

The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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April 30, 1976

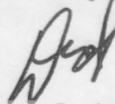
Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
c/o The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear "Bet",

Various communications coming across my desk indicate that you may be in GR on or about the 15th of May but for sure on June 7th.

Paul Phillips, Vice Chairman of the Commemorative Committee, suggested I write to you regarding the possibility of setting aside 15 to 20 minutes in your schedule on one of these dates for a meeting with the members of the Committee. The intent would be to obtain from you personally your feelings and opinions on the type (and amount ?) of memorabilia that should be considered for the building. Incidentally, the site has not, as yet, been determined but it is, I'm certain, the Committees intention to locate it in GR per Jerry's wishes.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Ford

RAF/nm

cc: Carl Morgenstern
Paul Phillips





THE GERALD R. FORD COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held April 22, 1976
at 2:30 P.M., Meijers Board Room

Present:	Paul Phillips	Robert Breunner
	Kae McInerney	Tom Heywood
	Mary Ann Keeler	Jordan Shepard
	Arthur Brown	Frederick Meijer

Mr. Phillips presided.

Mr. Heywood presented data secured from the archives on Presidential Library Museum sites, size and number of visitors throughout the United States.

Bern and Smith representing Dick Fossman, presented a portfolio from the City Planning Department of sites available located in Greater Grand Rapids.

Mr. Heywood will draft a letter to the President outlining problems confronting the Committee. This draft is enclosed and will be discussed at the next meeting. The draft should be kept in confidence until such time that it is approved.

The next meeting will be held May 6, 1976 at 2:30 P.M. at Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Road.

Respectfully,

Kae McInerney
Secretary

KM:ss



MEMBERS
Arthur G. Brown
Russell Cole
Richard Ford

Mrs. M. S. Keeler
Ralph Kohloff
David LaClaire
Mrs. Wm. McInerney
Secretary

Frederick Meijer
Carl Morgenstein
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Thomas K. Eardley, Jr.
Chairman

Peter M. Lamberts
Lyman S. Parks
John Prangle
Jackson J. Root

April 30, 1976

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c/o The White House
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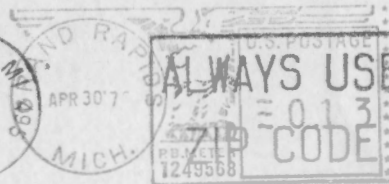
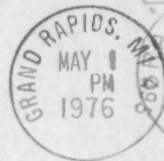


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GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49504



Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
c/o The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20501

"View"



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1976

NOTE TO MR. PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: Carolyn Porembka

After coordinating our response to the attached letter with Dorothy Downton, she suggested that because of your recent involvement in this matter it would be wise to turn it over to you. Mrs. Ford agrees. I understand you have had previous contact with other members of the Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee.

Thanks.

file

Nancy - He is
returning this (Phil)
I can respond
after trip





THE GERALD R. FORD COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held May 6, 1976
at 2:30 P.M., Walker City Hall

Present: C. Morganstern R. Bruner
P. Phillips A. Brown
F. Meijer K. McInerney
P. Lamberts T. Heywood

Mr. Meijer reported for the site committee. The committee decided that Mr. Phil Buchen would be our main liaison.

Mr. Paul Grabble will be contacted by Mr. Morganstern in an attempt to work out a joint project with the University of Michigan through Robin Fleming. Mr. Meijer so moved and the motion was carried.

President Ford's house at 649 Union is next consideration. Mrs. Roeloffs will be contacted. Heritage Hill possibly would be interested. Mr. Phillips so moved and motion was carried. Committee will meet at President Ford's home on Union at 9:00 A.M., May 18 to evaluate the situation. Mr. Frankfurter will also be asked to attend.

Mr. Dick Ford wrote a letter to Betty Ford asking if it would be possible for her to meet with our committee on May 15 or June 7 when she expects to be in Grand Rapids.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 9, 1976 at 2:30 P.M. in the Old Kent Bank Board Room, 10th floor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully

Kae McInerney
Secretary

KM:ss



Bel, if there's any chance at all on Sunday, please call me at home.

Bel, I knew there wouldn't be so I didn't even bother handing this to you. The Committee still feels a meeting when you're here on June 7th & 8th is important though.

949-1923

Dick

OS. Congratulations to all on your victory here in Michigan. We really enjoyed the opportunity of getting together for dinner!

433
marywood

433
marywood



January 10, 1976.

THE GERALD R. FORD COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Betty:

As you may or may not know I am a member of former Mayor Parks Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee, Just why I was ask to serve on this committee (Which I am glad to do.) I do'nt know other then the fact the President and I have been friends for almost fifty years.

The objective of the committee is to determine a proper and suitable memorial commemorating Jerry as President of the United States.

We have considered a large number of ideas for a suitable memorabilia, Such as a new building in some park in or outside of the city of Grand Rapids to be called the Gerald R. Ford Library, Museum, Gallery Etc., To me the word Library is out as Jerry has named the U.of M. as the place for his papers.

Also the City of Grand Rapids has taken possession of Jerrys boyhood home which we have considered moveing to what every site the committee decides on for a Gerald R. Ford memorabilia building, It has all so been suggested that the home be left on Union Ave., as the neighborhood residents fell it should be.

Betty the committee believes and so do I that we ask you for any ideas and or plans you may have that would be with your wishes as well as Jerrys for this Presidential Commemorative in Grand Rapids, Please let me know.

Warmest regards to all the Fords,

Sincerely.

ART BROWN

Arthur G. Brown

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Russell Cole
Richard Ford

Mrs. M. S. Keeler
Ralph Kohloff
David LaClaire
Mrs. Wm. McInerney

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EX-OFFICIO
MEMBERS
John C. Baxter
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Peter M. Lamberts
Lyman S. Parks
John Prangley
Jackson I. Runt



February 9, 1976

Dear Art,

Please forgive me for being tardy in answering your most thoughtful letter of January 10. You have our heartfelt thanks for accepting membership on The Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee. We know you will do a great job and your efforts are very much appreciated.

Jerry and I are both so pleased by your interest in considering our ideas as you begin your plans for the Gerald R. Ford Museum. We are certainly very much interested and willing to help you in any way we can. However, I'm sure you realize that at this point there is precious little time for us to concentrate on this project. I have, therefore, asked Janet Ford to give you a call and work with you so that you can prepare alternate proposals for our consideration. It is our hope that this will enable the Committee to begin their work without having to await our suggestions. May I add that we too feel it would be wrong to move Jerry's boyhood home at this time.

Jerry joins with me in sending warmest personal regards always.

Sincerely,

Mr. Arthur G. Brown
1220 Sylvan, Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

cp