Outreach for Coalition Support

Anthony Gardner

The Coalition of 9/11 Families has embarked on an unprecedented outreach campaign. We are calling on all family members, survivors, rescue workers and concerned Americans to help us ensure that the history of the World Trade Center is preserved for future generations and that “America’s Memorial” is erected on this hallowed ground. The Coalition outreach committee has developed a tiered approach to informing, connecting and motivating all interested parties. The outreach campaign is unfolding on two fronts: letter writing and personal presentations to large constituencies across America. Presentations are being scheduled for groups upon request. Elected officials in New York are aware of our mission and purpose, but this was an attack on America, not just New York. Continued on page 2

-- ALL FAMILIES --
Submit Memorial Comments

Lee Ielpi

On May 5, the LMDC mailed comment forms to families. Comments submitted provide the LMDC with conceptual ideas of what the Memorial should represent and how it should be designed. Since there is only one family member on the jury panel, it is imperative ALL families convey comments on the meaning and representation of the Memorial. The Coalition strongly encourages all family members to submit comments and collectively reinforce the structural placement of memorial components to the jury panel.

- Memorial complex should cover the entire area within the retaining walls down to bedrock.
- Memorial components should convey the loss, enormity and reverence of the site to existing and future generations.
- Memorial complex must include a repository for all unidentified remains.

Submit your memorial comments to www.renewnyc.com

LMDC Modifies Libeskind Plan

Beverly Eckert

Daniel and Nina Libeskind met with the Coalition on March 17, 2003. Family members voiced concern over modifications made to Libeskind’s original design after the selection process was completed. Particular concern was expressed about the elevation of the Memorial being raised from bedrock (70’ below grade level) to only 30’ below grade level. This reduction disregards the position taken by the Coalition that many of the remains were found at bedrock and invites non-Memorial usage below the footprints, such as a bus terminal or retail mall. The Coalition expressed families’ view that the space reserved within the slurry walls, from bedrock to infinity should be reserved exclusively for Memorial purposes. Family member Lee Ielpi showed an FDNY Global Positioning Map to the Libeskins illustrating where the largest concentration of remains were found, emphasizing a majority were found close to bedrock. Mr. Libeskind stated that his updated design preserves a slice of bedrock. Family members responded that this symbolic gesture was inadequate.

Behind the scenes, Mr. Libeskind said he was asked to raise the Memorial out of necessity to reinforce

Design Competition Begins

Bruce DeCell

The official LMDC design competition for the WTC memorial began in May. Over 13,000 designers have registered with the LMDC to submit a memorial rendition by June 30. The LMDC will evaluate presentations of memorial designs through July, narrowing down submissions for evaluation by the jury panel in August. Final designs will be reviewed in two competition periods beginning in September. The aggressive LMDC timeline projects selection of a final memorial design by October. Many public debates by architects and designers have highlighted that the aggressive timeline to select a memorial in less than 2 years does not allow enough reflection on the events of September 11th to create an appropriate memorial. The Coalition strongly supports designing the WTC memorial before other development since it will be the focal point of the site where millions of people will learn about our loved ones and the events of September 11th. Memorials of comparable significance have historically been developed years after the actual events, providing a time period of reflection.

In May, the LMDC announced selection of members of the LMDC Jury Panel who will select the WTC memorial from the international design competition. Despite repeated requests by the Coalition to appoint several family members to the Jury Panel, only one family member, Paula Grant Berry was appointed. The jury is primarily comprised of architects and designers. The Oklahoma City jury panel was comprised of 33% family members, survivors and rescue personnel. The Coalition was extremely disappointed by Governor Pataki’s and Mayor Bloomberg’s lack of consideration to the necessity of meaning, feeling and proportional representation family members, survivors and rescue workers would provide in contributing to the World Trade Center memorial.

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the slurry walls. Coalition members discounted this argument and suggested that the foundation and infrastructure of the Memorial and Memorial-related structures could support the slurry wall just as well. Mr. Libeskind went on to say his 1,776’ spire (inspired by the shape of the Statue of Liberty) will be built, and he was confident this imposing structure would not dominate the Memorial. Family members expressed doubt, reiterating the position that the Memorial should have been designed first and should be the focal point of the entire area, including the skyline.

The Coalition explained that while the slurry walls are structurally important, the Memorial should be the focal point of the site. The slurry wall was simply the demarcation where the greatest concentration of remains were found and where the families believed the Memorial should be built to bedrock. Mr. Libeskind did not agree and stated that the slurry walls hold significant importance and would remain a focal point. At the close of the meeting it was clear that as the process moves forward, much of Ground Zero will be sacrificed to expediency. The Coalition will continue to assert that a minimum, from bedrock to infinity, is necessary in order to respect and preserve the historical significance where so many innocent people died.

