

FAMILIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
LMDC – 20th floor
August 26, 2004 - 5:40 pm

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Nikki Stern opened the meeting with a description of a timeline used as a centerpiece in a September 11th exhibit at the State Museum in Albany, and how this display seemed more clear and concise than what is currently being displayed at Ground Zero by the Port Authority.

It was agreed upon that the current display presented by the Port Authority should be improved upon, if not, replaced entirely. Mark Schaming, Director of Exhibition and Public Programs at the New York State Museum believed that the Museum's timeline would be a good fit for the Ground Zero site. Mr. Schaming then displayed images included in the timeline, and how certain components of the existing timeline could be refined for Ground Zero visitors. The Council was asked for their opinions on the imagery in the timeline, and the concept of displaying the images at the site. It was suggested that images with more people at the site be included and that the display provide visitors an opportunity to imagine what it might have been like at the site during the September 11th events.

The greatest concern for the display was that the imagery not be controversial, and that it be appropriate for all audiences. It was noted that the Port Authority is very sensitive to what is presented at the site. Specific images from 9/11 were also considered, including photographs of Mayor Giuliani, chefs serving volunteer workers and construction equipment. Also, it was suggested that images showing the beginning of a normal day in New York City might be powerful. A question was then asked of what might become of the presentation when the viewing fence was no longer necessary. It was suggested that the timeline could become part of a traveling exhibit, or could be donated to a museum.

The Council discussed the possible location of the panels. It was agreed that the timeline should be centrally located, replacing the current panels. It was also noted that the timeline would not supplant the list of names currently at that site. There was some concern about the quality of the boards currently presented. It was mentioned that the current boards needed to be taken down.

It was agreed that the group needed to consider more photographs. The New York Police and Fire Departments and the Port Authority should be included in upcoming discussions regarding the panels.

Monica Iken then discussed the 9/11 Living Memorial project. The site will be a virtual library with content devoted to the lives of victims and links to other sites with information on the events of 9/11. The meeting was then adjourned.