

Milestone step in WTC rebuild: Planner picked

By GREG GITTRICH
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The state-city group charged with rebuilding lower Manhattan yesterday tapped urban planner Alexander Garvin to forge a development plan for the flattened World Trade Center site.

Not since Robert Moses imposed his single-minded mark on the region decades ago has an individual been asked to lead the re-creation of such a crucial swath of real estate.

Unlike Moses, Garvin and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. pledged to collaborate extensively on the plans.

"The revitalization of lower Manhattan presents many complex challenges. We need to develop an appropriate way to honor those who perished on Sept. 11. The residents, business and property owners of lower Manhattan expect to get back to normal as quickly as possible," Garvin said.

Garvin, 60, has been a city planning commissioner for seven years, and is planning director of the group hoping to lure the 2012 Olympics to the city. He also teaches at Yale University.

Mayor Bloomberg praised Garvin as a "gifted urban planner and committed public servant who brings tremendous perspective and vision to the job."

Daily
News
2.10.02

can't be rebuilt without new wall

By Graham Rayman

STAFF WRITER

The World Trade Center "bathtub," which keeps out the Hudson River, suffered so much damage on Sept. 11 that a new wall will have to be added before permanent rebuilding can occur, the engineer who designed the wall and leads the repair project said yesterday.

The new determination adds another element of complexity to the monumental reconstruction of the trade center site, which already involves extensive repair of the existing wall — called the slurry wall — major subway and PATH projects, and debris recovery. "The slurry wall is not suitable for reuse in a permanent situation because it suffered so much random damage," said George Tamaro, who directed its original construction for the Port Authority in 1967.

"It will serve adequately as a temporary measure, but after five to eight years, I would get uncomfortable about it," he said. "I just don't like some of the things I'm seeing down there."

Tamaro, a partner at Mueser-Rutledge Consulting Engineers, believes that a second interior wall — or "liner wall" — must be constructed to augment the original "bathtub." The project would cost \$15 million to \$20 million, he estimated.

"It's not an insurmountable job," Tamaro said. "It would be part of the process of building the basement."

Larry Silverstein, who holds the lease on the trade center site, met with Tamaro recently on the possibility that the liner wall was needed, Silverstein spokesman Howard Rubenstein said.

Silverstein will seek to meet with Tamaro tomorrow or as soon as possible to see what should be done," Rubenstein said.

A Port Authority spokesman did not return a phone call.

Hoe Ling, a professor of geotechnical engineering at Columbia University, said such a project will add time to the overall reconstruction of the site. "The wall is not something that can be permanently repaired so this is probably the best solution."

The bathtub wall bisects the trade center site on a north-to-south line at Greenwich Street, and contains the footprints of both towers. The wall passes within 6 to 16 feet of the 1 and 9 subway tunnel. It is three feet thick and as deep as 100 feet, sockets into bedrock with cables attached with tie-backs.

The structure of the towers supported the wall but many of the floor slabs that supported the wall were knocked out when the buildings collapsed. The debris itself has largely held up the wall over the past five months. Some areas were unsupported.

The debris has shifted so much that on one day, a huge construction "grapppler" dropped 25 feet with the driver inside, knocking him unconscious.

Over time and under intense forces, sections of the wall began to shift. On Oct. 7, a long crack opened in one section of the slurry wall, a shift of about 10 inches, computer data showed. Workers used bulldozers to backfill dirt into the crevice to bolster the wall, and stabilize the crack. In other spots, sections of the wall moved a foot or more.

"We should replace the wall with something whose engineering properties can be determined," Tamaro said. "With the condition of the wall, you can never be sure."

After five months, about one-third of 200 new

tie-backs have been drilled and installed at the site. About 1,000 in total will be installed.

The demolition of Building 6 along Vesey Street on the north side of the site took out floor slabs holding up the wall. As a result, workers will have to install more than 100 additional tiebacks in a section known as "the donut."

Workers have currently reached about seven stories deep. As the debris removal project reaches lower and lower, workers are finding an increasing amount of water due to increased water pressure.

Engineers have recorded leaks of 100 to 200 gallons per minute in places on the slurry wall.

"It's an ongoing problem that every day we're finding more leaks," said Pablo Lopez, an engineer with Mueser-Rutledge.

