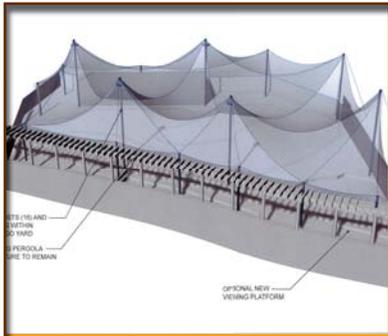




1701 H Street, NE (1)



400 Florida Avenue, NE (6)



Smithsonian Institution National  
Zoological Park (6)

## Report of the Executive Director

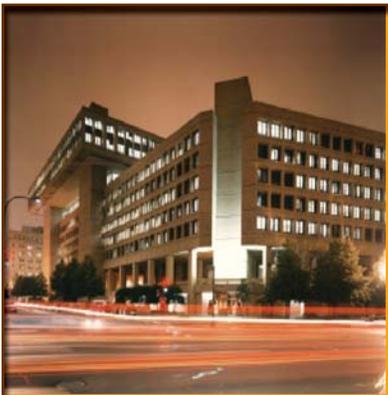
During the past month the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegation authority:

1. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 4507-777 (17th Street, LLC), 1701 H Street, NE. (ZC 15-31)
2. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 399-W-G (9th and O, LLC), 810 O Street, NW. (ZC 16-07)
3. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for renovation of the conference center and lower level at the Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C Street, SW. (7836)
4. Approved preliminary and final site and building plans for building improvements at the former American Red Cross building, 2025 E Street, NW. (7837)
5. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for Sunnyside Avenue roadway improvements and bridge replacement, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. (7645)
6. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated PUD & Related Map Amendment at Square 3588, Lots 4, 25, and 803 (EAJ 400 Florida Avenue, LLC), 400 Florida Avenue, NE. (ZC 16-10)
7. Preliminary and final site development plans for flamingo HPAI mitigation netting & habitat modifications, Smithsonian Institution National Zoological Park, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW. (7846)
8. Preliminary and final site development plans for flood hardening at the Georgia Ave-Petworth and Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter Metrorail stations. (7843)

### PLANNING UPDATES

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

The final Square Guidelines will be considered at the Commission's January 5, 2017 meeting. The Executive Director's Report will contain testimony from the October 6 Commission meeting, comments received during the public comment period that closed November 10, and any comments submitted prior to the Commission meeting. The Programmatic Agreement that defines the future process for the Section 106 historic preservation consultation process was executed on November 18, 2016. In March 2017, GSA will release the final draft EIS and select the preferred development team and exchange partner to construct a consolidated FBI headquarters building in Maryland or Virginia. NCPC would like to thank our federal and local partners, and the public, for the interest and valuable input provided during development of the Square Guidelines. These guidelines will help to shape future redevelopment of this important site on Pennsylvania Avenue.





### **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**

NCPC collaborated with the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) to prepare a Draft Feasibility Study for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail that connects the Potomac and Upper Ohio River basins. The study assesses options to close a gap of the trail within Fort Belvoir. The Commission will hear an information presentation during its January meeting on the study conclusions and additional information to inform the Commission's review of related planning projects at Fort Belvoir. These include the Final Fort Belvoir Master Plan and the Fort's South Post perimeter fence. The planning partners (U.S. Army, NCPC, NPS, and NVRC) anticipate finalizing the Feasibility Study early in 2017.



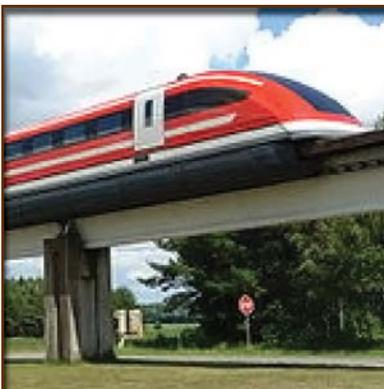
### **Nationals Park and Ballpark District Designated Entertainment Area Signage Regulations Amendment Act of 2016**

On December 20, 2016, the Council of the District of Columbia passed the Nationals Park and Ballpark District Designated Entertainment Area Signage Regulations Amendment Act of 2016. This legislation established guidelines for the issuance of permits for the erection of graphic displays and digital signs on the exterior of Nationals Park. The final bill passed by the Council reduced the number of signs from 10 to 5 and eliminated the signage facing Anacostia Park. In addition, the bill included restrictions regarding hours the signs could operate to between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm or no longer than 30 minutes after the end of an event at the ballpark.