Therefore, we have begun to reach out to political leaders on a national level. Coalition representatives have already met with members of Congress and Senators in Washington, DC—specifically meeting with members of Congress to alert them to the fact that federal money allocated to rebuild Lower Manhattan may be used in a manner that would desecrate the site (i.e. building a bus garage and concourse in the area of the site where the largest concentration of remains were identified and the footprints of the towers stood). In a recent meeting with Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ). Coalition representatives learned that the Senator believes that while transportation must be returned to Lower Manhattan, he was appalled by the idea of a bus garage on the site, and that it would be horrible.

On June 12, members of the Coalition of 9/11 Families came away elated from their meeting with Governor Pataki and his staff after the Governor answered two very important questions that were of grave concern to Coalition members. When asked what he believed “footprint” means, the Governor answered “all the way to bedrock.” When asked what he thought of a bus terminal being placed on the site, he said “I think it would be horrible.”

The answer to the “footprint” question echoes the promise the Governor made to 700 grieving family members, at the Javits Center, in June, 2002 when he said unequivocally “we will never build on the footprints of the Towers.” Now that he has defined “footprint” to mean all the way to bedrock, the Coalition is hopeful that the area within the retaining walls will become the Memorial complex that their members envision. The Coalition of 9/11 Families has repeatedly communicated to the Governor that preservation of the footprints must include the slurry walls. Coa lition members are happy to continue from page 1

LMDC Modifies Libeskind Plan

Governor Defines Footprint

Jack Lynch

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1993 WTC Memorial
Tribute

Coalition Presents America’s Memorial To Senators
Patricia Reilly
The Coalition broadened support for our position on America’s Memorial by presenting our position to U.S. Senators on June 24, 2003. Plans are progressing rapidly. Stakeholders and special interest groups are aggressively pursuing economic interests to change the site. Earlier this month, the Civic Alliance, an umbrella of 70 organizations working together in the rebuilding process, presented 3 renditions of the site reflecting the impact that some of these changes will have on the site. Rendition (1) showed the interest of leaseholder Larry Silverstein’s pursuit to build an office tower over WTC Tower 2; Rendition (2) reflected the lawsuit of Westfield America (who holds the retail lease) to rebuild retail shops within the Memorial complex; Rendition (3) showed opening east/west access for commuters and residents through the memorial area. While Silverstein is disregarding the Libeskind land use plan selected by the LMDC, Governor Pataki has pledged to stick with the plan.

The Coalition presented these appalling renditions to Governor Pataki stating that the results of these renditions would desecrate the sacredness of the site where our loved ones were murdered. Surely, the loss of our loved ones, interment of remains and the historic significance of September 11th should be considered above these interests. In 2001, Congress immediately recognized the significance of allocating billions in federal funding to assist New York to develop a September 11th memorial and rebuild. These federal tax dollars are now being used by the LMDC to correct mistakes of the Port Authority, rebuild office space that was never fully occupied and transportation that never existed. The focus on these interests has lost perspective that the WTC site is the final resting place of over 2,792 people who died as a consequence of living the American dream.

The Coalition of 9/11 Families reminded Governor Pataki on June 12, 2003 that by overlooking this process through the Port Authority and LMDC, America and the world will hold him accountable to the desecration of the site if these interests prevail over the appropriate representation of history. The Coalition maintains a moral obligation to ensure our loved ones are remembered and their deaths are not forgotten in a sea of commerce and retail shops as the Port Authority demonstrated with the 1993 memorial to the first six victims of terrorism. The Coalition has emphasized that over 1,300 of our families have never received any identification from the Medical Examiner. The World Trade Center is the final resting-place of our loved ones. 12,952 remains of the 19,938 recovered in the nine months of recovery operations have still not been identified. Securing a repository at the WTC site to inter all unidentified and unclaimed remains is of paramount importance to the Coalition.

The Memorial complex should become a living memorial, evolving over time with a mission to inspire visitors and reafirm life.

FBI Investigation Creates Agency Changes
Jennifer Adams
Coalition family groups attended a briefing with FBI Director Robert Mueller regarding the 9/11 investigation and improvements in counter terrorism. Primary concerns of the FBI are to understand what happened, to obtain justice and ensure that the events of 9/11 never happen again.

9/11 Investigation
Mary Galligan, the lead agent investigating 9/11, presented a detailed description of the timeline and process of investigation. Simultaneously with the investigation, agents are compiling evidence for the prosecution of Zacarias Moussaoui. Agent Galligan stated that the FBI did not conclude the attack on 9/11/01 was an act of terrorism until the second plane hit World Trade Tower 2. Mueller answered many questions presented by family members working on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, an independent, bipartisan commission created by congressional legislation. The Commission is chartered to prepare a complete account of the circumstances surrounding the 9/11 attacks, including preparedness, the immediate response and recommendations designed to guard against future attacks. Unfortunately, many questions remain unanswered since a significant amount of information remains classified due to the Moussaoui trial.

