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 site and building plans for expansion of the United Arab Emirates Chancery's Rear Guard Booth and Pergola, 3522 International Court, NW. (8239)

2. Final site and building plans for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center New Wildlife Staff Office, Beaver Dam Road and Soil Conservation Road, Beltsville, Maryland. (8184)

3. Final site and building plans for renovation and expansion of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Building 434, 6900 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland. (8185)

4. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Text Amendment to Subtitle A, Section 209.2, Construction of Playing Fields & Accessory Structures at the RFK Campus, 2400 East Capitol Street, SE. (ZC 18-04A)

5. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Text Amendment to Subtitles B, D, E, and F - Accessory Building Requirements. (ZC 20-19)

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 site development plans for emergency roadway, bridge, grading, and fence repairs at the Naval Support Facility Carderock, 9500 MacArthur Boulevard, West Bethesda, Maryland. (8246)

2. Preliminary and final building plans for renovation of Building 210’s 3rd Floor, Washington Navy Yard, 1311 10th Street, SE. (8247)

3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the New Lamond Riggs Library, 5401 South Dakota Avenue, NE. (8248)

4. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Map Amendment from RA-1 to RA-2, 7th Street and Barnaby Road, SE. (ZC 19-18)

Planning Updates

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group met in January to advance development of landscape and pavement design guidelines. Staff finalized draft stormwater management guidelines and are meeting with agencies individually to continue scoping the Streetscape Construction Manual update.

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

As the Initiative’s Executive Committee explores how to potentially transform the Avenue, future design concepts will consider ways to improve connectivity, including bike transit. The Avenue’s central bicycle lanes are some of the city’s most used and provide spectacular views of the Capitol. Future design concepts will seek to balance pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicular needs and support the District’s Vision Zero Initiative. The Executive Committee Findings and Strategies Summary provides an overview of the Avenue’s strengths and challenges informing the concept's work.
Officials Discuss Comprehensive Plan’s 60:40 Policy

On January 26, 2021, the Executive Director participated in an intergovernmental meeting with the General Services Administration’s Regional Commissioner, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and the DC Office of Planning Director to discuss the 60:40 policy in the Federal Workplace Element and future locations of federal workplaces in Washington. Over the next few months, staff will continue ongoing coordination with these stakeholders to study potential long-term impacts to the federal workplace post-COVID-19.

Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements

NCPC staff is reviewing Bill 23-736, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2020, and is coordinating with the Council of the District of Columbia and the DC Office of Planning (DCOP) to address issues related to both federal and local interests. Pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8721, within 60 days after receiving an element or amendment from the Council of the District of Columbia, NCPC shall certify whether the element or amendment has a negative impact on the interests or functions of the federal establishment in the nation’s capital. NCPC is working collaboratively with the Council and DCOP staff to resolve areas of concern prior to the Commission’s formal federal interest review next year.

Public Outreach

2020 in Review

NCPC’s 2020 in Review offers a recap of the agency’s activities and achievements, including the adoption of new planning guidelines and transition to online Commission meetings, as well as a glimpse of what’s to come in 2021. It is available online at https://www.ncpc.gov/ar2020/.