

Minutes of the Flight 93 Advisory Commission Meeting

Meeting Number 13

Saturday, July 29, 2006

Somerset County Courthouse, Courtroom 1

Somerset, Pennsylvania

Minutes prepared by:
Lydia Kappel, SCA Intern

Chairman John Reynolds called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Mr. John Reynolds, Chair

Ms. Donna Glessner, Vice Chair

Mr. Larry Catuzzi

Dr. Ed Linenthal

Mr. Ken Nacke

Mr. Gary Singel

Mr. Jerry Spangler

Mr. Michael Watson

Mr. Calvin Wilson via teleconference

Mr. Dan Sullivan

Mr. Jerry Guadagno via teleconference

Dr. Brent Glass

Ms. Pamela Tokar-Ickes

Absent: Mr. Greg Walker

I. Opening of Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman John Reynolds welcomed the Commissioners and the members of the public, and formally opened the thirteenth meeting of the Flight 93 Advisory Commission.

Superintendent Joanne Hanley led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 2006

Chairman Reynolds conducted a review of the minutes from the April 29 meeting. The corrections should indicate that Greg Walker and Gary Singel were not present at previous meeting.

Motion 06-05 Regarding the Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2006

The Commission approves the minutes of April 29, 2006.

Moved: By Commissioner Spangler.

Second: By Commissioner Glass

Discussion from the Commissioners: None

Discussion from Public: None

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Motion passes.

III. Reports

A. Lands

Superintendent Joanne Hanley, and Vice-President of Families of Flight 93 Patrick White.

Ms. Hanley was asked by Katherine Bentley to read the National Park Service report, and was asked by Todd McNew to read the conservation fund report.

Ms. Bentley and Bill Sindelar continue to work with Families of Flight 93 to acquire the Vish, Mock and O'Barto properties. There was a focus meeting held in the NPS regional office on July 18, 2006 to discuss land acquisition with Regional Director Mary Bomar. Ms. Bomar offered words of encouragement about the Flight 93 project, and was very sensitive to the issues presented to parks for land acquisition. Five million dollars will hopefully be appropriated to Flight 93 for land acquisition in FY 2007.

The Conservation Fund is currently trying to facilitate a meeting between PBS, NPS, and DEP, for the release of PBS bonds for reclamation activities. The PBS land is under contract to the Conservation Fund, who will be able to sell it to the NPS. The above-mentioned meeting is tentatively scheduled for end of August.

The Conservation Fund is also working with the PA Game Commission to purchase the Berwin property. This land, located on the northern side of Route 30 will be called State Game Land 93, and would eventually include the Consol property, plus potentially 70-acres of PBS property. The Game Commission will be responsible for managing and protecting that land, ensuring there is no development, and that it maintains its natural condition appropriate for wildlife management.

Mr. Patrick White discussed the acquisition of the 3-acre Vish Property. The other parcels that the families are interested in are as follows: the 57-acre O'Barto property near Buckstown Road, as well as the .6-acre Mock property off Skyline Road. The Families of Flight 93 are very confident that these properties will be purchased in the near future.

B. General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Jeff Reinbold.

Mr. Reinbold discussed the 60-day mandatory comment period for the GMP, which concludes August 14, 2006. The NPS received many public comments, as well as comments from regulatory agencies. The highlight of the comment period was Public Meeting/Open House that was held of July 20, 2006. Approximately 40 to 50 people attended, commented on the GMP through various venues provided throughout the room, and learned about the project. Visitors could also see an oral history display, as well as a few tributes that have been collected over the years. The design models were on display and visitors could find out more about the permanent memorial as well.

The remaining steps in the completion of the GMP include the summation of comments, which will then have responses prepared. There is a mandatory 30-day waiting period that ends with the commission recommending the final GMP/EIS to the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior, hopefully at the next Commission Meeting. The NPS Regional Director formally ends the planning process with the signing of the Record of Decision.

Mr. Nacke then thanked Mr. Reinbold and his colleagues for their dedication to the project.

Ms. Hanley also thanked Mr. Reinbold for his leadership and his hard work, and Donna Glessner for going beyond whatever is required, and being largely responsible for the excellent turnout at the public meeting.

Chairman Reynolds encouraged the families to comment on the General Management Plan. Positive comments are sometimes taken for granted in that people feel they don't need to send them in, but in this case, they will be very important for the record.

C. Design Process

Jeff Reinbold.

Mr. Reinbold presented a PowerPoint. Architect Paul Murdoch is negotiating a contract with the Denver Service Center to begin design work. Reinbold then presented a tentative schedule for design and construction. If all goes well, without any glitches, we can potentially break ground in late 2008, with some sort of a ribbon cutting ceremony on the 10th anniversary of September 11th.

Mr. Reinbold presented the need for both a Design Committee as well as a smaller Design Oversight Committee, and presented a motion for consideration.

