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 covert 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