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 and building plans for the renovation of Building 60 at Fort McNair, 100 C Street, SW. (8252)
2. Preliminary site development plans for the New Jersey Avenue and O Street Park, 423 O Street, NW. (8289)
3. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for an alley closing in Square 5466 - S.O. 21-04487, 606 31st Street, SE. (8285)
4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for roof repair of the Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility, 6606 Pentagon Access Road, Arlington, Virginia. (8286)
5. Preliminary and final site development plans for relocation of the AT&T antenna on the water tower at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland. (8283)
6. A report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Text Amendment for Inclusionary Zoning. (ZC 21-02)
7. A report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Consolidated PUD and Related Map Amendment at Square 445, 1501-1503 7th Street, NW. (ZC 20-27)

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. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for an alley closing bounded by Square 2954 and Square 2956 - S.O. 21-03433, 7325 12th Street, NW. (8284)
2. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the proposed closing of a portion of 50th Street, NE near Square 5194 and other modifications – S.O. 21-02992, 655 50th Street, NE. (8288)

Planning Updates

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Executive Committee met twice in June to further develop three potential Avenue visions presented to the Commission in June. Partly informed by the panelists’ ideas presented at the June 29 America’s Civic Stage: A Vision to Celebrate Pennsylvania Avenue event and prior studies related to transportation, real estate, urban design and cultural landscapes, these visionary ideas will be released for public input later this year. Please visit the Initiative’s project page for additional resources and future meeting updates.
Comprehensive Plan: District Elements

On May 18, 2021 the Council of the District of Columbia took a final vote on additional amendments of the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements in Bill 24-1, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2021. The District Elements were formally referred for NCPC review on May 28, 2021. NCPC will conduct a formal review of the District Elements at its July 1, 2021 meeting to certify to the Council whether the elements have any negative impacts on federal interests. Following NCPC's review, the Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements will be transmitted to the Mayor for approval, and then referred to Congress for its review. NCPC staff received several emails from the community and met with nine community members on Tuesday, June 22 to discuss the District Elements. Over the past five years, the DC Office of Planning and the Council of the District of Columbia have worked closely with NCPC staff to address federal interest concerns in the draft District Elements.

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group met in late June to finalize landscape and pavement streetscape design guidelines and the scope of the National Mall Streetscape Construction Manual update. Staff will initiate work on the pedestrian walking space design guidelines this summer. Staff also continues to work closely with the District of Columbia to coordinate streetscape guidelines within important transition areas between the monumental core and surrounding neighborhoods.

Public Outreach

Open to the Public: What’s the Big Deal with a Little Security

On May 25, NCPC, in partnership with the District of Columbia Office of Planning, hosted Open to the Public: What’s the Big Deal with a Little Security? This engaging online event gathered more than 170 attendees from across the country. Jess Zimbabwe from Civic Works Community Design Center moderated the session that featured Commander Robert Glover from the Metropolitan Police Department, Juliette Kayyem from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and Susan Piedmont-Palladino from Virginia Tech’s Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center. The panelists discussed recent events and noted the importance of advocating for and maintaining safety and equity that result in well-designed public spaces, regardless of potential threats. Watch the video of the virtual event or read the blog post about it on the NCPC website.

NCPC's Regional Outreach

Staff is currently confirming facility contacts and scheduling annual outreach meetings with federal agencies in the region outside of Washington. The meetings will be held from July through the end of September and will include representation from local planning agencies. Federal and local agency representatives continue to express strong interest and support for the initiative. The Facilities Outreach Management System (FOMS), a new agency online tool, is in the final stages of development and will include a feature to track the status of federal projects identified through this outreach that are in the pipeline for the next fiscal year.
Executive Director Featured in APA Pride Story

The Executive Director participated in an APA Planning magazine article in honor of Pride Month. The story, published on June 24, focused on the intersection of LGBTQ planners’ identity and their work as planners. A key point he made was that the stories of many Americans, including the experiences and contributions of the LGBTQ community, and many other groups, have been consistently underrepresented in the country’s national narrative and that planners are responsible to find opportunities to encourage a diversity of representation and a more encompassing story in the nation’s capital.

Blog: The AIDS Memorial Quilt: A Living Memorial

The AIDS Memorial Quilt, designed to memorialize a generation lost to the disease, is the largest community arts project in the world. In honor of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Communications and Research Support Specialist Bsrat Mezgebe explored how the project serves as a powerful example of how commemoration can take different forms beyond permanent structures.

Personnel

Plan Review Director Named Leadership Greater Washington Participant

Diane Sullivan, Urban Design and Plan Review Division Director, was accepted into the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2022. The program is geared for executive-level leaders who want to leverage their regional influence to make an impact in the community. Participants will meet monthly before their closing retreat in June 2022. The program was established in 1986 to foster communication and cooperation among the area’s established leaders.