way of the Good Shepard Cooperative. The Pledge of Allegiance was led Colonel Mike Crall, US Army Corps of Engineers.

III. Opening Remarks and Introduction

Chair John Reynolds opened the meeting with remarks that with the beginning of the new year, we were beginning a new phase of the project with great process and great hope. By this time

next year the project will be under contract and construction for the first phase of the Memorial. Chair Reynolds thanked Patrick White for leading efforts on land acquisition and coordination with the NPS Lands Division. His dedication is an inspiration to all of us. Chair Reynolds also thanked Superintendent Hanley for her exceptional efforts particularly in the last six-months that went beyond what a superintendent is normally asked to do. Chair Reynolds took role of those Commissioners joining via teleconference. Chair Reynolds reminded the public if they wished to make comments, they need to add their name to the sign-up sheet, and will then be allowed to speak for five minutes (per speaker) at the end of the meeting during the public comment period.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2008

Chair Reynolds asked if there were any changes or comments to the Commission minutes. Chair Reynolds asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Commission meeting on November 1, 2008.

Commission Motion 09-02 Regarding the Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2008

The Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission, led by Chair Reynolds approved the minutes of November 1, 2008.

Moved: by Commissioner Catuzzi

Second: by Commissioner Glass

Discussion from the Commissioners: none

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Motion passes.

V. Task Force Reports

Task Force Co-Chair, Spangler announced the following portions to be discussed during the Task Force section of the agenda. The items on the Task Force include family memorial, temporary memorial management, government liaison, communications, archives, and interpretive planning.

A. Family Memorial Committee Report

Commissioner Nacke presented the following report:

Commissioner Nacke had two items to discuss: the first is the family briefing meeting on the west coast tentatively set for May 9, 2009. The intent of the meeting is to update family members first-hand on what has been accomplished on the project and what still needs to be done. The families will also receive an update on the Commission meeting that will be held the weekend prior to the West Coast meeting.

Commissioner Nacke's second item is an update on the "Ride With The Forty" motorcycle event composed of 5 riders for 8 days = 40 heroes. The tentative route is from Newark International Airport to San Francisco International Airport, the intended route of United Flight 93, leaving on September 4 and arriving on September 11 with a stop at the Flight 93 crash site. Two volunteers produced a website (www.ridewiththe40.org) that posts the mission statement of the ride and tells the story behind it. There are also links to the NPS and NPF websites. The 3,000 mile route will be sponsored one mile at a time at \$93 per mile with a goal of potentially raising over \$270,000.

B. Temporary Memorial Management Report

Park Guide Adam Shaffer presented the following report:

Volunteer Trip To Pentagon Memorial

On November 15, 2008, 26 volunteers and NPS staff traveled by bus to the Pentagon Memorial, in Arlington, VA, where we were joined by Flight 93 family members and our friends from the National Park Foundation. Andrew Ammerman, Director of the Pentagon Memorial Fund and Jim Laychak, President of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, whose brother David Laychak, perished in the attack there gave us a personalized tour of the Memorial, which is not offered to visitors at this time. This educational field trip has yielded new relationships, and the potential for partnership. We have already begun working cooperatively with the Pentagon Memorial by sharing resource materials from the Flight 93 Ambassador program to help in the development of a volunteer program at the Pentagon Memorial.

Visitation

December was a record month at the memorial in more than one way. With the exception of the visitor totals in December 2006, December 2008 was a record high month for visitors to the memorial-2,595 visitors counted. December was also the launch of the Junior Ranger Program at the temporary memorial. While still in the initial stage, the program has been warmly received by both children and adults. As 2008 ended, more than 136,091 visitors had journeyed to the memorial over the past year. During that time, 439 buses made Flight 93 National Memorial a stop, just two less than our 2007 total. From our early conservative visitor estimates the NPS calculates that more than 997,143 visitors have come to the temporary memorial. This means that in the year 2009, we can expect to welcome our one-millionth counted visitor to the memorial. This number does not account for the additional visitors who come to the memorial before and after the presence of volunteers and staff.

