

## May Commemorative Works Committee Meeting – Transcript

May 17, 2024, 1:00 to 1:35 PM

0:0:5.920 --> 0:0:13.570

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Good afternoon and welcome to the May 17th 2024 meeting of the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee.

0:0:14.40 --> 0:0:21.100

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I am Chris Shaheen with the DC Office of Planning and I manage the Office of Planning's Public Space Program, which includes the commemorative work program.

0:0:22.670 --> 0:0:33.900

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The committee was established as part of the Commemorative Works Amendment Act of 2000 to review proposals for commemorative works in public space and to make recommendations to the Mayor and District of Columbia.

0:0:34.730 --> 0:0:36.420

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

This meeting is being recorded.

0:0:36.690 --> 0:0:40.980

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We start each meeting with a past commemorative work installed in the District.

0:0:41.370 --> 0:0:50.610

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Today's example is the Hoff Memorial fountain in front of what had been the Central hospital building on the Walter Reed Medical Campus.

0:0:50.750 --> 0:0:58.910

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The fountain is dedicated to Colonel John Van Rensselaer Hoff, a military surgeon who dedicated his life to the Marine Corps.

0:0:59.500 --> 0:1:12.970

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Hoff was instrumental in creating the Army Hospital Corps, which was organized in 1898 to recruit and retain medical enlisted personnel in the US Army Medical Department for field service in foreign wars.

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0:1:13.660 --> 0:1:23.550

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The core was disbanded under the National Defense Act of 1916, when its members were transferred to the enlisted force of the Army Medical Department.

0:1:23.870 --> 0:1:33.950

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

He also served as deputy Surgeon General of the Army, returned for service during World War One, and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

0:1:34.520 --> 0:1:41.500

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

He lived in DC after his retirement from the military in 1912 and died at Walter Reed Hospital in January 1920.

0:1:42.960 --> 0:1:47.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The fountain was designed by architect James McKenzie and installed in 1935.

0:1:48.140 --> 0:1:56.550

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The designs interesting because it includes Penguins and cobras, which are thought to represent the breadth of Hoffs medical service and the southern and northern hemispheres.

0:1:57.60 --> 0:2:2.670

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It is prominently located in the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

0:2:2.800 --> 0:2:6.980

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The US Army's flagship Medical Center from 1909 to 2011.

0:2:8.840 --> 0:2:13.770

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Today we are joined by commemorative work committee members.

0:2:13.820 --> 0:2:14.120

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Let's see.

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0:2:14.130 --> 0:2:15.810

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I'm going to make sure I know who is here.

0:2:15.820 --> 0:2:18.640

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We have Anita Chair Anita Cozart.

0:2:19.40 --> 0:2:23.950

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

New member Kerry Kennedy, from Commissioner of Arts and Humanities.

0:2:23.960 --> 0:2:29.810

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Otto Condon, Marnique Heath, representing the Historic Preservation Review Board.

0:2:31.270 --> 0:2:32.340

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Let's see who else is here.

0:2:32.350 --> 0:2:33.370

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So I'm not missing someone.

0:2:35.240 --> 0:2:40.740

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Nick Kushner, also his first meeting joining us from the DC Department of Parks and Recreation.

0:2:41.830 --> 0:2:47.720

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I believe that is everyone from the committee who is here today, that is 5 Members and we do have a quorum.

0:2:51.180 --> 0:3:0.550

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So like I mentioned, we have two new members here today, Nick Kushner representing the Department of Parks and Recreation and Kerry Kennedy representing the DC Commission of Arts and Humanities.

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0:3:1.320 --> 0:3:3.740

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

And I'd also like to welcome the Valecia Wilson.

0:3:3.800 --> 0:3:11.570

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

She's the associate director for the Office of Planning Urban Design Division, and Zhetique Gunn and urban designer in the division.

0:3:11.580 --> 0:3:14.640

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Both are now working on commemorative works, so welcome aboard.

0:3:15.360 --> 0:3:19.480

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

With that, I will turn the meeting over to chair of the Commemorative Works Committee, Anita Cozart.

0:3:21.140 --> 0:3:22.570

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So good afternoon.

0:3:22.580 --> 0:3:36.510

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I don't have a lot of remarks, but we have a project to talk through together and then we also are excited to give you an update on the Commemorate DC work that we've been doing.

0:3:36.580 --> 0:3:45.870

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We've been learning a lot from it and we're excited to really bring this CWC up to speed on what we're doing and talk about the work that's ahead.

0:3:45.880 --> 0:4:1.80

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So very excited for today's meeting and grateful for the additions to the CWC team of OP staff and Valecia and very excited for our new Members, Nick and Kerry.

0:4:1.90 --> 0:4:6.600

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Thanks for coming on board and a hearty welcome back to Monique as well.

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0:4:6.650 --> 0:4:8.290

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So turning it back over to you, Chris.

0:4:10.790 --> 0:4:11.420

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:4:11.430 --> 0:4:12.0

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you.

0:4:12.370 --> 0:4:14.170

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Anita's already walked us through our agenda.

0:4:14.890 --> 0:4:19.900

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

If there aren't any comments on the agenda, let's just move forward.

