

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS

WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

March 9, 1982

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harold Burson
Hon. Sondra G. Myers
Hon. Alan Novak
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler

National Capital Planning

Commission Staff Present:

Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings, changed and approved as: 21 April 1982
(Wednesday)
18 May 1982
- B. Minutes of meeting of 17 February 1982, approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. Department of Interior, Letter from Secretary James G. Watt

CFA 9/MAR/82-1, Design modification to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Avenue near 21st Street, N. W. The Chairman read a letter from Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, in which the Secretary noted that his department had received a proposal from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund which would alter the design for the memorial.

the alterations to include the addition of a flagpole and a statue of a serviceman. In his letter the Secretary requested that the Commission indicate its reactions to the concept of such alterations before he gave his approval to proceed. *Exhibit A*

Robert Doubek from the VVMF was then introduced. He recalled the previous submissions in July, October and November 1981, as well as the enthusiasm the winning design had engendered and the many contributions that had been made. He said the VVMF had wanted this memorial to be a symbol of reconciliation, and he was saddened by the controversy that had developed and the charge that the memorial lacked elements symbolic of the sacrifices made by those who had fought. Mr. Doubek then related that at the request of the VVMF, Senator Warner had chaired a meeting bringing together the critics and others involved with the memorial, and a consensus had been reached whereby it was agreed that a flagpole and statue would be added. He said Secretary Watt had been pleased with the agreement, and Mr. Doubek said he hoped now that the Commission would give its approval to the concept so that construction could begin. He noted other organizations and individuals that had concurred with the VVMF in approving the additions, mentioning specifically the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, Regina Wilk of the Gold Star Mothers, Milton Copulus of the Heritage Foundation, and Brigadier General George Price, USA (ret.). He said Mr. Copulus and the Marine Corps League had been among those feeling most strongly that the additions were needed. He said the individuals mentioned were present at the meeting, had not prepared testimony, but would answer questions.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Doubek and then, noting that there were no designs to consider, read a draft of a letter to Secretary Watt in which he said the Commission believed it would be possible to add the desired elements, but needed to see something specific before it could give any approval. The letter suggested a location for the new elements away from the ~~marble~~ ^{granite} walls. It also noted that, as Secretary Watt had said in his letter, the basic design remained unchanged; as it already had Commission approval, no further action was required by the Commission as a precondition to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

Representatives mentioned by Mr. Doubek made brief statements. The chairman of the Marine Corps League stated emphatically that the flagpole and statue should be part of the memorial, not separated from it and placed on a separate site. General Price stated his opinion that the flagpole and statue should be thought of as the memorial, and that the flagpole and statue should properly be placed anywhere in this area.

There were no other comments from the floor. Being asked to accept the letter and agreed unanimously that it was acceptable. (A slight clarification in the final paragraph of the letter was made and approved unanimously.)

Mr. Doubek said he thought the letter read by the Chairman gave Secretary Watt the answer he needed, accepting the concept of a statue and flagpole at the site. The Chairman agreed that it did. Exhibit A-1

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 9/MAR/82-2, Pennsylvania Triangle Project; Pennsylvania Avenue, 6th Street, and Indiana Avenue, N. W. Westminster Development Corporation. The Secretary recalled that the Commission had seen this project before, in a somewhat different form, but had not been required to take any action. He said the Leo A. Daly firm had now been joined by Jacquelin Robertson Associates. Charles Gueli from PADC was then introduced and said the developer had been working with PADC for some time on design changes; it was now agreed that the design would fit well into the PADC plan and it had been approved by the advisory board. Mr. Robertson then discussed the design of this large, two-building mixed-use complex. He said he had conceived of it as background architecture and had tried to reinforce the L'Enfant Plan--the diagonal of Pennsylvania and Indiana avenues and the orthogonal grid--and to mediate between the old and new buildings and scales in the area. (The late 19th century National Bank of Washington, "Apex" building, and Atlantic Coast Line building fall within the site.) The scale of the old buildings would be emphasized by the use of a stone facing on the walls of the new buildings up to a height of 72 feet, approximately the height of the taller of the old buildings. Above this the design would change, reflecting a contemporary idiom. The building behind the National Bank of Washington, bounded by Indiana Avenue, 6th and C Streets, would be fourteen stories high; it would be devoted to hotel and apartment use, with retail on the ground floor. The residential units at the top would step back vertically to provide views of Pennsylvania Avenue. The building fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue, behind the "Apex" building, would be lower; nine stories in height, with three setbacks from the avenue, the first beginning at the cornice line of the Atlantic Coast Line building on the corner of 6th and Pennsylvania. This would be an office building with retail on the ground floor. The housing building would have an atrium, and both structures featured an arcade along the C Street axis, with the place of the street being taken by a garden linking the two buildings. The GAR and Temperance monuments would be relocated along this axis, with the larger GAR monument placed near 7th Street, and the other at the crossing of the north-south axis, in front of the gates to be placed at the garden entrance. There would also be planting between the bank and "Apex" buildings. Pavers for walks and plaza areas would be the same as those used on the avenue. Laurin Olin described these open space aspects of the project.

The Chairman thought this scheme an improvement over the one seen previously in that the mass had been broken up and some garden space provided; however, he and the other members were concerned that the