Weather

As January began, volunteers and staff were challenged by some of the most extreme weather conditions Somerset County has to offer. This included three significant ice storms and an extreme cold spell with temperatures dipping to -19° F before wind-chill outdoors and -1° inside the shelter on one Saturday morning.

Signage

A bulletin board case on the outside of the shelter at the temporary memorial was installed to provide basic information when the site was not staffed. Included is information about hours of operation, the program offered by the Ambassadors/staff, the availability of the passport stamp and Junior Ranger Program. The board also gives an orientation for first-time visitors who may not know where the impact site is located.

Volunteers

Our spring training series for the volunteer program will begin on February 7th with first aid and CPR. Other trainings we plan to offer this spring include a panel discussion with first responders and the release of declassified information from the FBI. Since my last report, we've welcomed two new volunteers, Charlotte Jones & Jill Keating, both serving as transcriptionists for the oral history project. I've also had contact with two groups interested in volunteering for a work day

at the memorial. The NPS office will be planning a volunteer work day to repair the walking surface at the memorial and to address other maintenance needs for the summer season.

C. Government Liaison Briefing Report

Co-Chair White presented the following report prepared by Will Hollier:

Federal Appropriations and Federal Funding

- Continual consultation with House and Senate appropriations staff and Pennsylvania Delegation regarding status of appropriations process and strategy for maintaining funding in FY09 appropriations bills.
- Confirmed funding for Memorial is included in Interior Appropriations Bill for an as-of-yet undetermined amount. This funding is in addition to \$3 million provided in the Transportation Bill.
- Researched protocol for securing funding for Memorial from economic stimulus legislation funds.
- Began researching and drafting FY10 appropriations applications.

Svonavec Land Appraisal Issue

- Significant role as intermediary between White House, Department of the Interior, Families of Flight 93 and Pennsylvania Delegation in Svonavec land appraisal and acquisition issue.
- Communicated Families concerns and frustration with Department of Interior's lack of attention to appraisal issue to Brian McCormack, Special Assistant to the President, Brian Waidman, Chief of Staff to Secretary Kempthorne, Doug Domenech, Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary Kempthorne, Matt Eames, Director of Legislative Affairs Department of Interior.
- Provided daily if not more updates to federal officials, Families and Pennsylvania Delegation on progress and actions needed regarding Svonavec issue.
- Worked with Senators Specter and Congressman Shuster's office to contact Svonavec and urge him to accept NPS/Families offer.
- Met with Staff Directors of House and Senate Authorizing and Appropriation Committees to brief them on congressional approval needed for actions.
- Provided feedback and edits on Families' letters to former Secretary Kempthorne and President Bush. Ensured letters were elevated to key decision makers in government.

Congressional Plaque in United States Capitol

- Secured artist rendering of plaque honoring passengers and crew of Flight 93 and location in new Capitol Visitor's Center. Trying to secure timeline for unveiling.

Organization

- Weekly conference calls with Families, National Park Foundation and LAKPR (Linden Alschuler & Kaplan Public Relations) to allocate tasks and responsibilities, ensure proper follow up to action items, and serve as strategy session.

D. Communications Report

Lisa Linden, Linden Alschuler & Kaplan PR, presented the following report:

Public Relations Counsel

In the fall of 2008, the Families of Flight 93 entered into an agreement with Linden Alschuler & Kaplan as their public relations counsel.

Land Acquisition Issues

In order for the permanent Flight 93 Memorial to be ready for dedication on September 11, 2011 it was critical to secure the core 275-acre Svonavec parcel in a timely manner. A strategy was sought by the leadership of the memorial project to engage the priority attention of the President and his Executive staff in the final days of the Bush Administration. The goal was to put forth a call to action that would lead to the prompt settlement of the acquisition dispute, allowing the project to move forward.

