EAST MARSHALL STREET WELL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Summary of Key Items from the November 7th Meeting

Decision Making Process:
The committee discussed its decision-making process. The proposed summary draft follows

- The Planning Committee will seek to make decisions by consensus. If it becomes apparent that the committee is unable to reach consensus, then the committee will employ a majority-rule process (supported by 'Robert's Rules of Order'). Prior to each vote, Planning Committee members will be asked to assess whether they have conflicts of interest which would preclude their participation in the vote.

Digital Images:
Committee members discussed the use and display of images of human remains as part of presentations considering the variation of cultural norms and beliefs about the display of such images. The proposed draft of the committee recommendation follows:

- There are cultural variations with respect to the display of images of human remains. In making presentations, the Planning Committee will work with presenters to inform the audience/attendees of the images to be presented such that these individuals can determine whether they wish to view the images.

Open Meetings:
During this meeting, there was a discussion of whether meetings would be open to the public and to media. We present below the summary draft of that discussion; however, the details regarding the structure of community participation during the meetings were not finalized. This will be set as the first action item on the next agenda. The statement below includes a set of potential components or items to be discussed in finalizing guidelines and is presented as a point of departure for that discussion.

- Planning Committee meetings will be open to the community (including the media) and there will be a prescribed time set aside on the Committee’s agenda for the community to make comments to the Planning Committee. Guidelines for these comments are:
  - A minimum of 20 minutes will be set aside for community comment
  - Each speaker will be asked to sign-in and will be allotted 2 minutes
  - Option to have a ‘closed’ portion of the meeting for decision making.
  - Recommended to finalize these guidelines in our next meeting.
Statement of Purpose:

It was recommended that it would be useful to have a brief statement of purpose placed at the top of each agenda. This Statement would support the focus and clarity around the goals of the Planning Committee.

- “The work of the East Marshall Street Well Planning Committee is to implement a community process that encourages learning about the human remains discovered near East Marshall Street and seeks community input in the formation of a ‘Steering Committee.’ The ‘Steering Committee’ will serve to represent the ‘descendant community’ that will make recommendations on behalf of those individuals whose remains were discovered to support appropriate study, memorialization, and reburial with dignity.

New Recommendations:

A recommendation was proposed by the co-chairs to add two additional members as community representatives of the ‘descendant community’ to the EMSW Planning Committee. The two additional members would be individuals who are seen as trustworthy. Specific recommendations are forthcoming.

An additional recommendation has been made to establish a Web/Communication subcommittee to support effective sharing of information regarding the EMSW Planning Committee through media outlets and on media platforms readily accessible to the community. The subcommittee, if established, would assist in developing communications including:

- Committee Blog/Website
- E-Mail
- Media announcements (e.g., Free Press/Voice)

Requesting Committee Member Input:

- Submit your nominations or recommendations for individuals, organizations or agencies that you would recommend to serve as facilitators for the community process (e.g., presentations, and seeking community input)

- Indicate your recommendations for additional information/learning opportunities/materials (e.g., reports, books, speakers, trips) that would support the work of the committee in the planning process