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. Final site development plans for the preservation of Meridian Hill Park - Phase V and VI, 2400 15th Street, NW. (7642)
2. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Text Amendment to establish a community renewable energy facility - CREF, 441 4th Street, NW. (ZC 19-04).
3. Murals at the 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue, NW Overpass, 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue, NW. (8094)
4. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Text Amendment to Subtitle X to Clarify Voluntary Design Review FAR Aggregation. (ZC 19-06)

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 flood protection at the DC Water Main Pumping Station, 1331 2nd Street, SE. (8090)
2. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of handrails at the Blair House Complex's entrance stairs, 704 Jackson Place, NW. (8088)
3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for modification of the north entrance stairway at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Independence Avenue at 6th Street, SW. (8086)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for retrofit of stormwater management at Fletchers Field Park, 5200 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland. (8082)
5. Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the partial closing of a public alley in Square 2892 - S.O. 19-47478, Georgia Avenue, between Lamont and Kenyon Streets NW. (8083)

Planning Updates

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements

NCPC staff continues policy development for the Comprehensive Plan’s Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements. Staff is conducting an analysis on existing policies, identifying new policy areas, evaluating transportation and workplace trends, and drafting narrative. Staff will ask the Commission to release the draft Federal Workplace Element for a 60-day public comment period at the July 11 meeting. Two public open houses to discuss the element will take place at NCPC on Tuesday, August 6 at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, August 7 at 10:30 am. Staff anticipates submitting the Transportation Element to the Commission for release at the September 2019 meeting.
Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: District Elements

At NCPC’s September 5 meeting Commissioner Andrew Trueblood, Director of the DC Office of Planning, will provide an information presentation on the status of the update of the Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements. He will discuss the elements’ process, timeline, and the Commission’s federal interest review requirements.

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

Pennsylvania Avenue is busy this summer with a number of concerts, movie screenings, exhibits, and festivals. To help attract more people and enhance their experience, the DowntownDC Business Improvement District is collaborating with the National Park Service and General Services Administration to add seasonal plantings and provide movable tables and chairs along the Avenue. The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee is exploring unique programming and other potential ideas to make the Avenue an arts, culture, and entertainment destination for the capital city.

Monumental Core Streetscape Framework and Lighting Policy

NCPC staff and the National Mall Roads Interagency Working Group are collaborating with the District Department of Transportation and Office of Public-Private Partnerships to coordinate local and federal LED streetlight guidance. In June, staff provided an information presentation on the Monumental Core Urban Design Streetscape Framework and Lighting Policy to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Staff will return to the Commission this fall for concept review.

Dockless Bikes and Motorized Scooters Meeting

On June 17, NCPC hosted a federal stakeholder meeting with the District Department of Transportation regarding dockless bikes and motorized scooters. The meeting focused on potential solutions to the negative impacts that happen when dockless bikes are left on federal property. Representatives from the National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and Architect of the Capitol attended.

WMATA Blue/Orange/Silver Line Capacity & Reliability Study

On May 30, Director of Policy and Research Michael Sherman participated in the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority’s (WMATA) first Strategic Advisory Committee workshop on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines. WMATA is conducting a study to address the challenges that having three lines running through one tunnel under the Potomac River create, including capacity, construction and disruption management, and lack of operational flexibility. WMATA identified potential solutions but has not made any decisions concerning possible course of actions. This study will determine a preferred solution. WMATA expects extensive outreach in the fall when they present alternatives.
Public Outreach

National Association Honors NCPC's Annual Report

On Wednesday, June 26 the National Association of Government Communicators presented NCPC with the First Place Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award in the annual report category. The award, recognizing the agency’s 2018 Year in Review, was presented at the organization’s annual conference, held this year in Crystal City.

Applicant Agency Outreach Meetings

As part of their ongoing outreach with federal applicant agencies, staff from NCPC’s Urban Design & Plan Review Division recently met with representatives from the CIA Langley Headquarters and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Cheltenham, Maryland) to provide an overview of the Commission’s responsibilities and learn about future projects.

Construction Watch: National Museum of the U.S. Army

Work on the National Museum of the U.S. Army continues, with an anticipated 2020 opening. In NCPC’s most recent blog Urban Planner Michael Weil provides a glimpse of what people can expect at the museum currently under construction on Fort Belvoir’s North Post. All blogs are available online at https://www.ncpc.gov/news/.

NCPC Hosts Delegation Planning New South Korean Capital

On June 12, Urban Planners Kael Anderson and Michael Weil presented an NCPC overview to a nine-member delegation of planners and engineers from South Korea. They are planning the new administrative city of Sejong which will encompass a metropolitan area slightly smaller than the National Capital Region. The delegation had a keen interest in NCPC's regional planning, authorities, and transportation planning. The city will be completely functional by 2030.

Hansel Bauman on DeafSpace

On June 18, Hansel Bauman, Gallaudet University Campus Architect, visited NCPC and spoke about the research and campus design work he does at the university. He shared the experiences that led him to develop the DeafSpace Project, an approach to the built environment that unites deaf experience and the ideas of community building, visual language, personal safety and well-being.