0:4:20.170 --> 0:4:24.760

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We'll start with the review of the Cesar Vajello application.

0:4:25.130 --> 0:4:36.520

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Before we do that, I wanted to give an overview of the commemorative work review process for both our new members and if Members have been here before, just a refresher.

0:4:37.470 --> 0:4:50.740

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Also, go over what the Commemorative Works Committee's role is, so a commemorative work review begins with an applicant reaching out to the DC Office of Planning to get an understanding of the review process and the application requirements.

0:4:50.970 --> 0:5:2.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Staff then works with the applicant to prepare a complete application and once that's done, the application is sent to the committee members prior to an initial concept review, which is what we're doing today for the Cesar Vallejo application.

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0:5:4.40 --> 0:5:9.550

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

During this review, committee members can identify additional information they want to see and provide comments on the design.

0:5:10.70 --> 0:5:22.410

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The applicant then works to address the feedback and continues with other required reviews, which include those required by legislation and those required by location, such as Historic Preservation Office . . .

0:5:22.420 --> 0:5:36.230

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

. . . if it's in an historic district or the Public Space Committee, if it's in public space, so after completing all the required reviews, a final review, an updated application is prepared and sent back to the Commemorative Works Committee for a second review.

0:5:37.0 --> 0:5:45.770

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

After the second review, the committee makes a recommendation to the Mayor and DC Council, who have final approval authority of all commemorative works in DC.

0:5:46.620 --> 0:5:49.470

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Are there any questions about the review process?

0:5:53.450 --> 0:5:54.80

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

There are none.

0:5:54.90 --> 0:5:55.80

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We can move on.

0:5:58.870 --> 0:6:18.620

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So today we are reviewing a commemorative work application submitted by the Embassy of Peru for a statue of Cesar Vallejo at their embassy located at 1700 Massachusetts Ave NW Vallejo was born in a remote village in the Peruvian Andes and he was a Peruvian poet, writer, playwright and journalist.

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0:6:19.130 --> 0:6:23.850

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

His writing contained universal themes of suffering, but also expressed hope for change.

0:6:24.350 --> 0:6:36.30

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

He lived and worked in Europe for much of his adult life, and his work is an early example of the globalization effects of modernity, featuring connections to Europe, Latin America and his indigenous heritage.

0:6:37.820 --> 0:6:52.670

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The location is immediately adjacent to the Embassy of Peru at the corner of Massachusetts Ave and 17th St. It's one block to the West of 16th St it's within the Dupont Circle and Massachusetts Ave historic Districts and located adjacent to a DC landmark.

0:6:53.280 --> 0:7:7.500

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The intersection is on a prominent cross town Ave identified in DC's commemorative work location strategy as a preferred location for commemorative works, although this site was not specifically identified, there are several other memorials located nearby.

0:7:12.340 --> 0:7:18.170

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The nearby memorials are situated in a way that they do not visually compete with the proposed statue.

0:7:18.620 --> 0:7:32.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

These include an equestrian statue of Brevet Lieutenant General Winfield Scott and Scott Circle, and a statue of Daniel Webster to the West of Scott Circle, and a monument to Samuel Hahnemann at the east of Scott Circle.

0:7:33.20 --> 0:7:35.290

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Each of these memorials are impressive and scale.

0:7:35.640 --> 0:7:40.800

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

They are oriented toward 16th St and the dominant focal point of the green space where they're located.

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0:7:44.970 --> 0:7:54.920

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Immediately adjacent to the site of the proposed Vallejo statue, as a bust of Miguel Grau, he is a renowned Peruvian naval officer, installed at the entrance of the Peruvian embassy.

0:7:55.580 --> 0:8:6.220

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The bust is of a similar size and scale to the proposed statue of Vallejo, the public space surrounding the embassy, is mostly paved for circular driveway or vehicle parking.

0:8:6.930 --> 0:8:11.500

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

There are small areas of green space along the building and the vehicle parking area.

0:8:12.370 --> 0:8:19.130

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The largest green space is at the corner of 17th and Massachusetts, having them, which is the proposed location of the video statue.

0:8:23.660 --> 0:8:27.90

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The statue of Vallejo is him seated on a bench reading a book.

0:8:27.320 --> 0:8:31.910

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The bronze statue was modeled off of an iconic photo of Vallejo seated on a bench.

0:8:32.380 --> 0:8:35.470

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It's intended to make him more approachable and relatable to viewers.

0:8:36.20 --> 0:8:43.830

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The statue depicts Vallejo reading a book with a furrowed brow, suggesting deep concentration by locating the setup on a bench.

0:8:43.840 --> 0:8:49.610

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Viewers are invited to join him and interact physically with the memorial and Peruvian literary history.



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0:8:50.320 --> 0:8:58.860

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The figure is dressed in a suit and tie like how Viejo is depicted in the iconic photo and reflecting his association with white European academics.

0:9:0.180 --> 0:9:9.590

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The bench and statue are parallel to the back of the green space and the nearby entrance to the embassy and oriented out so that Vallejo is facing the sidewalk.

0:9:9.920 --> 0:9:14.140

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The landscape and paving around the statue are proposed to remain in their current configuration.

