



PROGRESS REPORT - APRIL 2018

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association continues to move forward with the completion of the site selection phase for the memorial. For the past 7 months, we have been immersed in a site selection process that has been met with a formidable sequence of agency reviews and approval steps to complete the site selection phase for the memorial. During this time, and at the request of each agency, we have also had to work extensively with our Architects to create an array of conceptual memorial images at the final selection of sites. With that, we have had to undergo numerous public hearings with each agency to continue our pursuit of securing the most appropriate site and conceptual design for the memorial. We are also pleased to report that April the 13th marked the end of a 30-Day Public Scoping Period to review the conceptual design images of the memorial at each of the three remaining sites (See image—now two sites) under consideration. Most notably, and as with our previous Public Scoping Period for site selection, we again have received an overwhelming amount of support for our preferred site at 23rd and Constitution Avenue, and entrust that we should have the “Definitive” word for the location of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial by June of this year.

- July 2017: The Commission of Fine Arts (“CFA”) states they are not supportive of either potential site locations at 23rd and Constitution or the area adjacent to the Memorial Traffic Circle on the Arlington Side of the Potomac.
- October 19th 2017: The CFA permits NDSWM to move forward with further analysis of the site at 23rd & Constitution as well as two new potential sites. The first new potential site is located on the "E-Street Corridor" at Walt Whitman Park, and the second at the "Belvedere" area at the terminus of Constitution Ave at the Potomac River. This recommendation comes after NDSWM requested that the Memorial Traffic site be excluded from further consideration due to historical concerns on Columbia Island.
- December 7th 2017: National Capital Planning Commission (“NCPC”) agrees with the CFA recommendation from October 19th and allows NDSWM to continue site analysis of the three potential sites.
- March 15th 2018: Following five planning meetings with the National Park Service (“NPS”), CFA, and NCPC Staff, the NDSWM formally presents the CFA with NDSWM’s findings regarding all three potential sites. The CFA votes 4-2 to award the "Belvedere" location to NDSWM for construction of the memorial.
- April 7th 2018: NDSWM goes before NCPC regarding the three potential sites. NCPC rules in favor of the NDSWM preferred site--located at 23rd and Constitution. This decision contradicts CFA's earlier March 15th ruling.

At this point, both NCPC and the National Park Service support the NDSWM preferred location at 23rd and Constitution. The next and final step in determining the "final" location for the memorial will occur in June when NDSWM appears before CFA with new "landscape-based" design iterations. Between now and June, a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes collaboration will occur between NPS, CFA, and NCPC, and will ultimately influence the final decision. We have been informed that this difference of opinion between the CFA and NCPC commissions NEVER happens!

Conclusion: Although NDSWM prefers the 23rd and Constitution location, the “Belvedere” location does afford spectacular visibility from the air, the river, and the roadways. The downside is that it is far more challenging for pedestrian access at this time. We are building this memorial for the ages and know that things will inevitably change over the next 20, 50, or 100 years.... The 23rd & Constitution location, although not as visible, is a more pedestrian-accessible location. Both sites have pros and cons, and we are delighted to know whichever site is awarded, the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial will be a very visible reminder of all that happened and that was accomplished back in 1990-1991!

Concept Design Review



► The 2 Sites – Vicinity Photo

1 - 23rd and Constitution Avenue

2 - Belvedere



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