A letter was drafted to President Bush reflecting the views and positions of the Families of Flight 93 and the Flight 93 Advisory Commission. The letter, which sought President Bush's re-commitment to the goal of a September 11, 2011 dedication and urged his action before leaving office to help realize that goal, was delivered on December 9, 2008. The letter specifically requested that an Executive Order be issued to authorize eminent domain to address the land acquisition issue, to ensure that federal funding was in place and to expedite the processing of permits by government entities.

The letter formed the basis for a white paper briefing document reflecting the views and opinions of the Families of Flight 93, the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, the Flight 93 Memorial Commission and those to whom they reached out, designed to inform reporters and interested parties by bringing them up to date. Its purpose was to set down in an informative and compelling narrative the urgency of moving forward now against the background of the stalled acquisition process, and the other needs including fundraising, wetlands permits and easements. The briefing document had a positive impact on the process of generating media interest.

There was no response to the December 9 letter from President Bush's office. Prior letters to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne had been met with silence, as well. A decision was therefore made to engage the media.

On December 28, the *Washington Post* published a front-page story. The article was picked up by several other media outlets and the *Associated Press* then ran a story that received extensive media coverage around the nation and the world. Many outlets carried the story online and in print, on television and radio. The first editorial on the subject appeared on December 30 in the *Daily Item* of Sunbury, PA. Local stories appeared in the *Tribune-Democrat* (first story December 29, with editorials on December 31, 2008; January 2, 2009, and a follow-up article January 3, 2009). While all the articles emphasized the need for progress, they also reflected concerns raised by the landowner, Svonavec, Inc.

On January 9, the *AP* reported that a new offer from the National Parks Service was imminent. This story was carried online and in print by media throughout Pennsylvania. On January 10, the *New York Times* published a story which discussed the land issue, as well as the imminent offer. On January 16, a story ran in the *Somerset Daily American* saying the National Park Service had conveyed a new offer and appraisal to Svonavec.

At approximately 11:30pm on January 16, LAKPR and the National Park Service sent out a press release on behalf of the National Park Service, the Families of Flight 93 and Svonavec, Inc. announcing a breakthrough agreement that allows timely development to move forward. It grants NPS access to the site to conduct all necessary activity needed to plan and construct the memorial while letting the court determine a final valuation of the property. As part of the deal, Svonavec also offered to donate the approximately 6-acre impact site.

An *Associated Press* wire story began to be picked up by hundreds of media outlets around the country and the world just before midnight on January 16. On Sunday, January 18, the *New York Times* ran a story in its National section and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* ran a story on January 18. Over the course of the next week, there were editorials in the *Tribune-Democrat*, the *Daily American*, and the *Charleston Post and Courier* expressing relief that a deal was reached and the need to move forward. On Sunday, January 25, the *New York Times* had an editorial praising the efforts to finally break the deadlock.

Beyond the Logjam

While the status of the land acquisition process will govern immediate next steps, it is still only one part of the story to be told. A particular effort will be made to understand and work closely with the government affairs and development staff in order to complement their efforts to raise vital funds through federal and state governments as well as private fundraising initiatives.

Important milestones over the coming months such as the final property acquisition or the one-millionth visitor will also be noted as we prepare for activities leading up to and on September 11, 2009.

E. Archives Committee Briefing Report

Acting Site Manager Barbara Black and Joy Stella presented the following report:

Oral History and Documentation Project

Through Kathie Shaffer's continued efforts, the project now has 430 interviews since the first oral history was conducted in April 2005. 91 interviews are completely through the process of transcription, editing, writing an abstract, securing a signed release and placement in the archives. 252, 59% of the total oral histories, have been transcribed by 6 volunteers and Kathie.

130 interviews have been conducted with family members, friends and co-workers, representing 32 of the 40 passengers and crew on Flight 93. Several family members are working with Kathie to encourage other family to contribute the memory of their loved ones to the memorial. We have had success when one family member works closely with us to identify and contact other family, even reaching out to close friends and business associates. All of this is done with extreme sensitivity, knowing that for some, an oral history will still be difficult at this time. The door will always remain open.

