

Report of the Executive Director



The Netherlands Carillon (1)

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Approved preliminary site development plans for rehabilitation of the Netherlands Carillon, Arlington Ridge Park, Arlington, Virginia. (7969)
2. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for rooftop improvements at the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Surveyor, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (P7974)
3. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for rooftop improvements at the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (P7975)
4. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for Capital Bikeshare Stations at Gravelly Point Park and Theodore Roosevelt Island, Arlington, Virginia. (7968)
5. Approved a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the SEFC Design Review for The Yards Parcels F, H-I, and Q, Squares 743, 744, and 827 – Forest City SEFC, LLC. (ZC 13-16A)



Office of the Surveyor (2)

During the past month, the Chairman took the following action under the Commission's delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Approved comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for a revised closing of Maryland Avenue between 4th and 6th Streets, SW, adjacent to Square 492 and N-492 and transfer of jurisdiction of portions of Maryland Avenue, Independence Avenue, 4th Street, and 6th Street, SW. (7684)



Gravelly Point Park Capital Bideshare (4)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review, based on certain criteria. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for installation of a temporary flag pole at the Lyndon B. Johnson Building, United States Department of Education Headquarters, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW. (7966)
2. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding establishment of a public access easement in Square 5203, Lots 45 and 46, Division Avenue, NE. (7967)
3. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a map amendment at Square 3846, Lot 85 – 806 Rhode Island Avenue, LLC. (ZC 17-15)
4. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a text amendment for child development centers. (ZC 17-20)
5. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a map amendment for Fort Greble Recreation Center, Martin Luther King, Jr Avenue, SW and Elmira Street, SW. (ZC 17-24)

PLANNING UPDATES

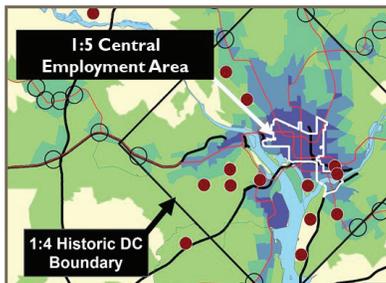


Parks & Open Space Comprehensive Plan Element Update

The Commission authorized release of the draft policies for the update of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital's Parks & Open Space Element*. NCPC is accepting public comments through May 7, 2018. Two open houses will provide the public with opportunities to learn more about the updates. The first will take place on Wednesday, April 11 from 6:00-7:30 pm. The second will take place on Thursday, April 12 from 10:30 am–noon at NCPC's offices. Staff anticipates submitting the final policies to the Commission for adoption in fall of 2018. To learn more and provide comments visit www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/openspace/.

Parking Study Presented to Federal and Local Public Officials

Staff recently met with representatives from the General Services Administration, Department of Defense, National Park Service, the District Department of Transportation, and Arlington County to discuss the *National Capital Region Federal Parking Study: An Accessibility-Based Approach for Federal Facilities Parking Policies* completed by NCPC in September 2017. The purpose of these meetings was to solicit feedback on the study to help inform updates to the Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Element. Staff anticipates submitting the Transportation Element to the Commission in early 2019.



Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee will release their Findings and Action Plan Summary in May 2018. The summary provides an overview of key findings from the Market Study, Urban Design Analysis, Transportation Study, and Cultural Landscape Inventory. In October 2017, NCPC staff briefed the Commission on these key findings, which cover the Avenue's character and identity, mobility and pedestrian connectivity, and economic health.

Building on the key findings, the Executive Committee developed an Action Plan outlining goals and near-, mid-, and long-term strategies to improve the Avenue. Actions focus on programmatic, operational, and physical improvements. Collectively, this work serves as the foundation to guide decision making on how to improve the Avenue in the future. Staff will update the Commission on the summary at NCPC's May 5 meeting.



Streetscape Manual Update

At its May 3 meeting, NCPC staff will brief the Commission on a proposed update to the Streetscape Manual, which was an interagency initiative for the 1992 National Mall Roads Improvement Program. The manual documents construction guidelines for the coordinated and consistent streetscape treatment at the National Mall and surrounding areas. NCPC staff is leading the initiative, working with the National Mall Roads Interagency Working Group that includes nine federal and local agencies with a shared jurisdictional responsibility within the planning area. NCPC will provide the Commission with a brief overview of the manual, its purpose, key issues, and the proposed scope of the work for the manual update.



DC Cultural Plan

Staff provided comments on the draft District of Columbia Cultural Plan during the public review period. The draft plan, released in January 2018, lays out a vision and provides recommendations on how the District government and its partners can build upon, strengthen, and invest in the people, places, communities, and ideas that define culture within the city.



Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project

NCPC continues to participate in the Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a cooperating agency. The SCMAGLEV is a magnetic levitation railway system based on the principle of magnetic repulsion between the track and the cars. Staff attended a consulting party meeting on March 14, 2018 where the MAGLEV team discussed its initial list of historic properties. The team is now inviting stakeholders to identify important properties for Section 106 purposes by April 13, 2018. The Federal Railroad Administration anticipates completing the draft EIS in early 2019.

DC-to-Baltimore Loop Tunnel Project

On March 13, 2018 staff attended a scoping webinar meeting hosted by the Maryland State Highway Administration for the DC-to-Baltimore Loop Tunnel Project. The project includes a set of parallel, twin 12-foot underground tunnels that would be approximately 14 feet apart and 35 miles in length and run between Washington, DC and Baltimore along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Completion of the final Environmental Assessment is anticipated by May 30, 2018. NCPC submitted a comment letter.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

Roundtable Examines Future of Design Education

On March 16, 2018 Office of Public Engagement Director **Julia Koster** participated in a roundtable that discussed *Redesign School: The Future of Design Education*. The Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts' Design School, in partnership with the National Building Museum, presented the event. The Design School sponsored four nationwide roundtables about where design is going to help inform an internal conversation about the state of its curriculum and how best to mold the designers of the future. This event was sponsored by the Arizona State University (ASU) Design School and concluded with the launch of ASU's new Washington campus.



NCPC's Latest Blog: South Capitol Street Planning

A March blog looks back at the agency's planning efforts related to the South Capitol Street Corridor. In the post, Public Affairs Specialist **Stephen Staudigl** describes the importance of the corridor, how it declined, and plans to revitalize it. The Commission will review the final plan for a new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and early concept designs for the bridge gateways that will frame the South Capitol Street Corridor at its April meeting. All of the agency's blog posts are at www.ncpc.gov/news/.



PERSONNEL

Stacy Wood Retires

NCPC says goodbye to Urban Planner **Stacy Wood**, who recently retired from the staff after 17 years with the agency. We wish Stacy the best in his retirement.