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 a floating kayak and canoe launch, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal between 33rd and 34th Streets, NW. (8270)
2. Comments on concept plans for renovation of the National Defense University's Eisenhower Hall Building 59, 408 4th Avenue, SW. (8279)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for a new restroom building at The Fields at RFK Campus, 401 Oklahoma Avenue, NE. (8222)
4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the government vehicle fueling facility Lot 34, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. (8070)
5. Final site and building plans for revitalization of Stead Park and community center, 1625 P Street, NW. (8209)
6. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia for the partial closing of an alley in Square 785 - S.O. 21-03369, 316 Frederick Douglass Court, NE. (8276)

Vice Chair White took the following action under the Commission’s delegation authority. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Transfer of Jurisdiction for intersection improvements, intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and Minnesota Avenue, SE. (8271)

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 and building plans for New Bard High School Early College, 1350 Alabama Avenue, SE. (8280)
2. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a map amendment at Square 3623 and adjacent parcels, 649 Rhode Island Avenue, NE. (ZC 20-23)
3. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for map amendments at Parcel 131-216 and 131-144, 501-513 Rhode Island Avenue, NE. (ZC 21-01)
Planning Updates

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative’s federal and local partners will initiate a public discussion on a potential new vision for the Avenue this fall. In preparation, NCPC will brief the Commission at the June meeting on the status of the Executive Committee’s near-term programming and physical planning efforts. On June 29, NCPC will host America’s Civic Stage: Ideas to Celebrate Pennsylvania Avenue, an expert panel discussion moderated by Cathleen McGuigan, Architectural Record’s Editor-in-Chief, on how to transform the Avenue into a celebratory space for the city and nation. The panelists include Heather Arnold, CEO & Founder, Via Metrics; Hany Hassan, Partner, Beyer Blinder Belle; Helen Marriage, Director, Artichoke Trust; Anita Morrison, Founding Principal, Partners for Economic Solutions; Laurie Olin, Partner, OLIN Studio; and Jeff Tumlin, Director of Transportation, San Francisco Metropolitan Transit Agency.

Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group will meet 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.

National Capital Region Facilities Outreach Initiative

Following last month’s information presentation about the agency’s new initiative, staff briefed the regional planning directors on its purpose and requested they provide a contact within their local agency to participate in the outreach meetings. Each of the directors expressed strong support for NCPC’s work and interest in engaging with the federal applicant agencies on an annual basis. In addition, staff has integrated the congressional districts into the new Federal Outreach Management System and will begin scheduling the outreach meetings in June.

Comprehensive Plan’s Federal Workplace Element

On May 6, the Executive Director participated in a quarterly 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 continue discussions on future locations of federal workplaces in Washington. This was a follow-up to the Commission’s prior adoption of amendments to Central Employment Area’s boundary, definition, and policy.

Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements

On May 4, the Council of the District of Columbia held their first reading of the committee draft with amendments to the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan’s District Elements in Bill 24-1, the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2021. On May 18, a second reading and final vote was held, where the Council unanimously approved the amended District Elements. NCPC anticipates a formal review of the District Elements at its July 1 meeting to certify to the Council whether the elements have a negative impact on federal interests.
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission Meeting

On May 10, Michael Sherman, Director, Policy and Research Division, represented NCPC’s Chair at the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission meeting. The agenda included the revised concept design for the World War II Memorial D-Day Prayer Plaque addition that NCPC will review at its June meeting.

Public Outreach

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

On May 25, NCPC in partnership with the DC Office of Planning held a virtual event, Open to the Public: What’s the Big Deal with a Little Security?, to engage in dialogue around security and public space. NCPC welcomed back Jess Zimbabwe as the moderator of the session that featured national security analyst Juliette Kayyem, Commander Robert Glover of the Metropolitan Police Department, and architect and curator Susan Piedmont-Palladino. The panel of urban designers and security experts discussed the effectiveness of implemented security measures against evolving threats given the negative impact to public space. The panelists also spoke to the changing security trends that have shaped Washington, DC since 1995. Video of the event will be available online at NCPC’s website.

Strengthening Relationships with American Indian Tribal Governments

In response to a recent Executive Order, NCPC submitted a detailed plan of action for engaging in regular and meaningful consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have Tribal implications. To prepare the plan, NCPC reviewed the scope of its activities and previous engagement, participated in consultations with Tribal representatives on available resources and preferred outreach methods, and consulted with representatives from the White House and other federal agencies.

Recent Blogs: Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Military Appreciation Month

Communications & Research Support Specialist Bsrat Mezghebe showcased memorials and sites in the National Capital Region that honor the wide-ranging contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Website and New Media Manager Steve Morgan highlighted several key dates and commemorative works that celebrate the sacrifices of those who served and continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.