Motion 06-06 Regarding the Approval of Minutes from July 29, 2006

The Commission agrees to the approach for design committees as proposed by Jeff as follows: There will be a Design Development Oversight Committee to participate in the design process and a larger Design Development Committee of the Task Force to share information with respective partner groups and provide input at key milestones. The Design Oversight Committee should include a representative of each of the four partner groups.

Moved: By Commissioner Catuzzi.

Second: By Commissioner Wilson.

Discussion from the Commissioners: Mr. Spangler proposed the question about the ambitious schedule for the design and construction process. Superintendent Hanley discussed the November 2008 notice to proceed to a potential contractor, stating that actual construction may not begin until spring 2009, and that this ambitious schedule is dependent upon everything falling into place for private funding, federal funding, land acquisition, and design. This is a tall order, and may not be able to be met.

Discussion from Public: None

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Motion passes.

D. Fundraising

The following report was given by Jason Zajac and Caryn Collier.

Jason Zajac

The purpose of the fundraising oversight is to keep all the partners informed about what is going on. Mr. Stafford introduced Caryn Collier.

Caryn Collier

Ms. Collier presented the following information in a PowerPoint. All figures are as of 7/15/2006.

- Total number of gifts raised, 10,444.
- Total monies raised \$7,179,384, which is 24% of minimum goal.
- Number Amount of National, Phase Gifts: 7/\$283,897.
- Number Amount of Launch Phase Gifts: 12/\$344,000.
- Number Amount of Regional Phase Gifts: 15/\$638,183.
- Number Amount of Local Phase Gifts: 13/\$175,858.
- Number Amount of Public Phase Gifts: 10,397/\$660,738.

- National Phase has 64 prospects, 7 documented pledges, with \$405,568 as the average gift.
- Launch Phase has 22 Pittsburgh Prospects, 12 documented pledges, with \$286,666 as the average gift.
- Regional Phase has 412 Houston prospects, 15 documented pledges, with \$4,254 as the average gift.

There is a fundraising event schedule for November 1, in Tampa Florida hosted by Chris Sullivan.

Ms. Collier then discussed the Houston fundraising event that was held on May 18th, and thanked Mr. Catuzzi for his generosity in hosting this successful gathering.

The Local Phase includes Somerset, Johnstown, Ligonier, and Pittsburgh totaling 1000 prospects, 12 documented pledges, with \$175,858 raised, and \$13,526 and the average gift.

- Somerset has a goal of \$250,000, with \$135,858 raised and an average gift of \$16,982.
- Johnstown has a goal of \$250,000 with \$30,000 raised.
- Ligonier has a goal of \$250,000, and is the process of leadership and prospect identification.

The Public Outreach Phase has 10,397 total documented gifts, with \$660,738 total raised, and \$64 as an average gift:

- Incoming mail envelopes has 1,085 documented pledges, \$144,162 raised, with \$33 being the average gift.
- Website has 3,266 documented pledges, \$229,727 raised, with \$70 as the average gift.
- Direct Mail has 6,046 documented pledges, with \$286,848 raised, and \$47 as the average gift.

There was a test mailing initiated on February 6, 2006 with responses through July 13, 2006:

- 83,017 pieces were mailed;
- there were 901 donors with an average gift of \$45.
- gross revenue was \$40,717,
- cost was \$53,029, with a net of -\$12,312.

There was a rollout mailing initiated on April 27, 2006 with responses through July 13:

- 329,024 pieces were mailed.
- 5,056 donors with an average gift of \$48.
- gross revenue was \$242,521,
- cost of \$162,756, with a net of \$79,765.

E. Old Business

Chairman Reynolds asked for questions or old business. Being none, he announced that the next meeting would be October 7, with a new time of 2:30 P.M. as opposed to the usual time of 3:00 p.m. There was discussion about holding commission meetings outside of Somerset.

Ms. Hanley wanted to propose holding one joint Task Force and Commission meeting at Fort Necessity. During a field trip, the Ambassadors were shown the design process for the new Fort Necessity/National Road Visitor Center, and it was very beneficial to see how plans became reality. Commissioner Tokar-Ickes stressed that holding meetings outside of the immediate area would make it more difficult for locals to attend.

Chairman Reynolds asked Superintendent Hanley to prepare a proposed meeting schedule for 2007 by the next meeting.

Chairman Reynolds announced and congratulated Jeff Reinbold on his new appointment as Acting Superintendent of Fort Necessity for 120-days.

Chairman Reynolds then thanked the Commissioners, and also Mr. Jim Wolf and Mr. Jim McGettigan who volunteer their time to help out behind the scenes, and perform a very valuable service to all of us.

F. Public Comment

Cindy Shaffer presented a handcrafted tribute flag to the Flight 93 National Memorial. This flag is number 93 in a series of 3000, one for every victim of September 11.

Chairman Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.