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 modifications to One Freedom Plaza, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (P7298)
2. Preliminary and final building plans for a lightning protection system at the Kennedy Center Expansion, 2700 F Street, NW. (7523)
3. Preliminary site and building plans for Parcel I at The Yards, 145 N Street, SE. (8031)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for the NoMa Business Improvement District Chicken and Egg temporary art installation, New York Avenue and N Street, NE. (7990)
5. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Map Amendment at Square 72 - BSREP II Dupont Circle, LLC, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, NW. (ZC 18-08)

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. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding Text Amendments to Zoning Regulations Subtitle B, Definitions and Rules of Measurement and Other Changes and Correlating Rules in Subtitles D, E, and F. (ZC 17-23)
2. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Text Amendment Clarification of Vesting Rules Contained in Subtitle A. (ZC 17-03)
3. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Map Amendment - Dancing Crab, LLC, 4615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. (ZC 18-03).

PLANNING UPDATES

Small Cell Infrastructure

On November 19, staff presented the Commission’s recommendations on the draft Small Cell Guidelines at a roundtable on 5G Small Cell Infrastructure held by Councilwoman Mary Cheh, Chair of the DC Committee on Transportation and the Environment. The Commission will transmit additional comments on the Small Cell Guidelines following its December 6 meeting to the District Department of Transportation and to the DC Public Space Committee for consideration. After receiving comments from stakeholder agencies, the public, and providers, the District will finalize the guidelines and anticipates releasing them during the first quarter of 2019.
Monumental Core Streetscape Framework and Lighting Framework

NCPC staff is scheduled to present the Monumental Core Streetscape Framework to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in January. Staff continues to work with the Streetscape Interagency Working Group to prepare a conceptual lighting framework for areas of federal interest. The working group is collaborating with the District Department of Transportation to coordinate the lighting framework with the city’s Smart Lighting program. Staff anticipates presenting the lighting framework to the Commission in the first quarter of 2019 for concept review.

Comprehensive Plan’s Parks & Open Space, Workplace, and Transportation Elements

NCPC staff submitted the Parks & Open Space Element to the Commission for adoption at its December meeting. This submission culminates a year-long effort that included research and analysis, public outreach, and policy revision. The element is organized around six guiding principles, which create a cohesive vision for parks and open space in the region through improved stewardship, utilization, maintenance, planning, and design. The element includes recommendations from multiple planning initiatives completed since the 2004 update. These include, but are not limited to, the Small Parks Management Strategies report, CapitalSpace, the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, the National Park Service’s Paved Trail Study, and internal review of adapting designed landscapes.

NCPC staff also continues its policy development for the Transportation and Workplace Elements. Staff anticipates submitting these to the Commission in 2019 for review and comment.

Dockless Bikes Regulations

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) released proposed regulations for dockless bikes. NCPC staff helped coordinate and consolidate comments from federal agencies on the draft prior to its release. The regulations will require each dockless bicycle to have a unique identifier and a lock to secure it to something when not in use; the latter requirement was enacted at the end of August. Dockless bikeshare companies will also be required to share their data with DDOT and deploy a minimum number of bicycles in each ward. Once approved, the regulatory framework will enable DDOT to begin issuing permits and charging dockless bikeshare companies. The rules were published in the DC Register on October 26 and were available for public comment through November 26.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

NCPC Featured in Planning Magazine Story

Safety Beyond Borders, written by Kristen Pope and featured in the November issue, presents the evolving issues for security in public spaces. The story features NCPC’s perimeter security initiatives and quotes the Executive Director and Physical Planning Director Elizabeth Miller. The story can be accessed from NCPC’s website: https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/Planning_Magazine_Safety_Beyond_Borders_Nov_2018.pdf
NCPC Hosts Chinese Delegations from Beijing

On Friday, November 16, NCPC hosted a six-person delegation from the Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning & Design in China who were doing research through the University of North Carolina’s Chinese Cities Program. In addition to Washington, they visited Chicago and Boston. Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster met with the group and discussed NCPC’s work and planning issues faced by capital cities.

On Monday, November 26 Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman met with a 20-person delegation from the People’s Government of Beijing Municipality visiting Washington on an international exchange. He discussed NCPC’s urban planning role and policy work in the nation’s capital.

Trail Coalition

On November 15, Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster co-facilitated the Meaningful Public Engagement session at the 2018 National Capital Trails Symposium at Trinity University. The National Capital Trails Coalition brings together public and non-profit stakeholders advancing a connected system of pedestrian/bicycle trails in the region.

Construction Watch Blog: Eisenhower Memorial

NCPC’s most recent blog looked back at the Commission’s review of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial honoring America’s 34th President. Currently under construction, the memorial is on a four-acre site across Independence Avenue, SW from the National Air & Space Museum. It is scheduled to open on May 8, 2020. All blogs are available at www.ncpc.gov/news/.

Blog: Spectacle! A Closer Look

This blog looks back at the October 16 visit of artist and planner Helen Marriage who discussed her work creating spectacular public art events enlivening cities in the United Kingdom. While much of her work builds on the unique people and places of the UK, her talk inspired attendees to think about how Washington’s people and public spaces might reconnect through this approach. All blogs are available at www.ncpc.gov/news/.