

PRESS RELEASE



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NCPC Comments Favorably on Plans for Extension of Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay District and Agrees on Agency Practices for Adopting Planning Documents

Commission also hears information presentations on the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Potomac Park Levee, and the National Capital Framework Plan

Washington, DC – At its December monthly meeting the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) reviewed a submission from the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a text and map amendment to extend the existing Sixteenth Street Heights Overlay District. The proposal would expand the district to include Squares 2708 through 2716, bounded by Colorado Avenue on the north, 16th Street on the west, 14th Street on the east, and Decatur Street on the south. The Commission found that the proposal would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital nor adversely affect any other federal interests.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4C petitioned the Office of Zoning in April 2008 for the text and map amendments to conserve low density, single-family neighborhoods for housing and neighborhood-related uses. The existing overlay district was established in 1994.

The Commission also approved a staff submission regarding procedures for adopting and releasing agency planning documents. The new procedures will assist staff members in implementing adopted plans and will provide guidance to Commission members and applicants for utilizing these plans during the review of future projects.

The new measures recognize planning work by “adopting” plans and “reviewing” studies. Similar to current project submissions, each new plan or study will now be accompanied by an Executive Director’s Recommendation (EDR) that will convey how each project will be used and implemented by staff. EDRs will vary for each project, according to the scope of work and type of recommendations.

The Commission also heard three informational presentations on which it did not take action. The first, presented prior to the day’s action agenda, gave NCPC a status report on the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Smithsonian Institution representatives discussed site analysis, building program, and next steps in the museum’s development. The future facility will be located on a site near the Washington Monument.

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Following the action agenda items, Commission members were updated on plans to improve the Potomac Park levee on the National Mall in the area of 17th Street, NW, where a new, temporary design solution is required to be in place by November 2009. The National Park Service presented two possible design alternatives.

The final informational presentation was an update on the status of the joint National Capital Framework Plan, which aims to create lively destinations in the federal precincts surrounding the National Mall. Staff members at NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts are currently addressing the comments received during the public comment period and anticipate presenting the final version of the plan to the Commission in early 2009.

This month's agenda also included four consent calendar items (no presentation given): preliminary and final site and building plans for a patient parking garage at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; preliminary site and building plans for a museum support building at Fort Belvoir; preliminary and final site and building plans for the southeast parking garage at the Food and Drug Administration's complex in White Oak, Maryland; and preliminary and final building plans for a temporary public telescope and observatory exhibition at the National Air & Space Museum on the National Mall.

Information regarding actions taken at today's Commission meeting can be accessed at www.ncpc.gov.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

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