Kathie and her traveling team has been invited to a DMORT Region III training on March 27-29 in Gettysburg to meet and record interviews with as many as 15-18 individuals who responded to Flight 93. DMORT, the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, is a federal level response team designed to provide mortuary assistance in the case of a mass fatality incident.

They work under the local jurisdictional authorities such as coroner/medical examiners, law enforcement and emergency managers.

Kathie and her team are also working on plans to return to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey this spring, and it is hoped that Kathie can travel to San Francisco for the family meeting in May.

Collections

Visitors continue to leave tributes and messages even during the winter months, and these items are monitored by the volunteers and staff at the memorial, bringing them in when they begin to show signs of wear.

The conversion of the cataloged tributes to the National Park Service system is continuing with 5,500 items re-cataloged to-date (October 12, 2001 to May 2003). Professor Alexander Riley at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, has offered to place summer interns at Flight 93 that would work with the collection or on the oral history project. Bucknell would provide them with a small stipend which would allow them to locate here for three months.

F. Interpretive Planning Briefing Report

Acting Site Manager Barbara Black presented the following:

University Partnerships

The Academic Research Team of the Flight 93 Primary Interpretive Themes Project has successfully reached some milestones in the project. The following table shows the extensive work accomplished:

RESOURCE	TEAM MEMBERS	DATA	PRODUCT
Flight 93 Oral Histories	Portland State University: Prof. Eric Mankowski and graduate students	40 completed oral history transcripts	40 oral histories coded for analysis two times by two different individuals
Tribute Comment Cards	University of Pennsylvania: Prof. Alan Barstow and graduate students	351 comments cards that were left at the temporary memorial by visitors	351 cards coded for analysis two times by two different individuals (more cards may coded at least once before analysis is complete)
Conversational Groups – Flight 93 Temporary Memorial Visitors	University of Pennsylvania: Prof. Alan Barstow and graduate students Flight 93 staff/volunteers	24 conversations on two weekends: July 17-19 and October 10-11, 2008 representing 93 visitors	24 conversations transcribed and coded two times

A final report of analysis is expected within the next few months. The analysis will provide a comparison of the interpretive themes as outlined in the Flight 93 National Memorial Mission

Statement which were written in 2004. Main themes and sub-themes will be identified according to the meaning and relevancy placed on them by our visitor and partners. This will then form the framework for the Interpretive Plan of the permanent Memorial.

V. Flight 93 Advisory Commission Briefing Reports

A. Land Acquisition Briefing Report

Superintendent Hanley presented the following report prepared by NPS Lands Office, Region 5, Philadelphia:

- Svonavec (01-102) property. On January 16, 2009, the National Park Service, Families of Flight 93, and Svonavec, Inc. jointly reached an agreement in principle to allow timely development of the property. The agreed-to process provides the National Park Service with access to the site and allows NPS to conduct activities necessary to plan and construct the National Memorial.
- NPS continues to work diligently with the Families of Flight 93 and legal counsel on title and survey matters related to the former PBS Coals property (Tracts 01-101 and 01-108). An appraisal is underway to value the property. A target for NPS acquisition is set for May 2009.
- NPS is working with the Kordells (Tract 01-100) to acquire their property and relocate Rollock, Inc., their recycling/salvage business. On January 20, 2009, a meeting was held on-site with NPS, Kordells, and relocation contractors. A relocation offer was presented to the Kordells which is now under consideration. A real estate appraisal update and an environmental site assessment are being procured.
- NPS is also working with The Conservation Fund (Tract 01-124) to acquire the mineral interests formerly owned by PBS Coals. An appraisal has been completed. NPS is awaiting receipt of the appraisal report.
- As soon as title issues are resolved on the former Mock property (Tract 01-114), NPS will acquire the property from the Families of Flight 93, who are the current owners.
- NPS is in the process of procuring appraisals for other properties within the boundary of the National Memorial.
- The Lands Oversight Committee continues to hold monthly conference calls to report on FLNI land acquisition progress and current events for the benefit of the committee, the partners, and NPS in an effort to ensure continued communication and coordination.