0:9:19.0 --> 0:9:31.350

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

This photo simulation shows the Vallejo statue seated on the bench and the green space at the corner of 17th and Massachusetts Ave. You can clearly see the alignment of the statue with the embassies entrance and its orientation to the street.

0:9:31.780 --> 0:9:36.770

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The nearby bust of Miguel Grau and the surrounding circular driveway in vehicular parking.

0:9:41.970 --> 0:9:52.350

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Staff is recommending that the committee approved the application in concept and advise the applicant to consider an alternative location with a greater distance from the bust of Miguel Grau.

0:9:53.260 --> 0:10:0.470

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The visual separation could be created by relocating the bench so it does not directly align with the embassies for an entrance and the bust.

0:10:1.40 --> 0:10:8.450

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

More green space could be created by removing some of the paving immediately adjacent to the sidewalk on 17th St or Massachusetts Ave.

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0:10:9.280 --> 0:10:14.120

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Landscaping behind the statue could also create more of a visual separation between it and the bust.

0:10:14.940 --> 0:10:17.490

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

An interpretive panel with information on Viejo.

0:10:17.500 --> 0:10:42.30

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Could also explain who he is and how his writing contains universal themes of suffering, but also expressions of hope for change. The applicant has let staff know that they do prefer a keep the location as its proposed. They consider the commemorative works corner location an enhancement to the front of the embassy, and that they feel that fewer people would see the statue if it's relocated along Massachusetts Ave.

0:10:46.930 --> 0:10:50.380

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So the floor is now open for a general discussion on the proposal.

0:10:51.230 --> 0:11:1.530

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Please focus your discussion on additional information that you might want to see as part of the application and comments on the design in terms of order of discussion.

0:11:1.540 --> 0:11:8.700

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We'll go with the order that's shown on the screen here, although I do not know if Jay has joined us yet.

0:11:8.710 --> 0:11:10.120

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I know he was planning on it.

0:11:10.970 --> 0:11:12.520

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

He is not here.

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0:11:12.790 --> 0:11:15.160

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Why don't we start with Kerry Kennedy?

0:11:15.170 --> 0:11:16.880

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We can go back to Jay if he joins us.

0:11:20.110 --> 0:11:22.680

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

Sure, the layout looks great.

0:11:22.690 --> 0:11:25.60

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

I agree with the staff recommendations.

0:11:25.150 --> 0:11:27.620

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

I read the bio of the subject.

0:11:27.630 --> 0:11:32.30

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

It seems like it's someone that would be appropriate.

0:11:32.150 --> 0:11:36.720

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

I wonder why they selected him, but it's great that they selected a poet.

0:11:36.730 --> 0:11:38.760

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

I really didn't have any additional comments.

0:11:43.240 --> 0:11:43.580

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:11:43.590 --> 0:11:44.130

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you.

0:11:44.140 --> 0:11:44.760

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Marnique.

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0:11:45.480 --> 0:11:45.850

Marnique Heath

Sure.

0:11:45.860 --> 0:11:52.730

Marnique Heath

I had a question, I believe in the staff comments you were asking them to relocate the bench.

0:11:53.760 --> 0:11:58.990

Marnique Heath

Are we asking them to bring this back to us once they've made revisions?

0:12:0.160 --> 0:12:5.140

Marnique Heath

Or did staff have other locations in mind?

0:12:6.980 --> 0:12:10.210

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The application will come back to the Committee for a second time.

0:12:10.750 --> 0:12:10.950

Marnique Heath

OK.

0:12:10.880 --> 0:12:13.560

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

This is an opportunity for the committee to give initial comments.

0:12:14.240 --> 0:12:14.480

Marnique Heath

OK.

0:12:15.30 --> 0:12:17.160

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It still needs to go through additional reviews.

0:12:17.170 --> 0:12:19.220

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It will be going to the Public Space Committee.

0:12:19.310 --> 0:12:26.40

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

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It'll get forwarded to the National Memorial Advisory Commission for their opportunity to comment.

0:12:26.920 --> 0:12:27.160

Marnique Heath

OK.

0:12:26.50 --> 0:12:31.70

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So once it goes through all of those reviews, it'll come back to the committee for a second review.

0:12:31.550 --> 0:12:31.960

Marnique Heath

OK.

0:12:32.30 --> 0:12:37.220

Marnique Heath

Alright then I will just say that, I do support the staff comments.

0:12:37.230 --> 0:12:40.850

Marnique Heath

I think they all make sense to me and I would agree with them.

0:12:41.510 --> 0:12:44.580

Marnique Heath

I think this is a.

0:12:44.630 --> 0:12:47.720

Marnique Heath

It's a really unique piece.

0:12:47.790 --> 0:13:1.100

Marnique Heath

It's rare that you have something designed in this way where you can engage with a statue like this and so I would commend them on their creativity.

0:13:3.410 --> 0:13:8.600

Marnique Heath

But otherwise I look forward to seeing them refine this.

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0:13:8.650 --> 0:13:10.720

Marnique Heath

I think otherwise it's a.

