

site.

MR. DOUBECK: Presently we plan for four. But it is almost infinitely expandable. It can be added to relatively easily, and at low cost, if there is a need dictated. More can be added as needed.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Are there locations indicated on the proposals?

MR. COOPER: No. I am planning to speak to that, if I may.

Mr. Atherton, here is some formal testimony, if you would like to have it for the Commission.

MR. ATHERTON: Thank you very much.

PROPOSAL "A"

MR. COOPER: I would like to tell you a little bit about what we have done since the meeting last fall in which you asked that we consider the formation of an entrance plaza and an integrated design which would be both a fitting location for the sculpture, a prominent location for the flag, as well as reflect the basic design.

We started our work looking at the urban design aspects of Constitution Gardens, because we thought that is where the real problem was. The plan that you see here of the overall garden indicates the present path structure. As we go to the site, those of us that know the site well, and

the design team are all competitors, unsuccessfully, in the competition, so we feel that we know the site. We found at the location the crossing of these two paths is, in truth, the entrance point of the site. One of the problems of this kind of an entrance is that the tree cover at that point is so deep that it makes it impossible to get a visual connection between the bowl and memorial and any added elements such as the flag and sculpture, so we did something that could not be done in the competition; we took a broader look, because the competition limited the consideration to the path, the surrounding or perimeter path structure, and we looked at what could happen: Was it possible, in truth, to create a new entrance place, a new path structure that would, in truth, feed the required circulation from the Lincoln Memorial into the Vietnam Memorial grounds, and we are proposing to interrupt the one path, maintaining the large trunk path that goes all of the way east-west, and thereby take this point and move it up to there, where we can use it from the design standpoint. It is really as simple as that. And that is what we think is the entrance and, we hope, the genius of this particular solution, which we think, in truth, really meets what everybody wants. We hope so.

Involved in doing this, we need to relocate one piece

piece of path, and we have only four small trees, which were of very recent planting, to move. So in terms of doing violence to the existing garden, we don't think that we are doing that at all; rather, we think that perhaps we are using the plan of the existing garden to greater effect.

Our plan is, therefore, to locate the flag staff at the crossing of the paths. It is a 50 foot high flag staff. At the base there is a small inscription, which has a symbolic value to it, and I have given Mr. Atherton a paper which contains the inscription which is planned to be inscribed on the base, along with the five service insignia, which is also listed for you.

This is a preliminary design concept.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: What would the inscription read? Could we have that?

MR. COOPER: I would be glad to give you that. The inscription reads: "This flag represents the gift of service to the American people by the veterans of the Vietnam War. Its presence at this site reaffirms the principles of freedom for which they fought. It flies continuously to honor their pride in having served their country under difficult circumstances."

We think that this kind of an entrance point location

is eminently successful for an object, a piece of sculpture, a flag staff that bears such an inscription, and we really have had long and, as you are well aware, real problems with taking an entrance element and burying it in the back field here. It just doesn't seem like it makes sense, to us.

The next thing is, given this newly created entrance concept and plaza, if you would, how do we place the sculpture, which is really a given, and Frederick Hart is going to speak in a minute about this. We wanted to place it in a way that didn't turn its back on the flag, and yet continued to gaze out on the apex of the memorial, and as it turns out we have a very fitting location about 35 feet off the main path structure. The sculpture is clearly visible from this end, from about that point. It is visible all of the way along, but there are stalks of a couple trees that begin to intervene when you hit about a third of the way down.

We are proposing to hollow the ground slightly in this area, to continue the bowl on up, actually, to the feet of the sculpture, putting some superelevation on this piece of ground in this area of around six to eight inches, which will make it possible for us to stand in the bowl and not have the angles of the sculpture cut off. Rick Hart has a nice way of saying it, that the sculpture is placed in a position that ushers one into the memorial grounds, and it

seems like it is perfectly fitting, tucked, as it is, into the grove of trees.

Joe Brown is going to talk in a few minutes about the landscape treatment of this.

I would like to call to your attention this is a preliminary design. We are in a political process, as you are well aware, and we really need to get where we are going to put this decided before we can go too much further in terms of trying to work on paving textures and a detailed landscaping plan. Should you select this, we will be back with that information a little bit later.

With respect to the locators, we thought long and hard about this, and your consideration last fall was rather adamant, that we do something that was better than a telephone book holder. We tried to pick up on the idea that, as all of you know, that the paths in Constitution Garden are lined with street furniture, benches, trees actually planted in wells in the paths, trash containers, phone booths, drinking fountains--the complete gamut. All of these things exist along the site here, all the way along.

