

# COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No.7009



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HEADQUARTERS  
(HERBERT HOOVER BUILDING)  
NATIONAL AQUARIUM ENTRANCE**

1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

Submitted by the General Services Administration

July 1, 2010

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***Commission Action Requested***

Approval of comments on concept design pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d))

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***Commission Action***

The Commission:

**Comments favorably** on the proposed concept design for a new entrance pavilion to the National Aquarium located at 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Department of Commerce Headquarters (Herbert Hoover Building) as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.23(38.00)42909.

**Commends** GSA on its coordination with federal and District stakeholders, and for its efforts to balance various design considerations.

**Notes** that permanent perimeter security for the Department of Commerce's Herbert Hoover Building is not included in the proposed concept design, but that GSA has indicated that the outer wall of the entrance pavilion, located along the existing inside edge of the sidewalk, can, and will, be designed in a manner so as not to preclude a perimeter security solution at the edge of the building yard, or inside the sidewalk, at a later date.

**Recommends** that GSA continue working cooperatively with NCPC, the District Department of Transportation, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, and other interested stakeholders to refine the design of the proposed concept to ensure that the project is consistent with the intent of the District's public space regulations while balancing other equally important considerations such as historic preservation, perimeter security, and flood protection.

**Recommends** that GSA continue studying how to minimize to the maximum extent possible any potential impacts to pedestrian access and circulation caused by the proposed entrance pavilion.

**Requires** GSA to resolve all outstanding design issues identified in the Memorandum of Agreement established as part of the Section 106 consultation process, and those listed below, prior to submitting the project for preliminary and/or final approval:

- Design and grading of the green roof
- Detailing and design of the outer pavilion wall including the incorporation of perimeter security
- Design of the proposed public art element
- Flood protection
- Lighting of the pavilion and public art element
- Successful resolution of all public space issues
- Determination of whether the existing configuration of adjacent landscaped areas can be maintained or modified to a lesser extent than currently proposed

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Deborah B. Young  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission