



5/31 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES ~ APRIL 2022

Public Meeting: April 27, 2022, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location: Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th St., Virginia Beach

The in-person public input session was followed by a telephone session from 7 – 8 p.m.

These listening sessions were for the facilitator and committee members to hear directly from citizens.

Committee Meeting: April 28, 2022, 3 – 7 p.m.

Location: The HIVE, 4636 Columbus Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: William Almond, Sharon Felton, Lawrence “Duff” Kliewer, Cosette Livas, Jason Nixon, Tara Reel, Shelby Slutzker (ex officio), Sylvia Strickland, Brian Ricardo, Charlotte Zito

EXCUSED ABSENCE: George Alcaraz, Michael Berlucchi (Council liaison), Ervin Cox, Kurtis Hooks, Sabrina Wooten (Council liaison)



Dr. Schooler began the meeting with a reading of names, reminder of why we gather, reminder of objectives. (3 slides not shown)

Preview

- Brief recap and reflections on meeting 2
- Recap/reflections on community meeting and input gathered from staff and public
- Consensus-building discussion/deliberation about memorial site location(s)
- Discussion of design elements
- Next steps and commemoration activities

Meeting 2 Recap

- Recap and reflect on March meetings
 - Site tour
 - Resonances to Site A and D
 - Support for primary location in Municipal Center area
 - Discussion of smaller markers elsewhere
- Recap and reflection of community meeting and input gathered from the staff and the public
- 05/31 Remembrance Ceremony



Tour of sites

- Connections to sites “A” and “D”, support for primary location in Municipal Center area
- Discussion of smaller markers elsewhere (oceanfront, inside building 2, etc.) with bigger memorial elsewhere

Personas exercise

Victim's Relative
Survivors
City staff
Community members
Visitors (outside VB)
Students / Children
Educators/Researchers

Takeaways:

- Need space to spread out, take in memorial at own pace, move around (children)
- Opportunities to learn history, stories about victims + survivors, municipal service
- Space for reflection, meditation, contemplation

Community Engagement Recap: Dr. Schooler will share more information in the upcoming week.

5/31 Memorial Community Engagement

<p>Community Meeting (in-person):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 people signed in/attended • Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify individual victims, stories of their lives/service to City + acknowledge others impacted • Park like setting, natural elements (trees, flowers, water) 	<p>Telephone Town Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 650 people attended over course of hour; possible 2nd event • Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for Municipal Center location, City-owned land • Interest in a marker at Bldg. 2 • More wanted prominent and open but mix of views • Concern about site D from nearby residents • Park like setting is desired
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5/31 Memorial Community Engagement

Online survey (publicinput.com/virginiabeach)

- 35 responses as of 10:30am
 - Strong support for Municipal Center Location
 - Support for memorial (or smaller marker) at/near Bldg. 2
 - Mix of views about the multiple markers
 - More support for mid-sized/prominent marker
- Most supported elements:
 - List of names
 - Abstract/symbolic art
 - Natural elements
 - Seating
 - Informational displays

5/31 Memorial Community Engagement

Other input received by Facilitation Team:

- Emailed comments:
 - Need to consider the survivors (those in the building) during the event
 - Support for the memorial to be located at the Municipal Center
 - Opposition to Site D

Community Engagement Update (cont'd)

Staff Listening Sessions

- Attendees from
 - Public Safety / Emergency Management
 - Finance
 - Public Utilities
 - Public Works
 - IT
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning

Key Takeaways:

- Adamant support for municipal center memorial location
- Support for marker at/adjacent to Building 2, directing to memorial elsewhere
- Sites A-D most well-received; support for each, a bit more for A and C
- Desire for low-key, “minimalist” design; pillar-based design, or similarity to Old Dominion memorial; integrated into Municipal Center design
- Water feature, seating important
- Sandy Hook design resonated
- Focus on individuals who died, other victims seriously injured, others impacted
- Want to engender empathy, sanctity of life, peace, healing, strength of the community (but not the word “resilience”)

Additional Key Takeaways:

- Design element that would tell something about the person, potentially more than the name
- Show the role, the department, what they did, or years of service
- Enjoyed that family had input
 - Some feel overlooked and ignored
 - How to acknowledge the four injured
- Appreciate that they lived full lives, but not a need to know everything
- What areas of the memorial space would be open to the public and what would be more personal?
- Demonstrate the strength of the community WITHOUT using the word resilient, it's overused.
- Seating / contemplative area very important, noting a place for reflection over a place of gathering
 - An immersive space, that feels both quiet, non-triggering, yet safe
- Parking and accessibility are important
- Overwhelming response that the memorial should be located at the Municipal Campus
- Committee expressed wanting to ask questions and provide updates during the sessions