We are proposing to take this small, sort of lectern-like pedestal object that you see here, which has been designed to be fully in scale with the other street furniture,

and we built a little cardboard model of this in order that we might demonstrate how this might operate. We needed to have a device, we wanted a device that was not an enclosed booth, you know, like a telephone booth. It seemed just a little out of character. We wanted something that would work for the handicapped, for children, as well as adults. It obviously needs to be weather protected, and so we came up with this small, diminutive design. We are proposing that this become a bronze casting. That is the next stage of development. We would propose to begin to continue with the sculpture development first.

Right now this is a little bit pointy, shard-sided, sharp-ended, but this was built to test the function. In actuality, we have had a couple of these made out of plywood and safety glass, instead of plexiglass, which are going to be placed temporarily on site until whatever permanent object is approved by the Commission can be placed, in order that we get the directories out there now while we need them.

I think it is clear that this is an easy thing to use. The reflection off the glass does not seem to be objectionable. The angles are calculated so that it takes a fiercely driving rain to get any moisture, other than the humidity of Washington into the books. It is easy to take the books out and replace them, and a stock will be kept at the Lincoln Memorial.

One of the criticisms that has been made of this kind of thing is that people are going to tear out pages, and this may happen, but one of the things we thought we could do is to put in the same container a place that we can stack these little handouts, and if somebody has the opportunity to take something away with them, perhaps they will not do so much violence to the books.

Incidentally, locating a name is pretty possible out of this, too. Not only would you write the line down on this thing, but if you have any idea of the date of death, it is all in the book to begin with.

The question then remains will this accomplish what has been required, and we feel that, in truth, it will.

This view is taken from the Lincoln Memorial side. It seems to bring the tree elements, the basic wall, the flag pole 50 feet high, and the 70 foot loam, and the sculpture, into pretty good focus with each other, and as a result we think that we have, in large measure, solved the design.

Because you are not making a site trip, I would like to use a couple slides of the model which will show you the model view and then an actual view on site. If we may, would you cut the lights for a minute?

This is a view taken from the Lincoln Memorial of

the grounds. The blue van is parked at the apex, and you can see the amount of ground that lies between the edge of the run around the memorial and the Vietnam Memorial.

Elevated slightly, looking in the same direction, you can see what this tree cover is. The model, incidentally, has been refined. We went out and measured every doggone tree very very carefully, and we have built trees in this area only of the model that are in true scale to what is on the ground.

Moving up upon it, you can see the new path link connecting the Lincoln Memorial, the old trunk path that runs the full east-west amount of Constitution Gardens. Moving up, you can see the intersection, the plaza, the sculpture, and, of course, the apex.

Now, here is a view looking, generally speaking, from Henry Bacon Drive right straight across in the area we are talking about, with the placement of the flag right in here. You will notice that there is the same row of trees as you go back and forth, and you can see that they exist in the model. You can see that this will, in truth, begin to be a dominant kind of area, an object along the perimeter path.

Looking back in the opposite direction, across toward Henry Bacon Drive, in the background the view will be like this.



Looking from the apex of the memorial back toward the location of the sculpture, the flag pole is located about there, the sculpture is located there. You can see the flag pole coming up directly into this niche in the trees, which exists. There are two different niches -- one is here -- two rooms -- and the other one is directly off the end of the memorial.

Here you can see how the flag will sit into the niche of trees.

This is another similar view, with the late afternoon sun coming through, which is an accurate sun angle, incidental. Here it is hard to see, but here is a six foot stepladder placed at the point of the sculpture, which is exactly located where we are making a proposal to put the sculpture, so you can see that we are not putting this thing in left field at all. This has very much of a presence, and there has been no removal of the grade or no change of grade.

Here is a telephoto view, just to get you a little bit closer so you can see the scale, and the flag pole is sitting right back in here, right in between the three trees, filling the niche. There it is up close.

I would like to call to your attention, also, the fact that we respected the fact that there is a beaten path being

pushed along through the grass, which is exactly where the new path that we are proposing is located. People are using the village square principle or campus syndrome principle to make their own path, and while we didn't, at the start, set out to do this, when we got down and looked, we said, good Lord, that is exactly what we have done, so I think the people are confirming that which we found as a design in this case.

Thank you very much.

Fred, would you like to add your statement?

MR. HART: Mr. Chairman, distinguished Commission Members: I strongly and enthusiastically support scheme "A". This solution succeeds in fulfilling our original goals for preserving the integrity of the original design, while at the same time unifying all of the elements into a single memorial statement.

On the other hand, there can be no doubt in the scheme the original design is treated with utmost reverence. By the clustering and sequential arrangement of the elements, the locators, the sculpture, the oversize flag, with the flag staff inscription, the sculpture and flag achieve a far greater emphasis, coherence, and prominence than in any other solution we have been able to provide.

In addition, the new sidewalk and plaza treatment