0:13:10.730 --> 0:13:12.20

Marnique Heath

It's a really well done piece.

0:13:15.890 --> 0:13:16.180

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:13:16.190 --> 0:13:18.60

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you, Otto.

0:13:19.850 --> 0:13:20.220

Condon, Otto

OK.

0:13:20.280 --> 0:13:20.690

Condon, Otto

Thank you.

0:13:23.70 --> 0:13:27.160

Condon, Otto

You know, you said something also about it being approachable.

0:13:27.410 --> 0:13:37.580

Condon, Otto

And when I first looked at the PDF you had sent, I was thinking about some of the previous sculptures which you know, we had a lot of comments about scale and interaction.

0:13:38.700 --> 0:13:53.720

Condon, Otto

And my comments, I support the OP's comments, but the this is more of a question and I'm also thinking of some George Segal sculptures where they're similar kind of bust or, you know, sculpture on a bench.

0:13:53.780 --> 0:13:56.890

Condon, Otto

And I was glad to hear that it's intended to be approachable.

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0:13:57.880 --> 0:14:10.910

Condon, Otto

But I was trying to visualize how people might approach it, and a couple things to think about is, you know, I was curious about the landscape, you know, would people actually approach it if it was landscaped?

0:14:12.270 --> 0:14:20.400

Condon, Otto

You know, if it is heavily approached and we do, you know, in an Instagram society, you know, there are probably there could be a lot of people.

0:14:20.410 --> 0:14:34.220

Condon, Otto

So you know you it would be, it would be sad to see the landscape become a desire line for people who are walking and, you know, kind of going over to sit on the bench to interact, which I think is a great move.

0:14:35.380 --> 0:14:45.480

Condon, Otto

And you know also to think about, you know, again if people are interacting and if people are taking photos, you know, where is that person?

0:14:45.540 --> 0:14:53.790

Condon, Otto

You know what's the whole sort of layout of how somebody might actually situate between taking a photo and with the landscape.

0:14:54.260 --> 0:15:12.60

Condon, Otto

So this this is more things to think about how people might actually interact and how that might influence some of the landscape design around it so that it becomes to ensure that there's a permanent quality of landscape and there's not a lot of sort of desire lines that are created otherwise that's.

0:15:12.650 --> 0:15:14.530

Condon, Otto

And even with the backdrop might be when you're.

0:15:16.220 --> 0:15:16.680

Condon, Otto

Umm.

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0:15:16.700 --> 0:15:24.700

Condon, Otto

What you're looking at and what you're you know, you might the person might actually be umm, as they're interacting with the sculpture.

0:15:24.710 --> 0:15:37.360

Condon, Otto

How that might actually relate, so that might affect even you know, thinking of the backdrop, but otherwise All in all, I think it's, you know, I'd love to see poet poets honored and you know, I used to walk by that corner a lot.

0:15:37.370 --> 0:15:39.530

Condon, Otto

So I think it will actually having a prominent.

0:15:47.700 --> 0:15:47.940

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Umm.

0:15:42.200 --> 0:15:51.270

Condon, Otto

Exposure to that corner I think is great, especially if it blocks some of the cars that might be on the driveway, but I I will leave it at that.

0:15:51.530 --> 0:15:56.740

Condon, Otto

So generally, generally support, but I think they're that just rate some of those comments.

0:15:59.460 --> 0:15:59.810

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:15:59.820 --> 0:16:0.220

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you.

0:16:3.710 --> 0:16:4.290

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Next question.



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0:16:6.600 --> 0:16:6.940

Nick

Thanks.

0:16:7.190 --> 0:16:11.680

Nick

So this is my first time on one of these calls.

0:16:11.690 --> 0:16:16.140

Nick

I think this is a really interesting proposal for the commemoration.

0:16:16.890 --> 0:16:20.720

Nick

I think my comments kind of echo what Otto was just saying.

0:16:20.730 --> 0:16:32.400

Nick

That was my first reaction as well, and seeing it kind of in the back of a landscaped area where people that would have to walk through and not only that walk up because there is a curb around the entire space.

0:16:32.410 --> 0:16:36.390

Nick

So am I concerned was accessibility for everybody to be able to approach it.

0:16:37.200 --> 0:17:10.680

Nick

And I know that there was some hesitation or some concern raising the application around moving it more close to the sidewalk because of the additional potential use and cost of maintenance, but that would provide accessibility if you had like a cut out in the front off of the sidewalk and some space for umm for the commemoration to take place there and then you could something Otto just said triggered that thought in my mind too instead of having the driveway and the cars in the back of Instagram photo, you could have more perennial landscaping and some.

0:17:10.740 --> 0:17:19.100

Nick

Beautification behind the bench, I do strongly support the recommendation for interpretive signage.

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0:17:19.370 --> 0:17:24.120

Nick

I think that'll help and educate visitors to the space.

0:17:24.130 --> 0:17:26.250

Nick

I think I'm not.

0:17:26.290 --> 0:17:37.180

Nick

I'm not as I understand the concern of having it there in that in that pocket of land because it's a prominent intersection and there's a lot of people walking by.