5 min. Breakout Session: Small group reflection on initial feedback

Memorial Locations: Consensus-building Discussion & Deliberation Small and Full Group Discussion

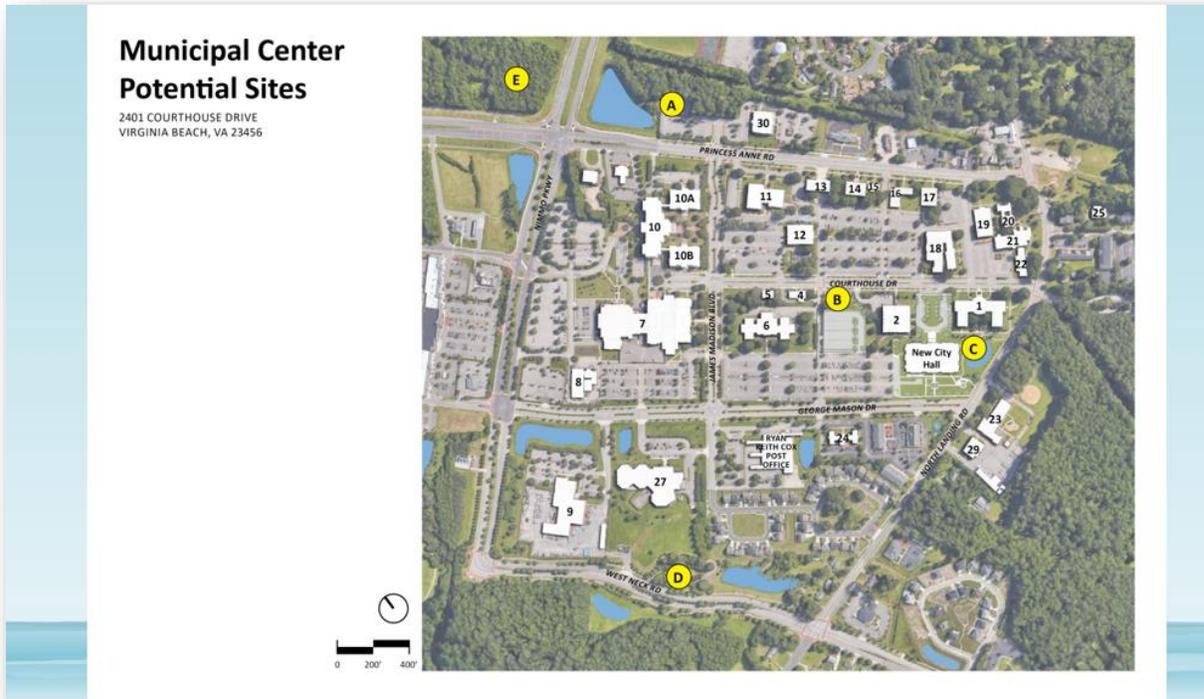
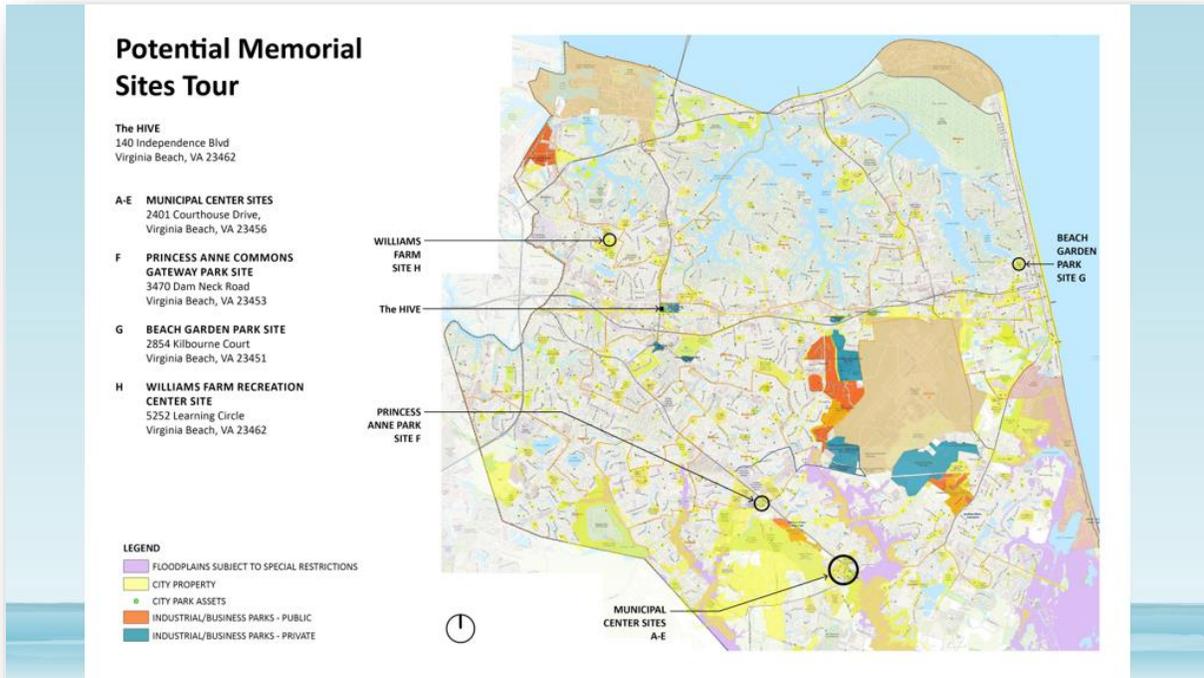
5/31 Memorial Sites: Small and Full Group Discussion Questions

