



Memorandum

TO: JERRY A. BENTROTT, CITY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORY J. ORAVEC, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *no*

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2012

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE PERMANENT DISPLAY OF THE
WORLD TRADE CENTER ARTIFACTS

As you are aware, the City possesses two artifacts from the World Trade Center. Both are portions of steel I-beams. One is approximately 36 inches long, and the other is approximately 11 feet long. At its meeting of September 19, 2011, the City Council directed you to convene a committee to make recommendations regarding the permanent display of these artifacts. On October 18, 2011, the committee, which consisted of you, Chief Reuther, Officer Fazio, Ms. T. Taylor, Mr. Conrad and me, met in length on the subject, outlining findings and recommendations and agreeing to perform follow up research. This memorandum serves to memorialize the findings and recommendations of the committee and share the results of that research so that you may engage in a follow up discussion with the City Council.

Findings and Recommendations

- The committee recognizes the emotion associated with the artifacts and offers these recommendations to the City Council understanding that the Council members must consider many passionate and sometimes conflicting opinions. The committee offers one set of findings and recommendations, but recognizes that there are different and equally valid opinions on the matter. The committee looks forward to assisting you implement the City Council's ultimate vision for these artifacts.
- The smaller artifact should be made part of an artistic mobile display, which could be based in the Civic Center lobby and exhibited at other facilities on specific assignment. This display could be completed by in-house staff.
- The larger artifact should become part of an artistic permanent display or memorial. In considering where such a display should be located, the committee thought that it made sense for the location to:
 - have a strong connection to the artifact; and
 - be located in a prominent public place.

Based upon these factors, the committee suggested that the large artifact display be located at the City Hall site to the west of the public art exhibition area, as depicted in Exhibit "A". At the suggested location, it would be:

- tied to our first responders, police officers;
- centrally located within the City;
- visible to many people in the community;
- on a site that could accommodate large ceremonies; and
- at a place that is manned 24/7, thereby discouraging vandalism.

- If the City Hall site is not acceptable to the City Council, then a large artifact display should be constructed at a specified location. Other locations mentioned by the public have included Veteran’s Park, Hooper Park and the Civic Center.
- Once the location for the large artifact display is identified, the City Council should identify a maximum budget and any desired design elements and then issue a design competition or a call for artists, which could be administered through the Public Arts Advisory Board or other specified committee. Hopefully, this approach would allow the City Council to review a number of potential designs before making a final determination.
- It is hoped that the actual expenditures for the construction of the display can be offset by donations.

Research

Officer Fazio and Ms. Lipp researched what other communities have done with similar artifacts. Highlights are set forth below.

Palm Beach Gardens



Key Facts:

- 9.11.01 Memorial Plaza
- City Council approved Art in Public Places petition.
- Located in plaza in front of fire station.
- Funded, at least in large part, through donations.

Wellington



Key Facts:

- Patriot Memorial located at the City Hall Complex.
- The City worked with and through a non-profit to complete the project.
- According to the Palm Beach Post, “The memorial, which has been in the works since the beginning of 2010, stands complete with steel beam, an etched glass wall filled with the names of those who died that day, a fountain and an eternal flame.”

Other Snapshots



I hope you find this memorandum useful. If you require additional information or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

attachment

c: WTC Steel Committee
Daniel Holbrook, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

