

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS: Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) initiated the meeting, noting that present in person were LTC Adrian Massey, of ANC G5, and Mr. Matthew Davis, Advisory Committee Analyst and Alternate Designated Federal Officer for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery. Ms. Yates welcomed Mr. Davis and expressed appreciation of his service to the Committee.

Ms. Yates stated for the record that the Subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The Subcommittee operates under the authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). Arlington National Cemetery is the agency that receives the benefit of the Committee's advice and recommendations. The DFO, nominated by the ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded Subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the Subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also stated that the meeting was open to the public, and that attending members of the public were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the Subcommittee without permission of the Chair. Any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement or request to make a verbal presentation in accordance with the published Federal Register notice, provided in the binder on the lectern near the door of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also stated that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that summarized minutes of the meeting will be prepared and made available to the public on the ANC website.

The meeting was called to order at 1300.

2. ROLL CALL: The DFO reported a quorum for the record, with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. Gene Castagnetti (Chair), Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, Mr. Robert Hess, and Mr. Thomas Kelley.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission Nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards.

The following members were not present:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. James Peake, Ms. Ann Rondeau.

3. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: The DFO announced that the minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

4. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Castagnetti opened the meeting by welcoming all members and requesting the day's first presentation.

5. JBM-HH PERIMETER FENCE UPDATE: Mr. Francis Warren, ANC Security Specialist, and Mr. Anthony Butts, ANC Physical Security Officer, presented an update on the project to enclose and secure the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) perimeter. This is a JBM-HH project, not an ANC project, but it affects ANC.

- New security features include no-climb fences and crash gates or gates with a crash arm. The new Old Post Chapel gate will have a K12 security rating, meaning that it could stop a 15,000-pound vehicle (e.g., a small box truck) moving at 50 miles per hour.

- Construction on the Old Post Chapel gate will begin at the end of January 2020 and is scheduled to take approximately 90 days. Work on the other gates and the fence is in progress; workers are currently drilling fence posts from Selfridge Gate to Henderson Hall. A new parking lot at Henderson Hall has been completed.

- Mr. Warren noted that there is no known threat to JBM-HH or to ANC at this time. The new security measures will make JBM-HH a 100% secure base, in compliance with Army standards.

- Mr. Warren also followed up on last meeting's discussion of the guard shack at Old Post Chapel Gate, in particular its appearance. He emphasized that the guard shack will have a historic appearance, consistent with others in the cemetery. Furthermore, everything will go through the Commission of Fine Arts. Until the guard shack is built, there will be a temporary concrete slab at the gate. The new guard shack will be twice the size of the current one, and will have a latrine. Pedestrian screening will be the same as at other gates.

6. OVERVIEW, 2020 ENGINEERING PROJECTS: Mr. Mark Etheridge, ANC Supervisory Engineer, briefed the committee on highlights of 2020 engineering projects.

- Road rehabilitation: The McPherson area roads (on the southwest side of the cemetery) and Humphries Drive will be rehabilitated, with the goal of increasing their longevity. There will also be improvements to stormwater drainage and communications infrastructure (fiber optics). Since September 2019, ANC has done major roadwork in older sections of the cemetery: near Ord-Weitzel Gate, and Patton and Pershing Drives. This next phase, particularly the McPherson area roads, will be the hardest part operationally.

- Ord-Weitzel Gate restoration: contract award projected for June; work will take about one year.

- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Memorial Amphitheater plaza restoration.

- Administration Building renovation: 65% of the Administration Building renovation is now complete, including the upstairs family rooms and installation of a new elevator. Staff is scheduled to move back into the building in June 2020.

- Welcome Center skylight resealing: in progress, scheduled to conclude by Christmas 2019.

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

7. SOUTHERN EXPANSION, 35% UPDATE: Mr. Rob Marshall, Project Manager, ANC Engineering, updated the committee on the Southern Expansion (SE) project. The 35% design review took place in August, and received more than 810 comments from ANC staff members and project partners. The package for 65% design is expected by spring or summer 2020. Meanwhile, ANC and the Air Force are engaged in ongoing discussions regarding integration of the Air Force Memorial.