Superintendent Hanley presented the following report prepared by Todd McNew of The Conservation Fund:

In addition to the approximately 350 acres of land added to the new State Game Land 93 (SGL93) in recent years, both The Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) continue to actively talk to other landowners to the north about additional parcels that could be incorporated into SGL93. TCF is working with the Families of Flight 93 to

assist with the transfer of a 67-acre former PBS Coal tract to the PGC for inclusion into SGL93. SGL93 serves as a buffer for the Memorial and complements the work of the NPS.

TCF continues to hold three subsurface mineral parcels which partially underlie the southern portion of the Memorial. We hope to complete the take-out sale of these rights by mid-2009, using a portion of the \$5.0 million that the administration approved. The NPS appraisal process is near completion.

Looking forward, TCF effort will focus on the take-out sale of mineral parcels to NPS and the SGL93 effort. We also look forward to fulfilling an as-needed advisory role for further acquisition efforts by the Families and the NPS.

Vice-President Patrick White, Families of Flight 93, presented the following report:

Active discussions are on-going with attorneys for the four remaining properties near the crash site. NPS Appraisal Services is preparing appraisals for these four land parcels and the Families will make legitimate and fair offers.

The appraisal for the former PBS Coal lands now owned by the Families of Flight 93 is underway. The Families are working in close coordination with NPS to resolve the remaining title issues.

The Families are working with the Karen Lambert and Seymour properties to solve boundary issues. Although these properties are not essential to Phase 1A construction, they are needed for Phase 1C.

An agreement for purchase has been signed for the donation of 1500 acres for the “Remember Me Rose Garden” from the Families. A closing will take place in the near future.

Commissioner Mike Watson requested a map of all lands acquired to-date for the next meeting.

B. Memorial Design Briefing Report

Superintendent Hanley presented the following report:

Design Development

NPS authorized commencement of the Design Development Phase for Phase 1 on September 28. The design team presented mid-point DD progress in a webinar with NPS on November 18 – including review of grading, landscape, site utility, lighting, and architectural issues.

Subsequent discussion was held several times in December with the NPS, and addressed proposed design refinement of the Sacred Ground memorial wall, the Arrival Court, and the Ambassador shelter. Pending full resolution of all comments, the refinements will be approved.

The design team completed and submitted draft Design Development documents for Phase 1A – excluding the wetlands portion of the work – in December. NPS requested that the design team provide additional materials, refining design intent and cost for the proposed storm water management measures. Final configuration of these improvements is contingent on completion

of wetland delineation – which in turn is contingent on ability to access remaining areas of the project site.

The DDs have been extensively reviewed by the Denver Service Center project team members and the park; the comments have been consolidated and sent to the design team.

NPS issued the third draft geotechnical report incorporating Ring Road portions of the site on January 20. The design team is reviewing the report and will develop comments and recommendations for additional testing in newly accessible site areas.

Progress on the DDs was presented to the DOC on December 15 and January 19. Their comments were also included in the review sent back to the architect.

Construction Documents

Construction Document (CD) phase work is scheduled to be completed for a June submittal, in preparation for an October-November 2009 construction award. DSC is preparing a task order authorization for negotiation with the architect.

Wetlands/Permits

The memorial design purposefully goes through the pond area/wetlands on the Svonavec property below the temporary memorial. The wetland design is specifically symbolic of the healing of the land as a strip mind, the impact site, as well as the healing of a nation. The NPS is diligently working on the permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers, the PA Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the design team.