0:17:38.70 --> 0:17:49.390

Nick

I think I'd have more concern about the potential blockage of the other commemoration if it wasn't the same entity, proposing both or you know, sponsoring both.

0:17:50.80 --> 0:17:59.440

Nick

So it's, you know, I give I give, I guess deference to their opinion of not having clear visibility between the two.

0:18:0.80 --> 0:18:20.170

Nick

Yeah, I think that's those are my general comments, but definitely in support of it in general and just I would consider I'm thinking about not a complete relocation but potentially adjusting where that is on site.

0:18:20.180 --> 0:18:22.660

Nick

So more people can access it from any means.

0:18:28.770 --> 0:18:29.90

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:18:29.100 --> 0:18:31.30

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you, Nick. Anita.

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0:18:32.400 --> 0:18:32.930

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Yes.

0:18:33.270 --> 0:18:35.220

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Like my colleagues.

0:18:35.230 --> 0:18:41.140

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I agree, it's great to see a poet lifted up in this way.

0:18:41.290 --> 0:18:49.150

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And I really do like the interaction that the sculpture itself and the bench provides.

0:18:49.160 --> 0:18:57.520

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And so it does feel like now it's the challenge is to make sure that the immediate surrounding of the landscape invites people in.

0:18:57.750 --> 0:19:5.590

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And then the but the photo simulations that we have so far, it doesn't feel like that's a real invitation.

0:19:5.600 --> 0:19:10.140

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And so I think that's a design challenge that needs to be met.

0:19:11.690 --> 0:19:14.760

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And agree with Nick about the accessibility piece.

0:19:14.770 --> 0:19:22.400

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I think that's important to think about as well and to think about the circulation, because behind it is a driveway.

0:19:22.630 --> 0:19:44.250

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I did want to most of the photos have the bench in a kind of Cherrywood color except one

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where it's green and so the green one felt the color fell a little off for me so I just would love to get clarity about what the intended a kind of material and coloring of the material is.

0:19:46.50 --> 0:19:50.0

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And so I think that's that's my name, Pete.

0:19:50.40 --> 0:20:3.420

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I think it just the concept itself brings a real enhancement to this to this corner and some thoughtfulness kind of the theme of thoughtfulness.

0:20:3.630 --> 0:20:10.310

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I think it's great to have in our in our built environment and along our sidewalks.

0:20:10.320 --> 0:20:19.830

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So very excited about the concept itself and I'm looking forward to seeing some changes to how we can kind of approach it.

0:20:22.740 --> 0:20:23.330

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:20:23.340 --> 0:20:24.30

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you.

0:20:24.400 --> 0:20:27.40

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I'm going to try and summarize what I've heard.

0:20:28.630 --> 0:20:35.640

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

In general, everyone seems to really like the approach in terms of having the sculpture on the bench.

0:20:35.650 --> 0:20:36.620

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It's approachable.

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0:20:36.630 --> 0:20:39.30

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

It's innovative and kind of a fun, fun way of doing it.

0:20:39.520 --> 0:20:53.300

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

There seems to be a general agreement with at least moving it closer to the sidewalk, so it relates more to the sidewalk, so it's more approachable, both from an accessible standpoint.

0:20:53.310 --> 0:20:56.130

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

But anyway, just in general, anyone getting up to it for photos, that type of thing?

0:20:56.720 --> 0:21:12.470

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I heard general support for shifting it off to one side where some of the paving might be taken up for the parking and creating a little more green space.

0:21:12.480 --> 0:21:13.300

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

But I also heard.

0:21:16.570 --> 0:21:24.960

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

That that wasn't so much a concern that it maybe if it moved closer to the sidewalk, even the same general area where it is, that that could also be OK.

0:21:24.970 --> 0:21:34.280

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I don't know if anyone wants to speak a little more on that specific topic in terms of whether it's in the general area where it is now or shifting it all to one side or the other.

0:21:41.890 --> 0:21:46.460

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

I was wondering what's the square footage of that area where it's going to be?

0:21:46.470 --> 0:22:4.440

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

Because with DC traffic and traffic in general being what it's like, is there a traffic plan because just in general, people visiting the embassy may stop and interact with it, but I

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doubt if people are gonna stop park to interact with the sculpture unless they wanna take a picture or something.

0:22:6.120 --> 0:22:13.430

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I don't know if this is what you're asking, but there are no plans that we know of in terms of changing the width of the road or changing the sidewalk configuration.

0:22:14.180 --> 0:22:16.390

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

That's pretty much set and will stay the way it is.

0:22:18.860 --> 0:22:30.700

Nick

Chris, when I was looking just on the Google it, it didn't seem like there is a lot of opportunity for additional landscaping that would be taking up either one of the embassies, parking spots or space for the driveway.

0:22:35.810 --> 0:22:35.950

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Yes.

0:22:30.710 --> 0:22:37.750

Nick

So I'm not sure exactly where that could take place, which is why I was kind of thinking more just on the existing triangle.

0:22:37.900 --> 0:22:39.30

Nick

How can you relocate it?

0:22:39.40 --> 0:22:39.850

Nick

So it's more accessible.

0:22:41.0 --> 0:22:46.840

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

The recommendation would be to create more green space in one of those existing parking spaces.