To plug the leaks, workers with the New Jersey-based MoreTrench Machine Co. feed rope treated with an expansion chemical into a hole in the wall until the void is filled, then intercept the crack and pump in sealing paste, company president John Donohoe said.

The company has also installed a series of wells outside the bathtub to lower the level of the ground water, which in turn reduces pressure on the wall.

Pumps are also being used to get rid of the water, and engineers hope to use the trade center's original diesel sump pumps as well.

Newsday
2/7/02

City put on notice: 9/11 claims top \$7B

■ Islanders' share of possible suits over aftermath of WTC collapse tops \$1B so far

By REGINALD PATRICK
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

More than 300 Staten Islanders, most of them firefighters and police officers, have given notice they may sue the city over the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack, Comptroller William Thompson's office reported yesterday.

The claims, totaling about \$1 billion, involve injuries or damage suffered not in the attack itself, but because of the city's alleged negligence during the recovery and cleanup.

Some 1,300 New Yorkers have filed notices of claims — the first step in the lawsuit process — for a total of \$7.18 billion, Thompson said.

Of that number, spokesman Scott Taffet said, some 325 are Staten Islanders, including 301 firefighters and cops.

Of the 1,300 notices of claim, 933 were from police officers and firefighters, with the rest from civilians, Taffet said.

He said that not all the claims were filed within the 90-day limit required by law, and some were disallowed on other grounds. These cases can be appealed by the individuals who filed claims, he said. He had no figures last

night on how many had been disallowed at this point.

Most of those threatening to take the city to court are firefighters who claim the city gave them inadequate respiratory protection to work in the smoldering rubble.

SI Advance
2.8.02
Page 1 of 2

Tom Butler, a spokesman for the firefighters' union, while making it clear the union is not behind the legal action, said many members loudly complained about not having adequate masks when they arrived at Ground Zero.

Not all of those who served notice will actually sue, Taffet said. Some, for example, may instead seek money from the federal victims' compensation fund. But the notices preserve their right to bring a lawsuit — and also show the extent of the health complaints being lodged by hundreds of firefighters, police officers and other recovery workers who fear cancer or other ailments.

According to Thompson's office, claims must be filed within 90 days of an incident. They are "put into the system," and a note of acknowledgment is sent to the filer, Taffet said. "Then there's an investigation to get the details of the claim," he said.

Asbestos, benzene, dioxin, PCBs and other contaminants have been detected in the ruins. In the first few days after the attack, thousands of emergency workers toiled at the scene, 24 hours a day.

Firefighter Palmer Doyle, assigned to Engine Co. 252 in Brooklyn, said he worked two 12-hour days without a respirator at the site. He filed notice of a \$10 million claim.

"You run up a couple flights of stairs, which I used to do with no problem, and you find yourself sucking in the air," he said. "What if, five years down the road, we develop lung cancer or something like that?"

Most civilian notices are from property owners near the Trade Center. Police officers commandeered Murray's Deli, about four blocks from the Twin Towers, on the day of the attack, according to Brian Rappaport, the owners' lawyer. They allege the shop was left open by police, robbed and vandalized.

The city is self-insured and awards from successful lawsuits would be paid out of the city's general fund.

"We don't believe the city is liable. But we'll obviously have to take a look at the complaints if and when they come in," said Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo, the city's chief lawyer.

An additional 111 notices have been filed with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the owner of the World Trade Center complex.

Kenneth Feinberg, the administrator of the federal victims' fund, said workers would have to waive their right to sue if they sought federal compensation, but would get money more quickly and easily through the fund.

Many firefighters worry that they could develop cancer long after tapping into the federal fund, said Michael Barasch, whose law firm filed notices on behalf of several hundred workers.

Fire Department spokesman

Frank Gribbon said the department tried to get respirators to firefighters as fast as possible after the attack.

"We know that they were available in a limited capacity in the days that followed September 11th," Gribbon said.

They soon became more plentiful, he said, but even then, "guys had them around their necks and they weren't wearing them."

Firefighters may also file for Social Security benefits and receive three-quarters of their last year's pay tax-free for life if a line-of-duty injury forces retirement.

Butler, the spokesman for the firefighters' union, said members who filed claims did so to "preserve their right to sue... should they become ill because of contaminants."

(Associated Press material was used in this report.)

Page 20 of 2