- A wetland pre-application meeting was held on November 13, 2008 with Army Corps of Engineers, PADEP, NPS, and design team staff members to present the Flight 93 Memorial project and update agencies concerning history, scope, and current status – and to discuss potential issues with the permitting agencies.
- In December, the design team also held a pre-application meeting with the Somerset County Conservation District's Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Technician and issued a report summarizing preliminary storm water management requirements.
- Currently, a preliminary delineation of the wetlands has been done by “desk delineation” only, as site access to the property for testing was not permitted.
- Two additional meetings in January have occurred between the NPS and Army Corps of Engineers to discuss process and progress.
- At the present time, the design team is preparing alternatives for wetland impact avoidance, minimization and mitigation. Concurrently, the PA Fish and Boat Commission will conduct a survey to confirm the presence of wild trout in Grove Run.
- Final field delineation of the wetland by The Louis Berger Group, under contract with NPS, will occur in the spring once the ground has thawed, since the NPS will shortly have permission to access the property for testing of wetland soils, aquatic resources, vegetation, water quality, etc.
- Based on the wetland delineation and analysis, and the alternatives analysis, a draft “Statement of Findings,” as well as permit applications to submit to the Army Corps of Engineers, will be drafted and submitted by May.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Superintendent Hanley introduced Colonel Mike Crall, Commander/District Engineer of the Pittsburgh District US Army Corps of Engineers. Colonel Crall gave the Army Corps of Engineers and his personal full commitment to the project.

C. Fundraising Briefing

King Laughlin presented the following report:

The recent announcement regarding the Flight 93 crash site is a welcome boost for the Flight 93 National Memorial and a timely boost to Capital Campaign outreach efforts. There are now 44,000 Founding Sponsors donating to the Campaign, from every state and more than a dozen nations, with each gift bringing us one step closer to attaining our first major fundraising goal.

Campaign Summary

Funds raised for the campaign stand at \$13.6 million through the quarter ending December 31, 2008. This total includes just over \$11.5 million allocated toward the first phase private fundraising goal of \$15 million established by the National Park Service. This funding will enable groundbreaking at the Sacred Ground and Field of Honor. Recent new contributions of note include a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor, \$53,000 from Oracle, and \$8,000 from Mitsubishi Electric Products.

Cultivation and Solicitation

The Campaign operates across many fronts involving leadership, family members, volunteers, and staff, and initiatives to cultivate and solicit donors for gifts to support the Memorial are ongoing. The Campaign is seeking formalization of several verbal commitments, and a number of proposals are still outstanding. Honorary Campaign Co-Chairmen Governor Tom Ridge and General Tommy Franks and Campaign Chairman Chris Sullivan are active participants in identifying and soliciting donors and together have issued several targeted appeals for major donations centering on the Sacred Ground. We are also preparing a range of large-gift proposals that specifically describe donor opportunities related to memorial features, education, and environmental responsibility. Strong media coverage recently has also helped to open doors to new prospective donors.

Members of the National Campaign Steering Committee continue to support fundraising efforts to build the memorial. Committee members help reach out to corporate and individual prospects and conduct localized and community fundraising programs with schools, sports teams, and service organizations.

Partnerships

American Forests, a non-profit organization that promotes the forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service have agreed to partner with the Campaign to donate funding and provide technical expertise to help place trees at the Flight 93 National Memorial. The partnership will focus on tree plantings within the memorial design, such as the 40 Memorial Groves. The partnership will start this year and include a promotional campaign.

Campaign Communications

The second issue of the Campaign newsletter, *93 Remembered: Honoring the Heroes of Flight 93*, mailed to over 20,000 Founding Sponsors, prospective donors, and friends of the Flight 93 National Memorial and featured coverage of the September 11 commemorative activities and a special message from the Director of the National Park Service. The third issue is in final production and will be distributed in late February.

The website, www.honorflight93.org, ended the year with just over 61,000 unique visits and over 330,000 page views. On average, website visitors spend just over three minutes viewing approximately one-quarter of the site. About 550 on-line donations were received during 2008.

