

Alamo Public Meetings June 2018 Comments Summary

Cenotaph

- Leave it intact and in place – on the ground where the Defenders’ died as a focal point of honor and respect
- Repair the Cenotaph where it stands – it is too fragile to be moved
- Cenotaph sits on sacred ground where the Alamo Defenders’ blood was shed
- The Cenotaph is a war memorial and family headstone that was paid for by the citizens of Texas and serves as a headstone to bow in prayer and give thanks
- Don’t re-interpret, reimagine or whitewash Texas history
- Don’t surround the Cenotaph so closely with trees so the memorial disappears behind foliage
- The proposed location will allow pictures to be taken of the Cenotaph with the Alamo in the background for the first time
- Moving the Cenotaph is breaking laws
- Move the re-enactments south – not the Cenotaph
- Moving the Cenotaph will not dishonor the Defenders and is paramount to reclaiming the battlefield
- This plan is good – restore and reclaim the battlefield – moving to the south plaza brings it closer to the funeral pyre
- If the Cenotaph is moved then the parapet should also be removed
- The Cenotaph will have more prominence in its new location
- Move the Cenotaph but not off of Alamo plaza

Proposed Museum

- Current proposed museum in the reuse west buildings is too small – a larger space is needed to tell the complete and on-going story of the Alamo
- Explore the old courthouse as a museum and interpretive theater
- The current objective of “reverence and learning” should be reconsidered before proceeding
- Consider the space behind the church and south on Alamo St. for the proposed museum
- Tell the Texican story and include the stories of the women at the Alamo
- Tell the whole story of the Native Americans who were here before the Alamo
- Size of the museum is too large and dwarfs the Alamo and Alamo Plaza instead of enhancing it
- Removing the 20th century elements from the site plan but building a new museum seem to be at odds

Buildings to the West

- Taking down the buildings to the west means taking down the buildings to the north – this should not happen
- Woolworth Building is very important to San Antonio history – it began Juneteenth which should be a national holiday – do not destroy it

- The buildings across the street were not part of the Alamo and should be removed – similar practice has been adopted by the National Park Service
- No more facadism
- The Crockett Block has been “the Queen” of Alamo Plaza for 135 years – do not destroy or repurpose it
- Save the Crockett block – the Alfred Giles building is an architectural treasure
- This plan will shut down the Crockett Hotel
- Keep the buildings, just get rid of the entertainment attractions

Street Closures

- Keep Alamo St. open for parades and events but closed to vehicles
- Need to be cognizant that people need to easily move about the city – making Losoya two lanes will not be adequate
- Close Alamo St. immediately – no other historical sites allow daily traffic to freely drive over a battlefield the magnitude of the Alamo battlefield
- The site deserves respect and vehicular traffic is destroying the feel of the compound
- Alamo St. closure will protect the limestone walls of the Alamo Church and Long Barracks from noise, vibration and pollution
- Keep visibility of the Alamo for vehicles
- Closing off Houston St. will destroy businesses along all of Houston St. and cut off access to the Post Office and Federal Building
- Make Bowie a N-S thoroughfare
- The current traffic plan will make bad traffic even worse
- The 127 year old parade traditions will go away if Alamo Street is closed because no other route will work logistically

Site Plan

- Don't close the plaza to the public – keep it open 24/7
- Managing access is still a wall
- Leave Alamo Plaza as it is - the Alamo is sacred and should not be reimagined
- This should be a statewide ballot vote
- The plan lacks historic impact – it isn't bold enough
- People do not come to go to a park – they come to feel the history
- The Alamo is already the most visited of all sites in Texas – it is something people resonate with
- Replace the roof of the Alamo and add back the second story of the Long Barracks
- Define and rebuild the main gate at the South Wall – like at Mission San Jose
- Historic cannons and artillery from the Alamo need to be moved back to Alamo Plaza
- Concern about the added trees casting a shadow on the Alamo at sunset
- Leave the historical oak trees
- Don't serve alcohol or food inside the footprint
- With the battlefield open and Cenotaph in the south location – a 13-day reenactment is possible
- Appreciate the commission has listened to feedback by doing away with glass walls and adding more shade

- No weddings in the back Alamo gardens
- Keep rock walls around the gardens
- The “pedestrianized” plaza is completely historically inaccurate and misrepresents what the mission was like
- Lowering the ground will convert Alamo Plaza into a mud pit when it rains – don’t remove soil from the mission footprint
- Include directional signage to the southern UNESCO world heritage sites
- Move Toribio LoSoya statue to the compound
- Move the “torch” away from the Alamo
- Don’t close off Riverwalk access on the east side of Losoya
- Building a wall denies public access – do not limit access or fence Alamo Plaza
- Enhance connectivity to Alamo Plaza – no fences, no hours
- Plan does not take into account all of the future development in San Antonio