Report of the Executive Director

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. Preliminary site and building plans for the renovation of Fort McNair’s Building 60, 100 C Street, SW. (8252)
2. Preliminary building plans for the renovation of Fort McNair’s Building 17, 262 3rd Avenue, SW. (8257)
3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for Southeast Federal Center Parcel H Redevelopment – The Yards, SEFC Redevelopment Zone. (8255)
4. A report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Text Amendment to Rename PDR-5, PDR-6, and PDR-7 Zones with Associated Conforming Subtitles. (ZC 19-27B)
5. A report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Text Amendment to Allow Special Exception Relief to Certain Vehicle Parking Dimensional Requirements. (ZC 21-04)

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 building plans for replacement of the U.S. National Arboretum Administration Building's roof, 3501 New York Avenue, NE. (8253)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Cherry Blossom Festival Art in Bloom Art Installation, Q Street Park, NW. (8256)

Planning Updates

Interagency Security Committee

On March 9, Michael Sherman, Director, Policy and Research Division, and Debra Dickson, Director of the Office of Administration, participated in the quarterly meeting conducted by the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency’s (CISA), Interagency Security Committee (ISC). The virtual meeting agenda included discussions on 2020 ISC Compliance Reporting Results, General Services Administration’s insights on returning to the workplace, and the Federal Protective Services’ insights on civil disturbances. The meeting was attended by more than 100 participants representing various agencies. NCPC has been an associate member of the ISC since its inception in October 1995. Six months after the Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12977, creating the ISC to address continuing government-wide security for federal facilities. Prior to 1995, minimum physical security standards did not exist for nonmilitary federally owned or leased facilities.

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

On March 25, the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Working Group met to review and discuss three vision concepts on how to potentially revitalize the Avenue. The concepts will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and a panel of experts to prepare for release in the fall for public comment and input. In the early summer, NCPC will also present an Informational Briefing to the Commission and host a public discussion on ways to create a beautiful and lively capital city destination. In the interim, NCPC continues to work with local partners to program the Avenue to showcase its potential as an engaging daily destination.
Commemoration

On March 24, Executive Director Marcel Acosta and the Policy & Research Division met with representatives from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. They discussed the NCPC’s work on commemoration, including the Memorials & Museums Master Plan update, and the Mellon Foundation’s work on the Monuments Project, an effort aimed at diversifying national narratives and transforming the way histories are told in public space. NCPC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Mellon Foundation.

Public Outreach

Tidal Basin Memorials and Their Contested Histories

On March 24, Executive Director Marcel Acosta participated in The Tidal Basin in Context: Memorials and Controversy, an online panel discussion co-hosted by the Trust for the National Mall and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Moderated by Donald Albrecht and Thomas Mellins, Tidal Basin Ideas Lab curators, the panel also included Justin Garrett Moore, Program Officer, Humanities in Place, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Teresa Durkin, Executive Vice President, Trust for the National Mall; and Seri Worden, Senior Field Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

NCPC Virtually Hosts the Guild of Professional Tour Guides

On March 11, NCPC welcomed several members of the Guild of Professional Tour Guides for an online presentation. Urban Planners Carlton Hart and Kael Anderson, Senior Urban Designer Matt Flis, and Graphics Designer Paul Jutton discussed the agency's work and answered questions concerning current and emerging planning priorities and how they might affect tourism experiences.

Blog: Remembering Elizabeth “Libby” Rowe, NCPC’s First Female Chair

Communications and Research Support Specialist Bsrat Mezghebe explored the legacy of Libby Rowe, a dynamic leader who established historic preservation as an active concern of the Commission and sought to encourage grassroots participation to protect the beauty and grandeur of the nation's capital.

Blog: Federal Workplace Element Revisited

Senior Urban Planner Angela Dupont wrote about the Commission's recent amendment to the 2016 Federal Workplace Element that changes the Central Employment Area (CEA) description, boundary, and policy. NCPC is encouraging the General Services Administration to use the amended CEA as part of their site selection and leasing solicitation process for federal offices.