In early December, the Campaign mailed holiday cards to approximately 3,000 donors who had made gift of \$250 or more. In late January, the Campaign mailed letters announcing the lands agreement to approximately 250 donors who had made a gift of \$1,000 or more.

Of Further Note

The Campaign continues to assist Family member Ken Nacke with planning for “Ride With The Forty,” a historic cross-country motorcycle ride from Newark, NJ to San Francisco, CA to complete the original journey of the passengers and crewmembers of Flight 93. Under the banner “5 Riders, 8 Days, 40 Heroes” the Ride will raise funds to build the memorial by challenging supporters to sponsor \$93 per mile for the 3,000 mile trek. A dedicated website with information and sponsorship opportunities for the Ride will debut in mid-February.

The Campaign has hired Jennifer Morabito to focus on grassroots fundraising, community engagement, and special projects. Through a dedicated program and targeted outreach strategies, we intend to build a national network of communities, organizations, and individuals working to raise funds, organize and participate in events, and increase awareness for the memorial.

D. Special Report

Co-Chair Jerry Spangler and Superintendent Hanley presented the following report:

The Friends of Flight 93 are in the process of preparing and circulating the Articles of Incorporation which should be filed by the end of this month to achieve a non-profit status, and a budget is being prepared for the IRS to make this a 501(c)3 organization. The goal is to be up and running by the groundbreaking ceremony this year.

At the last Flight 93 Advisory Commission, a Letter of Intent for the Friends groups was read into the minutes. NPS Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach signed the letter on November 14, 2008 establishing a partnership with the Friends.

Deborah Borza will represent the Friends of Flight 93 at a conference in March sponsored by the Association of Partners of Public Lands. The association promotes the stewardship and appreciation of public lands, and the protection of the natural and cultural properties of our country. Joanne Hanley will also be attending.

E. Old business

None

F. New business.

Jeff Reinbold presented the following report:

PBS will air Ken Burns' six-part series on *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on September 27. It is a celebration of the national park idea and is visually stunning, focusing on the larger classic natural parks ending with the acquisition of the Alaska parks in the 1980s. A primary theme is "citizen leadership." At the end of the film, Flight 93 is briefly featured as part of the movement among parks in "defining who we are as people." Two short clips were shown.

Superintendent Joanne Hanley:

Superintendent Hanley recognized the contributions of the staff in preparing for every Flight 93 Advisory Commission/Task Force meeting. A special appreciation was given to Skaidra Kempkowski, Office Support Assistant, and congratulations on her promotion to Concessions Management Specialist at Death Valley National Park. She will be leaving Flight 93 in February.

VI. Public Comment

Chair Reynolds invited those who wished to give public comment to limit their comments to five minutes. The first comment was by conference call.

Beverly Burnett

(Mrs. Burnett requested the full text of her remarks appear in the minutes).

I am Beverly Burnett, mother of Tom Burnett, Jr.

Today, I am adding my voice for a full and transparent review of the National Park Service and Flight 93 design selection process that produced Crescent of Embrace. Does it have Islamic symbols or doesn't it? Let's settle this once and for all.

Why do you think Tom Sr. opposed this design? It is pretty simple; Tom Sr. saw the Islamic symbols and knew those symbols did not belong at the crash site of Flight 93.

Tom Burnett, Sr. traveled to Pennsylvania last August to attend the Task Force Meeting to voice his opposition to the memorial design. A Family Board member as well as a Commissioner accused Tom Sr. of being "just like the Islamic terrorists" that killed our son.

Why didn't someone speak up and defend Tom Sr.'s right to voice his opinion?

I believe that the DOI and NPS neglected their most important task which was to secure the crash site. Did they all agree from the beginning that they would take the land they wanted, either by purchase or eminent domain? Was that the agreement, was that the plan?

Yes, I am aware of the friendly agreement with one of the landowners, which I will be following.

Did you know that 90 percent of the remains of the 40 passengers and crew, as well as the hijackers, lie unclaimed in the field and forest surrounding the crash site? This is sacred ground; this is a battlefield and a cemetery.

