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 development plans for phase 2 of building envelope repairs for the Martin V.B. Bostetter, Jr. United States Courthouse Building, 200 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA. (8190)

2. A report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for Text Amendments to Permit Animal Care Uses in Mixed-Use Areas. (ZC 20-20)

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. A Highway Plan amendment to modify the Permanent System of Highways Map for part of Jackson Street, NE, located in Lot 805, Square 3835 - S.O. 21-00463, 3199 8th Street, NE. (8240)

2. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for an alley closing at Square 5138 - S.O. 20-07517, 125 45th Street, NE. (8237)

3. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for an alley closing on Square 5051, Lots 28 and 29 - S.O. 21-00136, 3914 Clay Place, NE. (8238)

4. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the proposed closing of a public alley in Square 5168 - S.O. 20-06790, 1625 Olive Street, NE. (8241)

5. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for a proposed dedication of a public sidewalk easement for Lot 882, Square 2873 - S.O. 21-00123, 2129 9th Street, NW. (8242)

Planning Updates

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

Staff and the Interagency Working Group are scoping an update to the Streetscape Construction Manual and are continuing to develop guidelines for streetscape elements such as landscape features, pavement materials, and pedestrian zones. Staff is also addressing agency input regarding historic preservation considerations and maintenance of green infrastructure as they finalize stormwater management guidelines. At the January meeting Commissioners will hear an information presentation on the status of streetscape design guideline development, including guidelines for street lights and street trees.

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

Staff is meeting with key federal and local agencies to get input on a variety of physical design requirements to inform potential right-of-way configuration and programming for a broad range of high-level concept alternatives. It is anticipated that these concept ideas will be shared with stakeholders and the public for input and feedback in late fall or early winter 2021.
Comprehensive Plan: Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements

Discussions continue with the District of Columbia Office of Planning and General Services Administration regarding updates to the Federal Workplace Element’s joint federal and District designated Central Employment Area and changes to the existing 60:40 federal employee policy. The element will be submitted for Commission adoption this spring once the discussions have been concluded. Staff continues to reach out to federal agencies regarding participating in the new Transportation Management Plan monitoring program.

Public Engagement

Rethinking Security & Access in Public Space at APA Federal Workshop

On December 11, Urban Design & Plan Review Division Director Diane Sullivan and Policy & Research Division Urban Planners Melissa Lindsjo and Johanna McCrehan presented at the American Planning Division’s virtual Federal Planning Division Fall Training Workshop. Their panel also included Jennifer Stone, founder and president of Partner Forcess, who, along with her team, have worked with the Department of Homeland Security supporting federal, state, and local critical infrastructure and cyber protection initiatives. The panelists built upon NCPC’s recent work on security in public spaces and discussed the range of perspectives and professionals needed to develop holistic security solutions to maintain safe and open public spaces.

Blog: Tidal Basin Ideas Lab - A Call to Action

Guest blogger Teresa Durkin, executive vice president with the Trust for the National Mall, shared details about the National Mall Tidal Basin Ideas Lab where five landscape architecture firms presented ideas for addressing challenges faced by the National Mall Tidal Basin.


Communications & Research Support Specialist Bsrat Mezghebe wrote about how the agency’s newest resource guide helps applicants better understand the region’s varied stormater regulations and how these regulations relate to NCPC’s plan review process.