

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEETING

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OPEN SESSION

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THURSDAY,
JANUARY 5, 2012

+ + + + +

The meeting convened in Room 5115, Suite 500, 401 9th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004, at 12:20 p.m., Preston Bryant, Jr., Chairman, presiding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS
PRESENT:

PRESTON BRYANT, JR., Chairman
Presidential Appointee

HOWARD A. DENIS, U.S. House of Representatives
ELYSE GREENWALD, U.S. Senate
JOHN M. HART, Presidential Appointee
PETER MAY, Department of the Interior
ROBERT E. MILLER, Mayoral Appointee
BRADLEY PROVANCHA, Department of Defense
JENNIFER STEINGASSER, Office of the Mayor of

the District of Columbia
TOMMY WELLS, Council of the District of
Columbia

MINA WRIGHT, General Services Administration
NCPC STAFF PRESENT:

MARCEL C. ACOSTA, Executive Director
ANNE SCHUYLER, General Counsel
DEBORAH B. YOUNG, Secretary to the Commission

T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Call to Order 3

Report of the Chairman. 4

Report of the Executive Director. 5

Legislative Update. 9

Consent Calendar. 10

Adjournment 15

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 12:32 p.m.

3 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Good afternoon
4 and Happy New Year to everyone.

5 Welcome to the National Capital
6 Planning Commission's January 5, 2012 meeting.

7 And would you all stand and join
8 me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

9 (RECITING OF THE PLEDGE OF
10 ALLEGIANCE.)

11 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Thank you. For
12 all in attendance, please note that this
13 meeting like all Open Session meetings will be
14 live-streamed.

15 Noting the presence of a quorum,
16 we'll proceed according to the agenda that's
17 been properly advertised.

18 (INSERT - MEETING AGENDA)

1 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

2 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Agenda item
3 number 1 is Report of the Chairman.

4 And I really don't have a report
5 other than to say a couple things. One -- and
6 Marcel may be planning to mention this -- but
7 the new annual report of the Commission is
8 out. And Julie Acosta and her team have done
9 a bang-up job -- the Office of Public
10 Information/Public Affairs -- in putting this
11 together. Mr. Acosta may likely say more
12 about it.

13 And you'll also note the EDRs are
14 owing to the Commission's encouragement some
15 time ago that we increasingly, positively
16 evolve our EDRs. You're seeing a little bit
17 different format especially on the front page,
18 which I think should be increasingly helpful
19 to you as you orient your reading as to what
20 the issues are and what the past actions have
21 been taken and what the requested actions are.
22 So that's very good. And it's evolving. And

1 so thank you for your suggestions in that
2 regard.

3 Today's meeting is a very short
4 one, perhaps certainly the shortest in the
5 year and a half that I've been here. We
6 expect to or have to be finished within 15
7 minutes, which is very different for us.

8 But do note that our February
9 meeting upcoming will have a couple of
10 significant projects that will be back before
11 us, one being the ICC Campus Master Plan, the
12 other being the Eisenhower Memorial, likely
13 would be back before us as well. So we'll
14 save our energy from this meeting for that
15 one.

16 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

17 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Agenda item
18 number 2 is the Report of the Executive
19 Director.

20 Mr. Acosta?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACOSTA: Thank
22 you, Mr. Chairman. And Happy New Year to all.

1 First, as the Chairman mentioned,
2 the annual report is out. I'd also like to
3 thank the entire staff of the Office of Public
4 Affairs for producing this wonderful document.
5 The project officer was Will Herbig as well as
6 Paul Jutton who was the graphic designer.

7 In addition, you'll find our first
8 update of our Capital Space program. This is
9 a progress report of an issue that we started
10 with the District of Columbia, the National
11 Park Service a few years ago. This outlines
12 a number of initiatives and projects that were
13 completed or have been undertaken between 2010
14 and 2011.

15 This also reinforces the valued
16 collaboration, and also it talks a lot about
17 the planning physical improvements and
18 partnerships that it takes to create parks and
19 open spaces in the city.

20 My many thanks to our project
21 officer which is Amy Tarce and Paul Jutton for
22 their work on this, as well as our partners

1 from the Park Service, the Office of Planning,
2 the District's Department of Parks and
3 Recreation and DDOT.

4 There are two upcoming events I'd
5 like to call your attention to.

6 The first is the NCPC Speakers
7 Series Events of 2012. Our first one will
8 take place on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00
9 p.m. at the National Archives. This session
10 is called Revolutionary Parks: The Future of
11 Public Space. And we're going to look at new
12 ways of thinking about public space in our
13 parks in the city. This is being done in
14 conjunction with the National Mall Design
15 Competition sponsored by the Trust for the
16 Public Mall or for the National Mall.

17 The panels include John Bela,
18 founder and principal of REBAR; Theaster
19 Gates, artist and cultural planner; Tupper
20 Thomas, the former Prospect Park Administrator
21 in New York City; and Jason Schupbach, the
22 Director of Design at the National Endowment

1 of the Arts. And it should be a terrific
2 event.