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0:22:47.650 --> 0:22:47.910

Nick

OK.

0:22:53.450 --> 0:22:56.120

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

That actually does kind of answer my question, yeah.

0:23:4.700 --> 0:23:7.770

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Alright, if there are no more comments, thank you.

0:23:7.780 --> 0:23:8.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

And it was a really good discussion.

0:23:8.940 --> 0:23:9.810

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Was very helpful.

0:23:9.820 --> 0:23:11.0

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you for the feedback on that.

0:23:13.150 --> 0:23:16.430

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

With that, if we want to go to the next slide, I'm going to hand it off.

0:23:17.550 --> 0:23:21.660

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Well, I'm going to hand it off to Zhetique.

0:23:21.670 --> 0:23:28.10

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

She's going to give an update on Commemorate DC, which was previously known as the Commemorative Work Technical Assistance Program.

0:23:28.500 --> 0:23:37.290

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We have made a lot of progress on this initiative since we last updated the Committee on this in January 2024, so I'll turn it over to Zhetique.

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0:23:40.840 --> 0:23:42.0

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Good afternoon, everyone.

0:23:42.10 --> 0:23:53.970

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

To give a quick refresher of the program, the goal is to work with the community sponsors to identify potential subjects and sites, and then develop concept plans for commemorative works and wards for five, seven, and eight.

0:23:54.120 --> 0:24:15.180

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The program is intended to increase capacity of community groups that are interested in supporting a commemorative work honoring local Washingtonians in parts of DC that are currently lacking commemoration, the Office of Planning and DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities have put together a design team to work with sponsors to develop concept plans, which will be reviewed by the committee.

0:24:15.730 --> 0:24:26.910

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

At this time, there is no funding for implementation, but we are hopeful that discussions during the design process will generate interest and support to take those concepts designs to their next phase of development.

0:24:29.110 --> 0:24:51.260

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Since our last consultant team came on board in late March, we've hosted a kickoff event announcing the subjects and sites and also held visioning workshops at each of the sites design workshops where early concept designs will be shared and discussed with the community are scheduled for late June, as well as early July at the committee meeting in July.

0:24:51.270 --> 0:25:0.330

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

We will also use that time to provide an update on how the initiative is going progress on the concept designs and feedback received from the Community.

0:25:0.680 --> 0:25:7.750

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)



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Committee members will also be able to share their thoughts on how the initiative is moving forward and what they want to see in those concept designs.

0:25:8.820 --> 0:25:17.370

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

More developed concepts will also be shared with the committee at the September meeting for feedback before a final and preferred concept is prepared for each site.

0:25:18.500 --> 0:25:23.10

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The committee September meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, September 6th.

0:25:23.370 --> 0:25:32.390

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

This is earlier in the month and the committee typically meets, but this schedule change is needed to allow time for the design team to respond to the committee feedback.

0:25:32.880 --> 0:25:37.230

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The Office of Planning Staff will work with the design team to incorporate these comments.

0:25:37.240 --> 0:25:43.650

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Prepare one final concept designed for each site and complete the design teams work before their contract ends.

0:25:43.660 --> 0:25:47.630

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

At the end of September and you can go to the next slide please.

0:25:53.100 --> 0:25:53.760

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Thank you.

0:25:53.770 --> 0:25:59.630

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

So the four subjects insights that are the focus of concept designs include.

0:25:59.840 --> 0:26:14.280

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The first one is DC's Caribbean Carnival, which is located at at Triangle Park at the

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intersection of Georgia and Arkansas avenues, and along the route of the carnival when it was held in DC between 1999 and 2011.

0:26:14.740 --> 0:26:22.930

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

We are excited to be working with the Mayor's Office of Kirby and Community Affairs, who is helping promote events and engage the Caribbean community and the initiatives.

0:26:24.220 --> 0:26:25.920

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The second site is enslaved.

0:26:25.930 --> 0:26:36.890

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

People who built the US capital, which is at a triangle park along Bladensburg Rd, which is also the route that insulate people took when arriving in DC to work at the Capitol building.

0:26:37.220 --> 0:26:45.940

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

We're continuing to work with the Parks Main Street and coordinating with the Department of Parks and Recreation and their resilient park design that is looking at the same site.

0:26:49.240 --> 0:26:58.710

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

We also have black entrepreneurs of Dean Wood at Letterer Gardens on Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave, also at the center of a concurrent Planning initiative.

0:26:58.780 --> 0:27:1.310

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

That OP is working on for this corridor.

0:27:1.620 --> 0:27:8.420

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The Deanwood Citizens Association is sponsoring the project and we are working with them to engage residents in the design process.

0:27:11.130 --> 0:27:25.130

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

And the last site is Marion Barry and the summer Youth Employment Program in Public Space, adjacent to a National Park Service park at the intersection of Martin Luther King Ave and Malcolm X Ave.

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0:27:25.210 --> 0:27:36.490

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The Anacostia bid has been working with OP to remote events to design the site, and we are working with the National Park Service to ensure the design work with plans that the design works.

0:27:36.500 --> 0:27:38.830

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Sorry, with the plans that they have for their park.

0:27:42.280 --> 0:27:43.40

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

If you will go to.

0:27:42.150 --> 0:27:44.600

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I also wanted to just real quickly.

0:27:44.690 --> 0:27:46.580

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank Nick Kushner.

0:27:46.590 --> 0:27:53.880

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

He's been a great partner for us at Department of Parks and Recreation, particularly for the site on Bladensburg Rd.

0:27:53.890 --> 0:28:2.560

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

But actually for three of the sites, the Caribbean Carnival site and the site in Deanwood, those are all DC Parks and Recreation sites.

0:28:2.570 --> 0:28:3.660

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So they've been a great partner.

0:28:3.670 --> 0:28:6.400

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

And then I also wanted to thank Kerry.

0:28:6.490 --> 0:28:13.460

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

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I know you aren't working on it specifically, but Commission of Arts and Humanities has been a great partner in bringing public artists on board.

0:28:13.930 --> 0:28:16.570

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

to work with the design team on these, so thank you for that.

0:28:19.620 --> 0:28:20.530

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Thanks Chris.

0:28:20.840 --> 0:28:30.290

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

So on this slide, you will see that OP hosted a kickoff event with local musician Noochie, who promotes music and local commemoration from his front porch.

0:28:30.380 --> 0:28:39.650

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The live event was held on April 17th and it also included an overview of the program announcing the subjects insights as well as future events.

0:28:39.960 --> 0:28:44.960

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

DC residents also shared their connections to the subjects and why they should be commemorated.

0:28:45.380 --> 0:28:49.100

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Since then, we've held four visioning sessions, one at each site.

0:28:49.610 --> 0:29:5.290

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

In last April, those events were held on site and gave residents the opportunity to share their ideas on what commemoration means to them, what type of spaces they think are most appropriate for the subject and personal stories and connections that they have to the subject.

0:29:5.890 --> 0:29:15.910

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Our next meetings will be held on June 22nd and July 13th, which is when we will be presenting and getting feedback on design concepts from the residents.

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0:29:18.440 --> 0:29:20.390

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

And if you would go to the next slide, please.

0:29:22.840 --> 0:29:23.670

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Perfect.

0:29:23.860 --> 0:29:28.550

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

So now how does the committee fit into the next phase of the initiative?

0:29:28.800 --> 0:29:36.920

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Well, the committee will be reviewing concept designs and provide comments that will shape a single preferred concept for each site.

0:29:37.10 --> 0:29:47.840

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The design team is currently in the visioning stage looking at different types of memorials for inspiration, discussing ideas with the community and factoring in specific site conditions.

0:29:48.350 --> 0:29:54.630

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Ideas generated as part of this phase will be incorporated into 2 concept designs for each site.

0:29:55.310 --> 0:30:1.470

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

These concepts will then be shared with residents and refined before the committee's review at the September 6th meeting.

0:30:2.180 --> 0:30:7.820

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Based on the committee's input, the design team will then prepare one concept design for each site.

0:30:7.880 --> 0:30:9.990

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Right next slide please.

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0:30:12.880 --> 0:30:24.710

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

So typically the committee reviews commemorative work applications twice, once at concept review and the second time for a final review before making a recommendation to the mayor and DC Council.

0:30:25.0 --> 0:30:33.250

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

However, commemorate DC is a pilot program intended to build capacity of community groups who are interested in sponsoring commemorative works.

0:30:33.660 --> 0:30:37.190

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

The initiative includes developing 2 concepts for each site.

0:30:37.320 --> 0:31:6.670

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

These will be reviewed by the committee and then based on committee feedback refined into a preferred concept design is only being developed to the stage of a preferred concept as we currently don't know the capacity of our partners to continue moving these projects forward, but staff will continue working with them and other DC agencies to determine options for moving them forward if and when the projects will move forward, they will come back to the Committee for further review.

0:31:7.210 --> 0:31:9.870

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

So this now concludes the program overview.

0:31:9.880 --> 0:31:10.790

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Are there any questions?

0:31:17.430 --> 0:31:23.630

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

Just wondering, will we get invites to the events with the Community engagement piece?

0:31:24.550 --> 0:31:24.670

Gunn, Zhetique (OP)

Yes.

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0:31:28.390 --> 0:31:28.740

Kennedy, Kerry (CAH)

Perfect.

0:31:31.20 --> 0:31:50.500

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Yeah, we would love for you all that as your schedules allowed to participate and in your capacity as CWC members, but also in your just general capacity as a residence of the district who care about these issues, who may be connected.

0:31:50.510 --> 0:31:53.990

Cozart, Anita (OP)

I want to underscore something that Zhetique shared, which is that.

0:31:55.390 --> 0:32:9.240

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We're not sure if the capacity for each of these groups to move this forward, so to we're working to kind of build some relationships internally at OP and working with arts and humanities.

0:32:9.250 --> 0:32:22.600

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We're trying to brainstorm ways that we can connect these groups with others, whether it's philanthropy and other opportunities to go after philanthropic dollars.

0:32:22.610 --> 0:32:24.930

Cozart, Anita (OP)

That's something that we're trying to brainstorm now.