I shiver when I think of the bulldozers coming to Shanksville.

Who made the decision to acquire 2200 acres for the Memorial. Who decided it would be a National Park? I don't know, do you?

Last December, Tom Sr. and I had the honor of laying the wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. This took place at more than 200 national and state cemeteries across this country. These wreaths are donated by "Wreaths Across America". We met the families whose sons and daughters were killed in Iraq. ...these young heroes were given such a small plot of ground for their sacrifice serving our Country.

I never wanted anything changed at the crash site. Let's leave the site as it was the day the passengers and crew looked down from the plane. Let's not change anything. Let's not disturb their final resting place. Let's honor them.

When our family first traveled to the crash site we all felt we had been there before. We saw what the 40 heroes saw on 9/11. I want the future visitors to see the same landscape and experience the same feelings. The site was quiet, solemn and eerie. We heard the wind; we thought we heard Flight 93 overhead. We most certainly felt Tom Jr.'s presence. I wanted the public to come and have those same feelings, remember Flight 93 and remember the 40 abroad that flight. Remember their courage. No one can improve this battlefield and cemetery.

When Tom Sr. returned from Somerset, I looked at the Murdoch design. I imagined myself walking past "The Tower of Voices" to a large area called the bowl. I had recently seen some TV coverage from the Middle East showing Muslims being called to prayer from a minaret to a large open space in a Mosque. The Tower of Voices is clearly very similar to all the minarets around the world and the crescent bowl area, that contains the crash site, is similar to prayer space in the Mosque's. I urge you to take another look at this design. Does this design contain Islamic symbolism or not?

We should be concerned that there are still designers who want to know who did the "tweaking" of Crescent of Embrace after it was chosen. Some of these designers believe elements of their designs were taken and incorporated into the revised version. Let's clear that upLet's listen to them.

August 2nd, Joanne Hanley, read a lengthy and emotional statement at the meeting. She said her character and patriotism have been questioned and she has endured personal attacks. I do not approve of personally attacking anyone, not Joanne or Tom Sr.

Yes, our family and friends are angry that anyone would compare Tom Sr. with the Islamic terrorists on Flight 93.

When Tom Sr. knew that our son was not coming home, he was determined to find the people responsible for funding the Islamic terrorists. A close friend helped Tom Sr. find Ron Motley. Maybe some of you joined his law suit. Tom Sr. will not rest until those responsible are brought to trial.

The Burnett family has proudly served this country. First, Tom Jr. aboard United 93, Tom Sr. served in Korea, Tom Sr.'s father and uncle were in WWI; three of his brothers served in combat in WWII, and two in the Korean War. Tom Sr. also had two aunts that served their country, one in the Marines and one in the Navy, in WWII. The Burnett's have a history of sacrifice and service.

I am proud of my three brothers; one served on a PT Boat in the South Pacific during WWII, another in Korea with the First Marines, and the youngest served as an MP with the Army, all in combat.

How many of you know that NPS and Flight 93 hired a full time lobbyist? This lobbyist paid a visit to our congressional representatives to discredit Tom Sr.'s claims? This lobbyist told them that Tom Sr. didn't know what he was talking about and that he did not see what he saw.

Does the public want their donations for the Memorial going for a full time lobbyist to discredit family members and lobby Congress? I don't think so.

I thank you for listening.

Grant Woollacott

Grant read a tribute he wrote to Patricia Cushing, passenger on Flight 93.

Barry D. Smith

Barry is a volunteer Flight 93 Ambassador who expressed his gratitude to be able to present the Flight 93 story, and felt it was an honor and a privilege to do so.

Clay Mankamyer

Clay expressed his gratitude and that of Sue Casey, President of the "Remember Me Rose Garden," to the Families of Flight 93 for the generous donation of a 15 acre park for the rose garden to be created as a living tribute to all that lost their lives on September 11th.