A. Comment Resolution: Four partner agencies submitted comments on 35% design, focusing on:

- Commission of Fine Arts (CFA): visitor experience upon arrival, entrance from the screening building, suggestions for locations of granite engravings, suggestions on the viewscape and service building, and signage on how to access the parking garage.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): utilities and demo of existing utilities, bracing of retaining walls.
- Arlington County (ARCO): Joyce St Ops Complex entrance, pedestrian walkways, tree preservation and planting, water lines and meter location.
- Air Force District of Washington (AFDW): access to and use of the Air Force Memorial, design preservation, bus entry, the dedication wall/inscription placement and the vista (northern viewscape).

B. Value Engineering & Design Decisions: A value engineering review aimed to increase efficiencies and cost effectiveness:

- Green roof system: stormwater efficiencies and an aesthetically pleasing vegetation screen.
- Operations Building: The architect was asked to revise the floorplan and exterior finishes; the initial impression was that it was “too much architecture” for a federal building. Updated designs for storage, maintenance and shops aim to remove inefficiencies.

C. Revisions: Two major revisions to Southern Expansion since the last ACANC meetings:

1) 50/50 cremated remains/crypt gravesites → 70/30 cremated remains/preset crypt gravesites.

- The original 35% design plan divided the area evenly (50-50) into spaces for in-ground cremated remains and casketed (preset) crypt gravesites. However, due to sloping terrain, it would be very expensive and challenging to emplace preset crypts and to conduct interment operations and grave maintenance. The revised 35% design envisions a 70/30 split between in-ground cremated remains and preset crypt gravesites.
- Under the revised 70/30 design, Sections N and P will be left undeveloped, creating space for 3,500 graves if used for 3x6 cremation. Developing sections K and Q as preset crypts will help the aesthetic transition into smaller grave sizes.
- These changes result in savings of \$31.5 million, and are more in line with burial trends of the target in-ground cohort.

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

2) Bus driveway at Air Force Memorial: The bus driveway will now be closer to the Memorial, to facilitate VIP access (requested by the Air Force). It will also be further separated from the columbarium, allowing that area to be more pedestrian-oriented.

D. Way Ahead:

- 1-15 Nov 2019: planned reviews/data gathering (AFM integration, horticulture and drainage, office building design, garage design and operations, columbarium design review, IT hub relocation from Building 123)
- week of 18 Nov 2019: kickoff for 65% design
- 15 Jan 2020: revised 35% AFM integration design complete
- June 2020: submit 65% design to ANC/USACE
- July 2020: present to CFA/NCPC
- May 2021: submit 100% to ANC/USACE
- Sept 2021: submit corrected 100% to ANC/USACE

Phasing meetings were held on 29 October and in mid-November, and are ongoing, re: Defense Access Roads (DAR) construction and SE construction. A revised, detailed construction schedule should be completed by the end of 2019.

E. DAR and Southern Expansion Upcoming Milestones: Mr. Marshall summarized upcoming milestones for DAR and SE. DAR is fully funded, at \$60 million (all appropriated, per MILCON); Southern Expansion has received \$219 million, out of an estimated \$350 million required. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review is complete, with findings of no significant impact.

Discussion/Comments

- The Amazon HQ2 project will not really affect Southern Expansion. Traffic in the Columbia Pike area is not expected to increase.

- The group planning the nearby Pentagon Memorial is still fundraising, and they have a new concept of what they are looking for: a building with a visitors' center. They are meeting Army force protection requirements.

- Members asked if there have been any more discussions about monuments or memorials for other service branches within the cemetery. Ms. Yates noted that the other service branches all have monuments at or immediately adjacent to ANC: the Coast Guard Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Army), the Mast of the Maine (Navy), the Seabee Memorial (Navy) and the Marine Corps War Memorial. ANC's educational initiatives could highlight these.

8. FUTURE EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES: LTC Brent Kauffman, ANC Strategist, gave a presentation on future expansion opportunities. An independent contractor researched seven discrete options/parcels, and the findings validated key assumptions: 1) future expansions will be costly, 2) opportunities are limited, 3) adjacent acreage is sparse, and 4) expansion will impact other sites. The takeaway: any future expansion (beyond Southern Expansion) will be high dollar, low yield.

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

The seven areas that were researched, and the approximate acreage they could possibly add:

1. Adjacent Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall area (Parking Lots A & B): 8.28 acres
2. Henderson Hall: 13.62 acres
3. Army-Navy Country Club: 228.7 acres
4. Adjacent USMC War Memorial area: 17.43 acres
5. Fort Myer North: 19.43 acres
6. Fort Myer West: 113.08 acres
7. Pentagon North & South Parking Lots: 43.29 acres

LTC Kauffman discussed slides offering aerial maps and detailed information on each parcel, including its address, ownership, primary uses, description, total acres, development status, whether it is contiguous to ANC, the predominant surrounding land use, zoning, and information gaps.

Discussion/Comments

- Members asked about the timeline of expansion projects. Ms. Yates stated that it was roughly 25 years from the beginnings of the Millennium Project to the first burials in those new sections, and first burials in the Southern Expansion areas are projected for 2026—and those were both properties that belonged to the Department of Defense (meaning that they did not involve the cost and logistical challenges of privately-owned parcels).

- Mr. Farley made a general observation that the guidance regarding expansion projects could change in the future; thus, it's important not to look at the issue in absolutes.

- Mr. Edwards asked if, given the public meeting notices, it would be appropriate to ask LTC Kauffman a question regarding eligibility; LTC Kauffman and Ms. Yates said that he may do so. Mr. Edwards stated that one of the issues that surprised many Committee members, after years of work, was that the proposal that POTUS [president of the United States] and VPOTUS [vice president of the United States] who had never served in uniform would be eligible came out of the blue—it was never discussed by this Committee. Where did this idea come from? If LTC Kauffman is not the appropriate person to ask, then who is the appropriate person within the chain of command to find out where this idea came from—e.g. did it come from the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense, the White House, military service organizations? Mr. Edwards stated that he would welcome their right to justify and explain the proposed changes, but it bothers him that no one has taken authorship. LTC Kauffman replied that his understanding is that this proposal came out of Army senior leader discussions, but he was not in those discussions.

- Mr. Hess asked if what has been considered [for revised eligibility] will meet the 150-year mark—and if proposed changes will not meet the 150-year mark, is the Committee okay with that. Ms. Yates stated that the Committee provided recommendations that assisted the Army with proposed changes that addressed the largest demand and populations – traditional veterans and retirees. In the future, the largest group that could most affect availability of burial space is the Purple Heart population, if it behaves differently than in the past, because of its sheer size. By contrast, the number of people who are eligible due to a combination of government service and military service [for above-ground inurnment, “Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation’s security at the highest levels of public service”] equals only a handful each

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

December 10, 2019

year. In that category, the proposed revised eligibility criteria will have a list of specific positions that qualify. The current list, based on Title V U.S. Code provisions, is longer than the proposed criteria list, Ms. Yates noted. All must be veterans except for the president and vice president of the United States.

- Mr. Edwards stated for the record that it is his personal opinion that there veterans and military service organizations will feel very strongly opposed to changing the current rules to allow presidents and vice presidents who have never served a day in uniform to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He hopes that those who are making this decision will take that into account. He also projected that a number of members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, will have strong feelings of opposition; he hopes that they feel enough obligation to our country that ANC is hallowed ground, and that they will come forward to say, Where did this idea come from? He stated that he did not think it is right for no one to take authorship of the idea, after the Committee has spent years studying it.

- Ms. Yates explained that the proposed revised eligibility criteria were issued by the Secretary of the Army. In this case, it was two individuals: Dr. Esper and Secretary McCarthy. The proposed changes result from Army and Department of Defense senior leader discussions.

- Ms. Yates further stated that Secretary McCarthy has received the Committee's letter [included in the minutes from the September 26, 2019 full Committee meeting] that expressed concern about some of the proposed changes to eligibility. She also emphasized that this Committee has focused on populations that do make an impact on the life of the cemetery.

- Members asked about the current status of the rulemaking process. Ms. Yates reported that an 80+ page draft rule is being worked through with Army senior leadership. The goal is to get the draft rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) after the first of the year, and into the public domain (published in the Federal Register) by spring 2020.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED: The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1515.


Gene Castagnetti
Subcommittee Chairman