

JEFF CAR 2015 Design Review Team S106 FINAL Meeting Notes

Meeting #1: October 4, 2012

I. Attendance

Role	Name	Participated
DRT Member	Tom Bradley	X
DRT Member	Maggie Hales	
DRT Member	Vern Remiger	X
DRT Member	Judith Deel	X
DRT Member	Bill Hart	X
DRT Member	Karen Bode Baxter	
DRT Member	Ann Honious	
DRT Member	Mark Miles	X
Advisor: CRM Team	Kathryn Thomas	X
Advisor: CRM Team	Tim Schilling	X
Advisor: CRM Team	Bob Moore	X
Advisor: CRM Team	Michael Evans	
Advisor: CRM Team	Marla McEnaney	X
Advisor: CRM Team	Al O'Bright	
Advisor: National Trust	Jennifer Sandy	X
Advisor: National Trust	Betsy Merritt	
DSC	Ron Shields	X
DSC	Christopher Lewis	
DSC	Philip Lawrence	X
DSC	Rich Kagiyama	
DSC	Robert Parrish	X
DSC	Ron Shields	X
MVVA	James Smith	X
MVVA	James	X
Facilitator	Margo Brooks	X
Facilitator	Greg Cody	X
Other-NPS	Kathy Schneider	X
Other-NPS	Dawn Bringleston	X
Other		

II. Introduction to the Design Team Mission & Meeting Agenda

Design Review Team was established by stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement to review plans and provide feedback on ways to minimize adverse effects to historic properties. There are formal members—the Memorial, CAR2015, SHPO and Missouri Preservation. The Memorial's S106 Team will also review plans and act as advisors to the Team. The National Trust will act as an advisor and other consulting parties may participate if they are interested in a particular area.

III. Discussion and Adoption of Design Team Protocol

There were no changes to the draft protocol. It will be finalized and posted to the NPS web site.

IV. Design Presentation

James Smith provided a brief overview of the design process and noted that MVVA will be doing most of the landscape design while their partner Cooper Associates will be working on the museum.

Ely Smith Square has progressed ahead of other design packages because FHWA needs to begin work on the bridge over the highway.

Other schematic design packages are expected in January or February.

V. Museum PD Package

PRESENTATION

Berm Height

- James Smith discussed the museum and how the program and lobby height affects the height of the berm. Discussions with NPS (Randy Bialis) led to a realization that the berm height may not be as important as its shape. The design team is working to level out the shape so that it blends into the landscape. During the September 18, 2012 presentation of berm height options, Randy Biallas, WASO Assistant Director of Park Cultural Resource Programs, stated his support for the option with a 13.5' lobby height, which would raise the existing berm by 4.5 feet, to a maximum elevation of 469.5' Direction needs to be given to the Cooper team as soon as possible so that they can continue with Schematic Design and maintain the project schedule

Other Considerations

- To make the path to the Arch accessible, it will need to be sunken slightly into the berm, but will meet existing grade as quickly as possible.
- The entrance has been pushed as far west as possible to keep it out of the Arch view and to keep it on the edge of the NHL while still providing accessibility from Luther Ely Smith Square.
- Some type of guard rail will be needed at top of berm to keep kids from running up the berm and falling into the entrance plaza. They will still be able to run up the berm. The guard rail has not been designed. It will be low profile and possibly mesh to make it less visible. It should not be visible from the Arch because the berm slopes down from the crest before reaching the entrance plaza.

DISCUSSION

- Questions were asked about the views to and from the courthouse and the river and how they would be affected by changes in the berm height. Additional views were requested.
- Questions about the importance of the berm in the original design were asked. It is believed that it was not part of the original Kiley design, but added later to be a traffic sound barrier when the interstate was built, and higher than originally called for in the initial design. When the berm was added there was concern expressed about losing the vista between the Old Courthouse and the river. NPS/Bob Moore will provide more background information prior to the next meeting scheduled for October 11.
- It was asked if the hard circular shape of the entrance plaza could be made a softer oval or other curved shape, more similar to the Kiley designs, without affecting major design elements. James Smith replied that that could be explored in the Schematic Design process.
- Because the design team needs approval on berm height and shape to continue the museum design, the Design Review Team (DRT) agreed to meet on October 11 at 2:00 CDT to discuss the issue when the views and additional information is available.

VI. Luther Ely Smith SD Package

PRESENTATION

- James Smith was asked to explain the new security aspects of the design. He explained that there will be a series of 30" tall crash/landscape walls combined with bollards. The top of the walls will be at ground level on the park side of the wall so they will not be noticeable from inside park grounds. Landscaping will go up to the walls. Some may be benches. They are inspired by security measures implemented on the National Mall to be unobtrusive, but effective.
- A question was asked about accessible bus drop off locations. James explained that it was difficult to find a location for accessible bus drops because NPS could not change city streets and the street slope was not accessible. 4th Street had been previously considered for drop off because of its flatter slope, but it was not acceptable because of busses blocking the vista between the Old Courthouse steps and the river. The area along Memorial Drive at Walnut is being considered, but the bus doors would open on the street instead of the sidewalk side. Direction on this issue would be helpful.

DISCUSSION

- It was noted that there would be a lot of excavation in Luther Ely Square and for the museum entrance. Archeology is just starting in these areas and these areas are some of the potentially more sensitive areas. Initial coring will take place this month and more will be known after that. The DRT requested the results of the coring when complete.
- It was also noted that there were several drainage plans presented for Luther Ely Smith Square. With the lack of knowledge of archeology now, it would be best to reuse existing drainage systems where possible.

VII. Review and final discussion of comments on design packages

A. Request for additional views showing proposed berm height (Area 3)

- View from Illinois shore
- View from top of Courthouse stair
- Views from as deep inside the museum lobby as possible toward the Courthouse

B. Archeologically, the best design solutions will utilize known disturbance, such as using existing manholes/drainage at Luther Ely Smith Square. (Area 1 and Area 3)

C. The results of archeological investigation will need to be taken into account as design moves forward. (Area 3)

D. It may be desirable to soften the shape of the museum entrance plaza so that it isn't a hard circle. (Area 3)

E. NPS will provide background on the berm and its importance for the group as well as important aspects of Luther Ely Square. (Area 3)

VIII. Next Steps

A. Process for submitting Design Team comments

- Draft meeting notes will be submitted to the group for review & additional comments will be sent to Margo Brooks and Greg Cody for compilation prior to submission to MVVA.
- There was also a request for clearer access to materials for review on PEPC or Share point. DSC will explore options for providing easier access and clearer direction for review materials.
- There was also a proposal to use GoTo Meetings for the next Meeting. DSC will set it up. Participants should expect to receive an email link to the web meeting on the day of the meeting.

B. Design Schedule

- Area 1 - Luther Ely Smith Square; Schematic Design (SD) Finish October 1, Design Development (DD) Start October 1, DD Finish February 7 (NEEDS VERIFICATION with MVVA).
- Area 3 – Museum of Westward Expansion and Gateway Arch Visitor Center; Predesign (PD) Approval September 21. Schematic Design (SD) Start September 21, SD Finish February 7.
- Areas 3-7 – Arch Grounds; PD Start October 1, PD Finish December 1. SD Start December 1, SD Finish February 7 . A more detailed design schedule is being developed by DSC and will be posted when it is available.

C. Next Meeting

- Thursday, October 11 at 2 PM Central
Topic: Provide final direction to the Design Team for Berm height and shape to allow SD to proceed.
- Tuesday, October 30 at 9 am Central
Topic: General Progress Overview