3 Finally, as part of our new urban
4 design element for the final elements of the
5 comprehensive plan, NCPC will be hosting a
6 public workshop in our offices on Tuesday,
7 January 24, at 6:30 p.m. This workshop, which
8 we invite the public to, will focus on
9 opportunities for federal facilities and
10 property to create better public places and
11 spaces within the District and throughout the
12 National Capital Region. And again, we invite
13 the Commissioners as well as the general
14 public to attend.

15 And with that, that concludes my
16 presentation.

17 (INSERT - REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

1 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Thank you, Mr.
2 Acosta.

3 Any questions for Mr. Acosta?
4 (No audible response.)

5 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Hearing none,
6 Agenda item number 3 is a legislative update.
7 Ms. Schuyler?

8 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

9 MS. SCHUYLER: Thank you. I do
10 have one brief item to note.

11 Eleanor Norton's bill to promote
12 the development of the Southwest Waterfront
13 which had been introduced in the House
14 previously and I've reported on, it actually
15 passed the House on December 6. It was
16 referred to the Senate on the 7th, went into
17 Committee on the Homeland Security and
18 Government Affairs. Came out on the 14th, and
19 is now waiting passage by the Senate.

20 What this bill does is essentially
21 some technical amendments which will ensure
22 that the conveyance of land to the developers

1 is with clear title so that there will be no
2 clouds. So it's like you have another step
3 towards our waterfront redevelopment.

4 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Good. Thank you
5 very much.

6 Any questions for Ms. Schuyler?

7 (No audible response.)

8 CONSENT CALENDAR

9 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Agenda item
10 number 4 is the Consent Calendar. And we have
11 two items on the Consent Calendar.

12 Item 4A is the Army Travel Camp at
13 Fort Belvoir. And Item 4B is the new solar
14 photovoltaic panel arrays at the Department of
15 Energy's Germantown Campus.

16 Is there any discussion on either
17 of these items?

18 (INSERT - FORT BELVOIR, SOUTH POST)

1 (INSERT - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)

1 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: On the
2 Belvoir Travel Camp, there's a whole page of
3 requests and recommendations and so forth. Do
4 we have a sense of the capacity of Belvoir to
5 address and comply and meet these
6 expectations? Some of them might seem to be
7 challenging.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACOSTA: The
9 project officer, Cheryl, please, handle it.

10 MS. KELLY: Good afternoon.

11 The requests are essentially into
12 two parts, the first part about the Travel
13 Camp and the second part about the ongoing
14 Master Plan update.

15 And essentially Fort Belvoir is
16 very responsive to all comments that we have
17 to make and they evaluate all and will
18 determine if they can meet them.

19 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: A
20 question on the photovoltaic arrays, there's
21 a reference -- and it looks like a very
22 positive outcome -- removing eight trees and

1 planting 20 of two and a half inch caliper.
2 Did we ever as a group determine whether we
3 were going to go with what I perceive as a
4 higher standard with the caliper as opposed to
5 just replacing trees one for one?

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACOSTA: I
7 don't know. I don't recall.

8 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: I don't
9 remember what our current or proposed standard
10 would be.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACOSTA: Our
12 current standard is really no net loss. So I
13 don't think the Commission has a larger
14 discussion about going above and beyond that.

15 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: And let
16 the record state that we found a facility with
17 an older Master Plan that Fort Belvoir's.

18 (LAUGHTER.)

19 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: By a
20 couple of decades. I just wanted to throw
21 that in.

22 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: I can assure you

1 a number of us did note that.

2 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: I
3 appreciate the staff making a note of it.

4 This looks like a very worthwhile
5 and commendable project -- 350,000 watts of
6 electricity. That's great.

7 Do we have a sense of is that a
8 significant percentage of the total
9 requirement on that ampere? Is it a small
10 number? Would this be characterized as a
11 demonstration project?

12 MR. WEIL: Unfortunately I do not
13 know what percentage of the electrical
14 requirements on campus that 350,000 watts make
15 up. I do know that the project will install
16 two electric vehicle-charging stations which
17 is very positive. But I do not know the
18 proportion of that.

19 COMMISSIONER PROVANCHA: All
20 right. That's all. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Thank you very
22 much.

1 Any additional questions?

2 (No audible response.)

3 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Hearing none, is
4 there a motion on the Consent Calendar?

5 COMMISSIONER HART: Motion made.

6 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: It's been moved
7 and seconded. All in favor of the Consent
8 Calendar say aye.

9 (A CHORUS OF AYES.)

10 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Opposed, no.

11 (No audible response.)

12 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: The Consent
13 Calendar is adopted.

14 That concludes our Open Session
15 agenda.

16 Are there any other items?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: Hearing none,
19 thank you for your very hard work today.

20 (LAUGHTER.)

21 ADJOURNMENT

22 CHAIRMAN BRYANT: We are

1

adjourned.

2

(Whereupon, at 12:41 p.m., the

3

Open Session was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Open Session

Before: National Capital Planning Commission

Date: 01-05-11

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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