

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 26, 2011

Meeting No.: 129

Project: Maryland 9-11 Memorial

Phase: Discussion

Location: World Trade Center Plaza – Inner Harbor

PRESENTATION:

Susie Leong, of the Maryland State Arts Council, provided an overview to the Memorial – how it was conceived, who is involved and the timeline for installation. She then introduced Steve Ziger and Doug Bothner of Ziger/Snead Architects, who explained the concept for the Memorial and described the various elements, which include:

- The main memorial, which consists of a 22' long twisted column section from New York's World Trade Center Tower that rests on a 34' x 17' white marble base. The Memorial is situated so that the movement of the shadow cast by the World Trade Center on September 11 is marked by a timeline of the events that day as well as the names of the Marylander's who died in New York, Northern Virginia, and in Pennsylvania.
- A secondary piece that includes stone pieces from the Pentagon crash site as well as an undetermined objects from the Pennsylvania crash site. This element will also include a narrative description of the Memorial and donor's names.
- Large planters with English Hornbeam that form a protective edge along Pratt Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL:

The Panel was generally very impressed with the thought that went into the 9-11 Memorial, describing it as "simple yet powerful" - in particular the use of the shadow to site the main memorial and the juxtaposition of the solidity of the marble with the twisted steel column. There were several suggestions, however, that the Panel would like the design team and Memorial Commission to consider:

1. The creation of a Memorial "Room". The plaza where the Memorial is to be sited is wide-open and adjacent to a play lawn, large metal sculpture, and a commercial end of the Harborplace Pratt Street Pavilion. Although the edges of the plaza are outside of the Memorial design limits (except for the security planters), the Panel recommends that the entire team consider what is needed to create a defined "room" for the Memorial. This could provide it the needed definition and sense of contemplation that is currently compromised with all of the other activity that surrounds it. Additionally, any type of

seating is lacking in what was described as a contemplative space. This should be considered as part of the overall design.

2. Reconsider the smaller Memorial element. The 9-11 Memorial is actually two sculptural pieces – the main sculpture with the twisted column and the smaller sculpture with the Pentagon stones. As shown, they have little relationship to one another due to the distance between them, with the smaller sculpture appearing to be relegated to the edge of the plaza. A better dialogue is needed between these two pieces, which might include relocating if not redesigning the smaller piece. As several Panel members expressed concern about the size of the park, especially given that a portion of it has been suggested as part of fire truck access along the drive aisle.
3. Provide bollards on both ends of the planters. If bollards are needed for access to the plaza then they should be located on both ends of the planters to maintain the symmetry.
4. The timeline markings and names are only needed on two sides. The Panel’s recommendation, when asked if the names and timeline should be repeated on the opposite sides (north and west facing), the resounding response was “NO” – that the sculpture is stronger with the etchings as currently shown.

Once Panel member also voiced concern that the design as shown was sterile and did not have the sense of gravity or power as described by the designers. This was due to the smooth, almost too pristine, nature of the marble plinth, the repose of the columns and their relationship to the marble plinth, and the design and location of the smaller sculpture (which looked like a seat). Where memorials and sculptures are placed in the Inner Harbor was also discussed with the expectation that the Public Art Commission will address this in a timely manner so as to guide future pieces.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion only – no approval needed.

Attending:

Susie Leong, Elizabeth Gallauresi – MSAC
Steve Ziger, Doug Bothner – Ziger/Snead
Max Ryan – COPT

Ms Eig; Messrs. Bowden, Britt and Cameron – Panel
Gary Cole, Anthony Cataldo, Bob Quilter - Planning