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Herbert C. Hoover Federal Building (1.)



Frances E. Perkins Federal Building (2.)



American Pharmacists Association Building (4.)





# 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 and final building plans for the Herbert C. Hoover Federal Building Antenna Modification, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW. (8528)
- 2. Preliminary and final building plans for the Frances E. Perkins Federal Building Antenna Modification, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW. (8529)
- 3. Comments on concept plans for the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center South, Wheeler Road, SE and Valley Avenue, SE. (8534)
- 4. Preliminary and final building plans for the American Pharmacists Association Building Antenna Installation, 2215 Constitution Ave NW. (8535)

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.

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Buildings 236 and 233 Renovation, Intersection of Forrest Circle and Buffalo Solider Avenue, Fort Myer, Virginia. (8531)
- 2. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Fort Totten Trail Realignment, Galloway Street, NE and Gallatin Street, NE. (8532)
- 3. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for the Map Amendment for Square 5868, Lots 1014 and 1034, 2666 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE. (ZC 22-31)

# **Planning Updates**

## Pennsylvania Avenue

Through a competitive RFP process, NCPC and project partners selected HR&A Advisors as the first of two consultant teams. An industry leader in economic development and public policy, HR&A will lead an interdisciplinary team of experts to develop the implementation program of the new plan. This will include developing a use and infrastructure program, conducting an economic analysis, assisting with the development of a new management entity, and preparing the New Pennsylvania Avenue Plan. Evaluation of proposals for the second consultant team is underway. In collaboration with HR&A, this team will develop the physical plan in the next phase of work, expected to begin this fall.

## Monumental Core Streetscape Project

In March, NCPC on behalf of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) finalized the Small-Scale Elements Streetscape Guidelines. NCPC staff will present the Small-Scale Elements for Commission review and acceptance at the April Commission meeting. NCPC staff briefed the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts on the Monumental Core Streetscape Guidelines on March 21, 2024. The IWG continues coordinating with the District of Columbia on the District Companion Streetscape Review Guide.



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## National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission Meeting

On March 19, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) reviewed the concept design for the Texas Legation Memorial and administrative authorization to extend the Desert Shield Memorial. NCMAC discussed the size and treatment of the proposed Texas Legation Memorial text and overall legibility for visitors.





Last fall, the Urban Land Institute Washington (ULI) hosted a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) cosponsored by the District of Columbia Office of Planning and NCPC. The TAP's purpose was to gain guidance and help identify potential next steps for addressing the challenges created by the highway infrastructure that severs Foggy Bottom from the Kennedy Center and Potomac River. The panel included local leaders and experts in planning, design, real estate, transportation and public-private partnerships. Their work incorporated planning and policy guidance from the District and NCPC, and included discussions with a variety of agencies and individuals. The final TAP report with findings was published earlier this spring. Recently, NCPC has met with several important stakeholders to discuss the report recommendations, including the District Office of Planning, National Park Service and Kennedy Center. Staff will provide an Information Presentation to the Commission in April. The report can be found on the ULI website.



### **Public Outreach**

# **NCPC Centennial Activities Continue**

NCPC and research firm Prologue DC will present at the DC History Conference on Saturday, April 6, 2024. The panelists will explore the complicated legacy of planning pioneer and former NCPC Chair Harland Bartholomew and efforts to confront historic planning inequities and their impacts on Washington residents. Staff will also engage with diverse members of the public on the agency's Centennial at the DC History Network on Friday, April 5, 2024. Both events will take place at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The Centennial website now features oral histories of several former Chairs and Commissioners. Additional histories, including transcripts and video clips, will be added on an ongoing basis. Staff are continuing to interview those who have impacted the agency's work. Additionally, more documents were added to the online planning library.

# Comp Plan Introduction and Submission Guidelines



The public comment period for the Introduction Chapter and Submission Guidelines update closed on March 12th, following a 90-day outreach period. During that time staff conducted two public meetings with 38 participants and received comments from a multitude of citizens and organizations. Organizations providing comments include the Committee of 100 on the Federal City; Arlington County Community Planning, Housing, and Development; and the General Services Administration (GSA). Staff prepared a consolidated document that provides a detailed analysis and a recommendation for how to address the public's comments. Feedback on the Introduction Chapter focused on document formatting, recognizing the role of residents in making the national capital region a vibrant place, and opportunities to expand on the history of land-use. Public and agency comments on the Submission Guidelines centered on the review process, addressing past harms, and community engagement strategies. Based on the Commission's recommendation staff also worked with the GSA to draft equity considerations for permanent antenna projects.

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On March 12, NCPC hosted a virtual public scoping meeting from 7:00–9:00 pm. NCPC staff and representatives from the Montgomery Parks Department (MPD) attended the meeting to answer questions from the public after a brief presentation. Meeting topics included: NCPC's review interest, review process, review schedule, and a project summary. Participants were able to submit questions, which were answered live at the meeting. In total, NCPC/MPD received more than 100 questions from 98 meeting attendees. The meeting was recorded, and the video is now publicly available via NCPC's project page at <a href="https://www.ncpc.gov/projects/MP046/">https://www.ncpc.gov/projects/MP046/</a>.



## University of Albany Presentation on the Comprehensive Plan

NCPC Urban Planners **Brittney Drakeford** and **Chrishaun Smith** presented to 12 members of the University of Albany Semester in Washington class on issues of equity and sustainability in planning in Washington, and how the Comprehensive Plan's Introduction Chapter is addressing equity and sustainability in its update. The class is exploring urban politics and planning of Washington, DC from a historical perspective and how planning policy advances or reserves displacement, gentrification, and associated inequity issues.



### University of Virgina School of Architecture

On March 22, Urban Planner **Chrishaun Smith** and Senior Urban Designer **Matthew Flis** hosted a group of six students from the University of Virgina School of Architecture at NCPC's offices. They discussed the agency's mission, initiatives, and plan review process with a focus on recent and on-going transportation projects. The students traveled from Charlottesville, VA to Washington, DC to visit several sites and learn more about careers in architecture and planning.



## Ottawa Delegation Visits Washington

On March 25, NCPC staff met at the Embassy of Canada with a delegation of seven senior Canadian executives from Public Services and Procurement Canada, Privy Council Office, Public Safety Canada, Parliamentary Protective Service, the House of Commons, and Economic Regional Development Policy. Physical Planning Division Director **Elizabeth Miller** and Urban Planner **Karin Schierhold** presented the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. Policy & Research Division Director **Michael Sherman** and Urban Planner **Melissa Lindsjo** discussed the agency's work related to public realm space and security. Following the meeting, the group went on a short tour of Pennsylvania Avenue.