Counter Terrorism Changes
Mueller provided an update on changes being made in the FBI to address terrorism and to work effectively with other federal agencies as well as state and local law enforcement officials. For the past 90 years, the FBI has traditionally compiled information in a secular fashion, primarily focusing on prosecution. Changes are being made to increase analytic capability allowing the combination of resources, statistical information and communication between agencies.

To learn more about the investigation and these changes log onto www.fbi.gov. The FBI has set up a special email for family member questions regarding the 9/11 investigation:

victimassistance@fbi.gov

COALITION OF 9/11 FAMILIES WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL

The Coalition of 9/11 Families is comprised of major September 11th organizations and represents the memorial position of thousands of family members, survivors, rescue workers and concerned Americans.

America’s Memorial at the World Trade Center Site should be treated with the same historical reverence as comparable sites in American history.

UNITED VISION OF REMEMBRANCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

• America’s Memorial should be the centerpiece of development at the WTC site. Architecture and development should emphasize the Memorial as the focal point and integrate the surroundings.
• Memorial components within the retaining walls should serve to remember and honor the thousands murdered on September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993.
• Memorial components should represent the historic events, reaffirm respect for life and strengthen our resolve to preserve freedom.
• The Memorial area must secure a repository in the area encased by the retaining walls for all the unidentified and unclaimed remains to be interred.
• The Memorial complex should preserve from bedrock to infinity the sacred ground within the area of the retaining walls, enclosing and preserving World Trade Center Tower 1, Tower 2, the Marriott Hotel and WTC Building 6. This hallowed area is where the largest concentration of remains of those murdered on September 11th were recovered.
• Structural development at the site should serve the purpose of memorializing and teaching the many facets of September 11th to future generations.
• The WTC Memorial complex should have a positive impact on the economy, and revitalize Lower Manhattan through its contribution to tourism and the cultural and spiritual life of New Yorkers.

Gettysburg Memorial
Tribute

9/11 Families Give Back Scholarship Fund

Donate to the 9/11 Families Give Back Scholarship Fund, benefiting families affected by acts of terrorism after 9/11/01.
The Coalition created the scholarship fund as an expression of gratitude to America for the donations that benefited our families in the aftermath of 9/11/01.
Donations may be made payable to:
9/11 Families Give Back Fund
470 Park Ave South, 3rd Fl N, NY, NY 10016

Ice travaganza, September 7, 2003

Join the 9/11 Families Give Back Fund to remember 9/11 while celebrating our future at the second annual Stars, Stripes and Skates event.
Tickets available through ticketmaster (212) 307-7171.
List your families’ scholarship fund or foundation information on the Coalition web site, email to Coalition@hospaud.org.

Contact Your Senators

LMDC development plans are building over the Tower footprints. The Coalition needs your support to contact Senators in your state.
Visit our web site for letters to download.

Family Group Presentations

Learn more about plans for the WTC site.
Coalition board members are available to speak with large groups.
(212) 575-7676 x 238

Health Insurance Benefits

The American Red Cross has launched a program offering one year of health insurance COBRA coverage to September 11th families and people seriously injured.
Call for eligibility (877) 746-4987.
If you are not eligible under the Red Cross program, you may be eligible for health insurance assistance through the September 11th Fund program.
Call toll-free (866) 698-HELP for program information.

Coalition Video Presentation on WTC Memorial

Visit the Coalition web site to view a 10 minute presentation video on the WTC Memorial featuring Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Coalition board members.
Coalition videos are available to families – see enclosed form.

Download Tribute, to share with family and friends.
Register for Coalition information at:
www.Memorialfor911.com

The Coalition of 9/11 Families extends our sincere appreciation to the Lutheran Disaster Response of New York for its assistance in distributing the enclosed information to our families.

Families’ Calendar

Wednesday, July 23, 2-5:00 or 6-9:00PM
LMDC Public Forum at 199 Chambers St
Tribeca Performing Arts Center

Thursday, August 14, 8:00 AM
LMDC Board Meeting RSVP (212) 962-2300
One Liberty Plaza 20th Floor

Sunday, August 17, 12-6:00 PM
Tuesdays Children Lido Beach Party
Hempstead, Long Island
RSVP (516) 562-9000

Sunday, September 7
Stars, Stripes and Skates
9/11 Families Give Back Scholarship Fund
Nassau Coliseum
Ticketmaster (212) 307-7171

*RSVP Required

Open for all 9/11 Families
Bring Memorial Park ID Card

OCME Memorial Park
520 East 30 St., at 1st Avenue
Call (212) 447-7884 for appointment

Family House at WTC Site
Washington & Liberty Street

Family Room at WTC Site
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor

Families WTC Memorial Information

548 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED