September 30, 2019

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW Suite 500, North Lobby
Washington, DC 20004

Commission Meeting, October 3, 2019
Agenda Number 6B
File Number 8107
Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance

Greetings:

I am Harold Barker, founder of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Trust Fund established on or about December 12, 1984.

I have examined the designs for the proposed Wall of Remembrance and find the simple design of a low wall with the list of names to be the most appropriate design.

However, I take issue with the stated number of 36,574 as the number of United States forces lost in Korea. This number is widely accepted as inaccurate and does not take into account duplication of names, use of assumed names, and names that are missing.

Of substantial interest should be the well over 1000 errors relating to spelling of names contained in the list as it currently stands.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Barker
Dallas, Texas

Documents Attached - 2
Hal:
I think your attorney’s advice is appropriate. I am fully aware that your list is superior to and more accurate than those of ABMC, DOD, VA, etc. It has always been my intention to rely on yours. And yes, compensation for use is certainly appropriate. While final design of the Glass Wall of Remembrance is going to be a result of the impact of several groups such as FAC, NCMAB, etc., what will ‘not change’ is that the names of U.S. KIA will be inscribed thereon!!!! Stay in touch!
Bill
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2019

The meeting convened in Room 5115, Suite 500, 401 9th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, at 1:00 p.m., Thomas Gallas, Vice Chairman, presiding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

LINDA ARGO, Mayoral Appointee
EVAN CASH, Office of the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia
ARRINGTON DIXON, Mayoral Appointee
THOMAS GALLAS, Presidential Appointee
WENDY GINSBURG, U.S. House of Representatives
PETER MAY, Department of the Interior
PAUL MCMAHON, Department of Defense
DANIEL SPINO, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
ANDREW TRUEBLOOD, Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia

MINA WRIGHT, General Services Administration
supposed to go, which is to go in. And so this kind of release to be able to go to either side is going to be a really nice and welcome thing.

And of course we want to welcome people coming from Ash Road and Independence Avenue also into this. So overall, I think these are minor things that you all can easily address. I just want to make sure we reinforce those points when we see it back again. Thank you.

Any other comments or questions? All right, so is there a motion to approve the -- oh, Commissioner Wright.

MEMBER WRIGHT: I did have one question.

VICE CHAIR GALLAS: She thinks best when she's typing.

MEMBER WRIGHT: No, I had a question about this letter from Mr. Barker about the inaccuracy of the names, which is one of the things that's a problem with these walls. He claims that there's over 1000 errors, that the number of names is wrong, and so forth. So I'm
assuming that that is going to be resolved.

Should I assume that?

COLONEL DEAN: Ma'am, my name's

Colonel Richard Dean, I'm the Vice Chairman of

the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation. The

way the law's written is the names that are going
to be inscribed on this wall have to be provided
by the Department of the Interior to our
foundation, and they get it from the Department
of Defense.

It's up to the Department of Defense
to provide the names to us. And the Barker
brothers have the opportunity of providing that
data if they want to release it to the Department
of Defense. But right now they want to be paid
for that data. I'll leave it at that.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Oh. This is a

shakedown?

COLONEL DEAN: Could be.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Kind of? Oh, wow.

Well, I'm glad I asked.

COLONEL DEAN: They've spent about 50
years with this database, and their life is built
into this database they have. They want to be
paid for it. I'll leave it at that.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Okay, so but since no
one's going to, I don't, I mean the drama and
intrigue notwithstanding --

VICE CHAIR GALLAS: Can't resist.

MEMBER WRIGHT: This is part of the
problem with an undertaking like this.

COLONEL DEAN: So --

MEMBER WRIGHT: It's the accuracy, and
literally it'll be set in stone. So if the
Barker brothers are trying to get paid for it,
well, okay, that's one thing. But how will DoD
and Interior collaborate to ensure accuracy
without the participation of the Barker brothers?

MEMBER MAY: The legislation states
that the DoD shall provide the list of names one
time. We do not, and we have not in the past
with other memorials, gotten into the business of
vetting any names. So it won't be a
collaboration, we will look to receive that list
from them.

And the legislation was written specifically this way to avoid the process that has been playing out at Vietnam, where people continue to want to add names to it. Now, there are reasons why names get added, and they do get added. But we rely on DoD to provide those names. We rely on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation to actually add the names.

But you know, again, because this was further in the past and the records were not as clear, we actually insisted on this being in the legislation to make sure that what we got was one list at one time, and that is what it will be. I just, you know, I leave it up to DoD to make sure that it's correct. Got that?

(Laughter.)

COLONEL DEAN: So I'll give you an inference. If you were an Air Force bomber and you flew from some island that wasn't near Korea but you were flying there, the Barker brothers would consider that a loss from the Korean War,
even though they weren't in the battle area. And that's some of those boundaries and definitions that Department of Defense has to decide on to fulfill this list.

MEMBER WRIGHT: And so one more question. So at what, so at what point will the list, the final list be implemented?

MEMBER MAY: I'm not going to -- look to my fellow commissioner to answer that.

MEMBER WRIGHT: I mean, I think the accuracy matters here. And so is it going to, are, so are they going to deliver? They haven't made the list already final.

COLONEL DEAN: So our foundation has submitted three letters to the Secretary of Defense to provide the list of names to us. They still haven't provided us the list of names yet.

MEMBER MAY: If we need to weigh in to try to push that along, certainly we would help push the Department of Defense to provide the list of names that they're required to provide under law. But I think that there will be time
between now and when the memorial is constructed
to get it all done and finalized.

And you know, we can look at a draft
list of names whenever that's ready or whatever.
But if we want to, you know, at a certain point
we will want to have that final list, and that's
what will be needed in order to construct it.

MEMBER WRIGHT: And one last thing I
swear. So in the design, is there adequate room
for addition if 20 years from now it's discovered
that DoD made a mistake and left a bunch of
people out?

COLONEL DEAN: Yes.

MEMBER MAY: If I might say, I have
advised the design team that even though the
legislation says there'll be one list of names
and one time, that you never know what the
Congress may decide in the future. Right now
they are debating a bill that would add a
significant number of names to the Vietnam
Memorial.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Right.
MEMBER MAY: And we don't have room for them.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Right, that's why I'm asking.

MEMBER MAY: So we, I have advised them to make sure that we plan for some additional space.

By the way, next month we'll bringing another memorial wall with names that needs to be enlarged.

MEMBER WRIGHT: Exactly, I mean, then we'll have a billboard over, you know, to the north.

VICE CHAIR GALLAS: We will do everything we can to plan for that possibility. This is outside of our control. We understand the process, thank you for that clarifying.

I'd like to look for a motion to approve the comments on concept design for --

MEMBER WRIGHT: So moved.

VICE CHAIR GALLAS: This memorial wall.