- How did the input the Committee receive from the public thus far affect your perception of the best location for the memorial?
- How did the input from City staff thus far affect your perception of the best location for the memorial?
- What additional thoughts about the memorial's location have come to mind since the tour?

Key Takeaways:

- The memorial should be at the Municipal campus, focus on sites A, B, C, & D
 - Sites F, G, H should be eliminated
- The needs and wishes of the adjacent neighborhoods and communities to the site should be respected
- Explore the possibility of multiple sites to serve multiple ways of memorializing, such as:
 - Contemplative space
 - Plaque as a secondary marker
 - Water feature is important
- Staff input regarding infrastructure needs and limitation:
 - Expensive to clear land, build infrastructure, parking, etc.
 - However, Sites A, B & C, have the infrastructure and recommended the committee focus on how the site FEELS. All the features at Site D can be created as part of the memorial design and landscaping.

Potential Memorial Sites Visual Recap:



Municipal Center Potential Sites



APPROXIMATELY 0.25 ACRE



APPROXIMATELY 1.2 ACRES INCLUSIVE OF POND



Princess Anne Commons Gateway Park

3470 DAM NECK ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23453

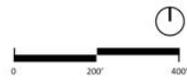
APPROXIMATELY 1.3 ACRES



Beach Garden Park

2854 KILBOURNE COURT,
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451

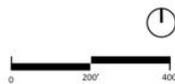
APPROXIMATELY 0.5 ACRE



Williams Farm Recreation Center

5252 LEARNING CIRCLE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

APPROXIMATELY 1.25 ACRES



Key questions to consider:

- What primary memorial site or sites can you support?
- What (if any) secondary memorial site or sites can you support?
- What (if any) additional information do you need in order to make a decision?

Summary of First Polling of Committees' Primary and Secondary Potential Sites

Primary site results:

- Site A had 9 votes
- Site C had 1 vote
- Site D had 7 votes
- Site E had 1 vote

Secondary Site results:

- Site B had 7 votes
- Site C had 1 vote (with suggestion of a plaque)

There was a suggestion to have a plaque at Building 2.

Dr. Schooler asked the members to identify what primary memorial site or sites can you support – not preference, but which would be acceptable. He then asked what (if any) secondary memorial site or sites can you support? And finally, what (if any) additional information do you need in-order to make a decision?

Design elements: Sketch Exercise & Full Group Discussion

Questions to consider:

- What elements are critical to include in the primary memorial site? E.g., information about victims and survivors, areas for sitting, etc.
- What element(s) are critical to include in a secondary memorial site (or sites)? E.g., plaque, marker, etc.
- How would you propose people enter and exit the memorial?
- What kinds of abstractions or other types of original artwork best fit the memorial? E.g., statue, mural, etc.

Sketches: With awareness that most members are not artists or architects, Dr. Schooler asked each member to make a sketch of what they were envisioning based on the feedback they have heard to date. This allowed the members to identify key elements that resonated with everyone and find commonalities to gauge what to ask of potential designers.

Looking ahead: Committee Meeting 4

- Two full meetings (*Tentatively June 1 and 2*)
- Focus on design and determining parameters for recommendation to City Council
- Kearns & West will circulate additional community feedback in advance of the meeting for your consideration

Dr. Schooler concluded the meeting noting that the group would not meet in May, but would reconvene once dates could be set for a Council presentation in June or July.