### **Arlington POPS – A Plan for Our Places and Spaces Visioning Charrette**

On December 9, 2016 senior urban planner **Sarah Ridgely** and urban planner **Surina Singh** attended a planning charrette organized by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation. Arlington County is updating its 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan which will assess various aspects of Arlington's public space system and provide strategies for the future of public spaces in the county, including all parks, natural resources, and recreational needs. As part of the community and park and recreation stakeholders outreach process, NCPC representatives were asked to participate in this planning exercise. The Arlington County, Department of Parks and Recreation will evaluate the goals, objectives, and policies against the current public space needs, priorities and community-identified values to develop this update. NCPC will continue to stay engaged in this process to access impact and preserve and maintain any federal interests.



### **Federal Railroad Administration/Maryland Department of Transportation Superconducting Magnetic Levitation EIS**

NCPC was invited to be a cooperating agency for the Baltimore–Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Environmental Impact Study. The project is a proposed magnetic levitation (maglev) railway system based on the principle of magnetic repulsion between the track and the cars. Over the past 25 years, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and others have studied maglev service along the Baltimore–Washington Corridor. The proposed project would increase capacity; reduce travel time; and improve reliability and mobility options between the two cities with a high-speed SCMAGLEV system. The EIS's goal is to provide the Federal Railroad Administration with information to assess alternatives that will meet the proposed actions purpose and need; evaluate environmental impacts that could result from the alternatives; and select a preferred alternative. The FRA hosted five EIS scoping meetings during December 2016. The EIS Scoping comment period ends on January 9, 2017.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

### **NCPC Participates on Smart Growth Panel**



On December 14, the Executive Director; **Gerrit-Jan Knaap**, Executive Director and Professor, National Center for Smart Growth Research & Education at the University of Maryland; **Matthew Bell**, Principal, Perkins Eastman Architects presented “Smart Growth and Transit-Oriented Development” at the National Building Museum at an event hosted by the Brick Industry Association. The session provided an opportunity to learn about the design and economic trends in smart growth in the National Capital Region. The Executive Director’s presentation focused on the role of the federal government in implementing smart growth strategies. Examples included historic plans and policies, like the Height Act, that resulted in the city’s current urban form, to specific government actions, like the construction of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that spurred transit oriented development in NOMA.

### **Students Present Freedom Plaza Plans**



Eighth graders from the Two Rivers Public Charter School visited NCPC on December 20 to share their ideas for redesigning Freedom Plaza. Staff from the National Park Service, General Services Administration, the DC Office of Planning and the Downtown DC BID provided feedback to the class finalists. The finalists discussed their ideas in relation to ancient Greek and Roman culture, and how design impacts a democratic society. They also discussed how the space can be used to engage local, national, and international visitors in a discussion on current events.

### **Chinese Delegations Visit**



On December 13, 2016, Planning and Research Division Director **Mike Sherman** presented to seven representatives from the Communication, Transport and Expressway Management Agency of Anhui Province, China. The discussion focused on NCPC’s organization and sustainable transportation management planning for the National Capital Region and was arranged by All Americas Inc., Beijing, China.

On November 29, Office of Public Engagement Director **Julia Koster** and community planner **Vivian Lee** presented to 10 representatives of the China State Party School at the invitation of Georgetown University. The presentation focused on the agency’s organization and regional governance structure.

### **NCPC Welcomes New Staff**



**Michael Bello** joined the Physical Planning Division. Michael is an urban designer who worked with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission before joining NCPC. He holds a Master in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University and a Bachelor in Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida.

**John Gerbich** joined the Urban Design and Plan Review Division as an urban planner. He most recently worked for the National Park Service at their Denver Service Center. John has a Master in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado and an undergraduate degree in journalism from The Ohio State University.



The agency said goodbye to **Jeff Hinkle**, who departed NCPC after 15 years to travel the world. Most recently Jeff served in the Urban Design and Plan Review Division and represented the Commission on the Board of Zoning and Adjustment. Safe travels Jeff.

The agency also said goodbye to **Annie Rice** who interned in the Office of Public Engagement this past fall. We wish her all the best for the remainder of her senior year at the University of Maryland.

