Report of the Executive Director

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 and building plans for the Defense Logistics Agency Visitor Control Center at Fort Belvoir, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (7825)

2. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for preparation of the MD 355 crossing site, Naval Support Activity—Bethesda, 8901 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. (7537)

3. Approved comments on concept design for modernization of the Palisades Neighborhood Library, 4901 V Street, NW. (7851)

4. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 563—Jamal’s Darth Vader, LLC, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. (ZC 80-07A)

5. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 1194, Lot 811—Initio, LP, 2715 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (ZC 15-18)

6. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a modification of significance to plans previously approved under the Capitol Gateway Design Review at Square 667S, Lots 4,5,6 and 804—V Street SW, LLC, First, V, and Water Streets, SW. (ZC 10-21A)

7. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a First Stage Planned Unit Development and Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 3587—KF Morse, LLC, New York Avenue, Penn, Morse, and 4th Streets, NE. (ZC 15-27)

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**PLANNING UPDATES**

**FBI Headquarters Site Consolidation and Exchange – Squares 378 and 379**

On January 5, the Commission unanimously approved the J. Edgar Hoover Building (FBI Headquarters) Square Guidelines and transmitted them to the General Services Administration (GSA) for a 30-day review. If accepted by GSA, the guidelines will be complete. Thanks to the hard work of staff from GSA, the National Park Service (NPS), the District of Columbia, and other key stakeholders, the guidelines balance the site’s economic and urban design needs to ensure a once-in-a-generation redevelopment opportunity. New development can capitalize on the unique and symbolic setting of Pennsylvania Avenue to strengthen the area’s economic foundations.
GSA is on schedule to release the final draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in mid-May for a 30-day public comment period. The EIS analyzes three potential FBI headquarters sites in Maryland and Virginia, as well as redevelopment considerations for the existing downtown headquarters site, which will be transferred to the developer upon completion of the new headquarters. More information on the consolidation project is available at https://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/106359. GSA is also on schedule to select a developer to design and construct the new suburban facility in March 2017.

**Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Update**

NCPC staff completed the final draft of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among Fort Belvoir, NPS, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The Feasibility Study considers options for how to close a gap of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail between Grist Mill Park and Pohick Bay Regional Park through Fort Belvoir.

Members of the Fort Belvoir Command Group are reviewing the study’s final draft. Following this review, the MOU partners will identify next steps for planning the trail at Fort Belvoir. The Commission received an information presentation on the study during its January 2017 meeting.

**Comprehensive Plan Parks & Open Space Element**

In February 2016, the Commission adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital’s Federal Elements, with the exception of the Parks & Open Space Element. NCPC staff is in the process of preparing an update to this element, which will provide a policy framework for the federal government to conserve and enhance the region’s parks and open space system, ensure that adequate resources are available for future generations, and promote an appropriate balance between open space resources and the built environment. The update will examine issues related to the maintenance and management of small urban parks, the integration of technology into parks and natural settings, and activation and development along waterfronts. NCPC staff anticipate completion of a draft in fall 2017.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Director Talks Careers in Federal Planning**

The executive director, along with three other federal planners, was recently featured in a story on the American Planning Association’s Federal Planning Division website. Written by Laura E.B. Yates, AICP, a program manager at the Department of Defense, the story focuses on the careers of planners who work for the federal government. Other participants include Suzanne Allan, chief, long-range facilities planning at Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Andrea Wohlfeld Kuhn, FAICP, senior planner with the Army Corps of Engineers; and Geno Patriarca, senior planner with the U.S. Air Force.
NCPC Talks Commemoration with Israeli Project Team

On January 17 Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman, Senior Urban Planner Jennifer Hirsch, Urban Planner Angela Dupont, and Public Affairs Specialist Stephen Staudigl spoke with several representatives from Deloitte Israel about commemoration in Washington, DC and NCPC’s role in the process. Deloitte Israel is conducting research for the Israeli Prime Minister’s office on best practices for commemorating national figures. This project is a priority for the Prime Minister’s office and is working with Deloitte to form a coherent and unified strategy that will lead to more equal and effective commemoration of Israel’s leaders and public figures.

Flooding Lecture at American University

On January 10, Urban Planner Nick Bonard presented “Weathering the Storm: Flooding in the Nation’s Capital,” at American University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. His presentation discussed Washington, DC’s flooding history and some of the collaborative flood protection projects undertaken in the past few years, including the construction of the 17th Street Levee Closure. NCPC continues its work to protect federal investments from flooding into the new year.

PERSONNEL

NCPC Surpasses Combined Federal Campaign Goals

NCPC staff generously pledged $11,046 for the 2016 Combined Federal Campaign, for a per capita average of $356 per employee. As a result, NCPC won several awards: President (per capita giving of more than $275); Summit (more than three percent increase in total giving—NCPC increased by $3,550); Participation (a two percent increase in participation—NCPC increased by 30 percent), and eGiving (minimum 10 percent increase in online donations). Thanks to everyone for your contributions, and to Management/Program Analyst Cana Williams for leading NCPC’s efforts.

NCPC Welcomes New Staff

Lee Webb recently joined the Urban Design and Plan Review Division as the Historic Preservation Specialist. Lee joins NCPC with more than twenty years of experience as a historic preservationist and planner. He previously worked with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, and as the preservation officer and principal planner for both the City of Alexandria, VA and Savannah, GA. Most recently he was the executive director of Thomasville Landmarks, a fifty-year old non-profit historic preservation organization in Thomasville, GA.