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 site development plans for the Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters North Entrance Revitalization Project, 200 MacDill Boulevard, SW. (8362)
2. Final site and building plans for the Fort Lincoln Park Community Center, 3100 Fort Lincoln Drive, NE. (8224)
3. Final site development plans for the Fort Lincoln Park Renovation and Rehabilitation, Fort Lincoln Drive, NE. (8223)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for the White House Visitor Center Visibility Enhancements, 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. (8367)
5. Preliminary site and building plans for Lanham-Seabrook Station Building Expansion, 9801 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, Maryland. (8364)
6. Preliminary and final site development plans for the Naval Support Activity, Bethesda - Building 63 Antenna Installation, Bethesda, Maryland. (8369)

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 the Proposed Dedication of Lot 841 for Public Alley Use in Square 5755. (8365)
2. Report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia for a Map Amendment from 15th Street to Oklahoma Avenue along Benning Road, NE. (ZC 22-02)

Planning Updates

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative’s 120-day public comment period began on March 16. In May, staff held the third public meeting and met with the Architect of the Capitol, WMATA, and private property owners and building managers that front or are near the Avenue. On Saturday June 4, the public can join the Downtown DC BID and NCPC at the District’s Open Streets Event on 7th Street, NW. NCPC staff will share materials about the vision and concepts at an information booth near the Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter Metro station. Please stop by!

We encourage the public to share their thoughts before the comment period concludes on July 13. Information on how to submit comments is provided on NCPC’s website. Public and stakeholder input on the vision and concepts will inform future development and help identify near-term pilot projects to test ideas to improve public space and event programming, as well as strategic improvements to the Avenue’s event-supporting infrastructure in the mid-term. Recordings of the presentations and more information are available online. Physical Planning Division Director Elizabeth Miller conducted an interview with WTOP News Radio regarding the initiative.
Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and Manual

The Interagency Working Group met in May to advance the Construction Manual update and the draft Small-Scale Element Guidelines for trash receptacles, fire hydrants, and water stations. The public comment period for the draft Vertical and Surface Element guidelines closed on May 11. NCPC received 34 public comments, which expressed support for expanding the Streetscape Manual Boundary, specification of native plants, planting of additional rows of trees in specified areas, and inclusion of stormwater management. These comments will be considered as the guidelines are finalized. NCPC staff anticipates submitting the guidelines for the Commission's review toward the end of this year.

Regional Plans

Staff reviewed and provided comments on the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan and found the themes and recommendations around multi-modal network, building height guidelines, mixed-use development, and public space to be consistent with the planning principles and policies of the Comprehensive Plan of the National Capital: Federal Elements. Staff reviewed and provided comments on Montgomery County's FY 23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The CIP includes investments that will improve regional mobility, which is important for the effectiveness of the federal workforce. NCPC particularly supports the Bus Rapid Transit: MD 355 South/North (P502309), Seneca Science Corridor Transit Improvements (P502202), and Facility Planning: Mass Transit (P502308) projects, which support multiple Comprehensive Plan policies related to advancing an interconnected transportation system, sustainable transportation, equitable mobility, and smart growth.

Public Outreach

Blog: Arlington Building Heights

NCPC and Arlington County share a joint stewardship in protecting important views from the primary east-west vista from the National Mall to the Western Horizon as described in NCPC’s Technical Addendum to the Urban Design Element. The form and character of the built and natural elements within and around the monumental core – and views to and from this setting – are an important part of how the public experiences our nation’s most beloved memorials and public buildings. The Arlington County Board recognized the importance of the relationship between the County and the National Mall in the Resolution of Concern Regarding Building Heights Related to the National Capital Mall Axis, which it adopted in 1982. Urban Planner Melissa Lindsjo shared NCPC staff’s role in reviewing building heights and highlighted the recent collaboration with Arlington County around development projects and viewsheds in a recent blog. Read it here.

Commemoration with the Olentangy Orange Middle School

On Tuesday, May 10, eighth graders of the Olentangy Orange Middle School (Olentangy, OH) met with Urban Planner Melissa Lindsjo at the Korean War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial to discuss NCPC’s work around commemoration.
**NCPC Centennial**

Office of Public Engagement staff continues to develop plans for the 2024 NCPC Centennial by reaching out to a number of federal and local agencies and organizations to build consensus and get feedback on draft proposals. Agency staff joined in the selection process to help determine a draft logo for the upcoming milestone.

**Brazilian Planning Director Meeting**

On Saturday, May 14, the Executive Director met with Washington Fajardo, Director of the Rio de Janeiro City Planning Commission. He provided an overview of NCPC’s role in the region as well as key planning initiatives, including the Pennsylvania Avenue and SW Ecodistrict Initiative. Director Fajardo discussed economic and retail recovery initiatives in downtown Rio de Janeiro.

**Personnel**

**NCPC’s Director of Administration Retires**

NCPC says goodbye to Office of Administration Director, Debra Dickson. Debra will retire after nearly 40 years of combined active military and federal service. Debra joined NCPC in September 2017 and oversaw procurement, human resources, information technology, finance, facilities, records, and a host of other program support functions. Debra says she will cherish and miss the collegiality and friendship of her NCPC colleagues. NCPC staff congratulates Debra on her retirement and wishes her the best as she enters a new chapter in her life. Staff appreciates the expertise, knowledge, and professionalism she brought to the agency. She spearheaded modernization of the IT infrastructure, moved assets to the cloud, oversaw the office renovation, and in general brought a positive, congenial, can-do attitude that everyone admired.

**NCPC Welcomes Interns**

NCPC welcomes three interns: Aashna Singh, a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pursuing global studies, city and regional planning, and African American & Diaspora studies joins the Office of Public Engagement to assist in research and development for NCPC’s Centennial projects.

Policy & Research Division's (PRD) summer intern Amya Matthews is a second year student at the Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia who is working towards a Bachelors in Smart and Sustainable Cities. Amya will assist PRD on the Beyond Granite, Memorials and Museums Master Plan update, and Comprehensive Plan initiatives.

William Redmon joined the Physical Planning Division where he will assist both the Monumental Core Streetscape Guide and the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. Will is pursuing a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Tech, where he also received his undergraduate degree in Political Science. William is passionate about urbanism, walkability, sustainability, and resilience planning.