

Report of the Executive Director



Embassy of Morocco (1)



Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (2)



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Headquarters (3)



During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegation authority. Note: unless otherwise indicated, projects are located in Washington, DC.

1. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for a fence extension at the Embassy of Morocco, 3508 International Drive, NW. (5253)
2. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for stormwater management improvements at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia. (7906)
3. Approved preliminary site development plans for the phase 2 lighting plan at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters consolidation at St. Elizabeths West Campus, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE. (7929)
4. Approved preliminary site development plans for the proposed Gate 3 relocation at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters consolidation at St. Elizabeths West Campus, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE. (7930)
5. Approved preliminary site development plans for an emergency landing zone at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters consolidation at St. Elizabeths West Campus, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE. (7933)
6. Approved preliminary site and building plans for a Corridor 8 entrance pedestrian access control point at the Pentagon Reservation, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. (7934)

PLANNING UPDATES

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Executive Committee met in November to draft an action plan that includes near-, mid-, and long-term strategies to improve the Avenue. Near-term strategies will focus on programmatic improvements to strengthen the Avenue's identity and character, and mid-term strategies include the planning work necessary to advance the initiative. The long-term strategies will focus on redesigning the Avenue to reinforce its civic significance, strengthen its daily use and experience, and ensure operational success. Staff anticipates providing an update to the Commission on the action plan in spring 2018.



Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Smithsonian Institution is preparing a master plan for its South Mall Campus, which includes the Smithsonian Castle and adjacent museums and facilities on the National Mall. As part of this process, the Smithsonian developed three action alternatives and one no action alternative. As the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, NCPC will evaluate the plan's potential environmental impacts. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for review and comment through January 16, 2018. NCPC will host two public meetings for attendees to learn more about the proposed master plan and the alternatives under consideration, and provide feedback. Meetings at NCPC's offices will take place on Monday, December 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and Monday, December 18 from 10:00 am to noon.



Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements

Staff continues working on an update to the Parks & Open Space Element. Anticipated changes include reorganized content and streamlined policies to address emerging issues such as balancing multiple uses within parks; providing access to, and connections between, parks; and building partnerships and coordination among multiple landowners and jurisdictions. Staff anticipates submitting the draft to the Commission and requesting the release for public comment in early 2018. Staff also began the process for two other updates by developing work plans for the Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements.

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements

Staff provided comments to the DC Office of Planning on policies regarding commemoration, landmarks and memorial design to inform the DC Office of Planning's amendment of the District of Columbia's Urban Design Element. This effort is part of the District's ongoing Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle. NCPC anticipates reviewing this in 2018.



Regional Plan Review

Staff provided comments on the Preliminary Greater Cheverly Sector Plan amendment to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission. The plan amendment covers a 2,165-acre planning area containing the residential communities of Englewood, Landover Knolls, Newton Village, Oaklyn, Radiant Valley, and the Town of Cheverly. The plan includes implementable recommendations that address community heritage; culture and design; economic prosperity; healthy communities; land use; natural environment; and transportation and mobility.

Dockless Bicycles in the Nation's Capital

NCPC is coordinating with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and multiple federal agencies to identify impacts dockless bikes may have on federal facilities and lands; memorials and museums; security; maintenance and operations; and other federal interests. The District recently unveiled a pilot program which will last until April 2018. Federal stakeholders raised concerns about where the bicycles are parked (specifically on federal parkland), as well as their potential impact on secured perimeters and public ingress/egress areas. NCPC will provide DDOT with a consolidated report summarizing federal concerns and recommendations as DDOT continues to evaluate the benefits and impacts and develop appropriate regulations for a dockless bicycle system in Washington, DC.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE



NCPC explores temporary commemoration in Philadelphia

On November 3, the Executive Director and several NCPC staff spoke with the Mural Arts Philadelphia group about their Monument Lab project, which is similar to the Commission's recent Memorials for the Future ideas competition. The group is using temporary monuments to start a larger dialogue about appropriate commemoration in Philadelphia. This public art and history project included 20 temporary monuments installed across Philadelphia's iconic public squares, neighborhood parks, and other city sites. Each monument was coupled with a lab to invite residents and visitors to share their own ideas about an appropriate monument for the city. All public comment entries were compiled into a public online database, which researchers will evaluate and help identify shared values of the city, and diverse perspectives of its residents. The Monument Lab will summarize the cultural data in a report and present it to city officials to help identify new approaches to commemoration. The project closed on November 19, 2017.



Presentations to College Students

On November 9 the Executive Director and Commissioner **Eric Shaw**, Director, DC Office of Planning, spoke with visiting students from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design's Real Estate Club. On November 16 Office of Public Engagement Director **Julia Koster** and **Paul DesJardin**, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Director, Community Planning Services spoke to the Decision Makers, Roles of Planners and Politics class at Catholic University's School of Architecture.

NCPC Hosts Australian Visitor

On November 21, NCPC welcomed **Terry Weber**, the Chairman of the National Capital Authority in Canberra, Australia for a short visit. Chief Operating Officer **Barry Socks** and Director, Office of Public Engagement **Julia Koster** briefed him on NCPC's current activities, and discussed shared capital city issues.



Australian Government
National Capital Authority