0:32:26.120 --> 0:32:44.390

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So I think part of this part of building capacity is connecting these groups with people like ourselves on this committee to make to allow them to extend their network and learn more about opportunities that are there.

0:32:44.400 --> 0:32:46.810

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So that's what we're doing.

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0:32:47.80 --> 0:32:50.470

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And so to the extent that you're able to come, that would be great.

0:32:50.560 --> 0:32:57.60

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We will send you all the invitations with information about date, time and location at either.

0:32:57.70 --> 0:32:59.120

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Shortly after this meeting or early next week.

0:32:59.130 --> 0:33:0.450

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So you'll have that information.

0:33:6.810 --> 0:33:7.810

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Are there any other questions?

0:33:12.530 --> 0:33:16.20

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I think that I think that's the obligatory pause.

0:33:16.80 --> 0:33:19.0

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

So I think we are good with no, no more questions.

0:33:19.510 --> 0:33:22.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I'll turn the meeting back to Anita in case she has any words and final words.

0:33:23.590 --> 0:33:24.640

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Sure.

0:33:24.710 --> 0:33:27.190

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Thank you all for as always for great meeting.

0:33:27.290 --> 0:33:42.160

Cozart, Anita (OP)



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Appreciate you making the time for this work and I'll just say that personally commemorate DC is really something that I'm very proud of and proud of our staff and the work around it.

0:33:42.250 --> 0:33:52.20

Cozart, Anita (OP)

It's, you know, different than some of the work that we've done, but clearly based on kind of data and the experience we have working with communities, it's necessary.

0:33:52.400 --> 0:33:53.950

Cozart, Anita (OP)

And so I'm excited.

0:33:54.170 --> 0:34:0.940

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Yeah, see where this goes and excited for the meetings that we're gonna have ahead.

0:34:0.950 --> 0:34:8.180

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So that's, that's all I've got for now is I'm just trying to remember, Chris, was there anything else I was supposed to do?

0:34:9.540 --> 0:34:10.930

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Nope, that was awesome.

0:34:8.190 --> 0:34:11.230

Cozart, Anita (OP)

A reminder about OK, OK.

0:34:11.580 --> 0:34:20.730

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Just that the next meetings of the committee are coming up, the next one on July 19th, 2024, from 1:00 to 1:00 to 2:30.

0:34:21.290 --> 0:34:23.450

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I know everyone has very busy schedules.

0:34:23.460 --> 0:34:27.190

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

We really appreciate the time that you set aside to attend these meetings.

.

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0:34:28.540 --> 0:34:37.530

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

And in that vein, we're ahead of schedule a little bit, so we can end a little early and give you your time back, although looks like Anita has something else you want to say real quick.

0:34:36.670 --> 0:34:49.820

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Just 15 seconds, which is that we lengthened the one on the 19th because it's possible that we might have a project in either a new project or the Peruvian Embassy to come back to us.

0:34:52.770 --> 0:34:52.910

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Yeah.

0:34:49.960 --> 0:34:57.780

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So I want to make sure there's enough time for it to give you an update about commemorate and to also be able to talk through that.

0:34:57.830 --> 0:34:59.400

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Same with September.

0:34:59.470 --> 0:35:10.360

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We'll actually have some real kind of full fledged design plans and then we'll have four of them to go through plus any other applications that may come through.

0:35:10.370 --> 0:35:12.300

Cozart, Anita (OP)

So that's why we're reserving that block.

0:35:18.750 --> 0:35:18.870

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Yeah.

0:35:12.370 --> 0:35:18.980

Cozart, Anita (OP)

If zero other applications come through, then commemorate DC, we may shorten either of those meetings.

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0:35:19.490 --> 0:35:20.390

Cozart, Anita (OP)

We'll let you know though.

0:35:22.130 --> 0:35:22.510

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Great.

0:35:22.690 --> 0:35:23.40

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Thank you.

0:35:23.50 --> 0:35:23.610

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

I think that's it.

0:35:24.400 --> 0:35:24.800

Marnique Heath

Great.

0:35:25.540 --> 0:35:25.940

Marnique Heath

All right.

0:35:26.610 --> 0:35:27.470

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Take care everyone.

0:35:26.840 --> 0:35:27.950

Marnique Heath

Thank you.

0:35:25.330 --> 0:35:28.170

Shaheen, Chris (OP)

Until next time. Yeah.

0:35:27.650 --> 0:35:28.440

Nick

Thank you.

0:35:28.280 --> 0:35:29.100

Condon, Otto

Thank you.

## May Commemorative Works Committee Meeting – Transcript

May 17, 2024, 1:00 to 1:35 PM

0:35:27.480 --> 0:35:29.240

Cozart, Anita (OP)

Have a great weekend everyone.

0:35:28.660 --> 0:35:29.240

Marnique Heath

Thanks you too.

0:35:28.650 --> 0:35:29.310

Wilson, Valecia (OP)

Have a good weekend.

0:35:29.180 --> 0:35:29.440

Nick

You too.

0:35:30.80 --> 0:35:30.160

Nick

Bye.

0:35:30.240 --> 0:35:30.500

Marnique Heath

By.