Report of the Executive Director

During the past month the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission’s delegation authority. Note: Unless otherwise indicated, projects are located in Washington, DC.

1. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for a perimeter security fence at Fort Belvoir’s South Post, Fairfax County, Virginia. (7244)
2. Approved preliminary and final site and building plans for a new lower zoo kiosk and bandshell at the Smithsonian Zoological Park, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW. (7862)
3. Approved preliminary site and building plans for a new Edgewood Recreation Center, 301 N. Franklin Street, NE. (7860)
4. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 2890—Park View Community Partners, LLC and the District of Columbia, 726 - 738 Irving Street, NW. (ZC 16-11)
5. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Squares 3039 and 3040—Park View Community Partners, LLC and the District of Columbia, 3305 Georgia Avenue, NW. (ZC 16-12)

PLANNING UPDATES

**NCPC Parking Study**

Staff continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center to conduct a parking study. The purpose of the study is to assess the validity of NCPC’s current parking policies set forth in the federal Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The Volpe Center initiated a literature review and a comparison of existing parking standards for jurisdictions in the region. The Volpe Center is also consulting with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to develop a model for future year mode splits (percentages of trips by car, transit, bike etc.) and parking demand based on predicted regional land use patterns, worker demographics, and the transportation system. Anticipated completion of the parking study is June 2017.

**Lincoln Memorial Co-Design Charrette**

On February 3, 2016, Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman and Architect Ken Walton participated in the Lincoln Memorial Co-Design charrette to discuss potential themes and approaches to visitor experiences for both physical and virtual space at the Lincoln Memorial. This was the second charrette in a series of co-design forums involving a range of stakeholders sponsored by the National Park Service. The co-design charrettes are part of the early planning for the renovation of the Lincoln Memorial.
Comprehensive Plan Parks & Open Space Element

Staff initiated work to update the Comprehensive Plan’s federal Parks & Open Space Element. Staff is identifying and reviewing existing policies to be revised and developing strategies for stakeholder involvement. The goal is to bring the draft policies to the Commission for public release in early 2018.

Arlington County’s Transportation Division Stakeholder Advisory Group

Arlington County’s Transportation Division invited NCPC to participate on a Stakeholder Advisory Group for the identification and development of improvements to the transportation network in the core of Rosslyn. The County Board adopted the Rosslyn Sector Plan in 2015, which included a set of transportation policies and recommendations. The Transportation Division, in partnership with the Rosslyn BID, is beginning the work of identifying both the short and long-term improvements that will implement those recommendations. The Rosslyn Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Group kickoff meeting was held on Wednesday, February 22. This study will take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

Chancery Development at Walter Reed

On Monday, February 27, 2017 the Department of State (DOS)/Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) and the National Capital Planning Commission signed a Memorandum of Agreement regarding review of chancery development at a new foreign mission enclave to be located on a portion of the old Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital. The new chancery enclave has been named the Foreign Missions Center (FMC). The FMC is being developed for use by foreign diplomatic missions as individual chancery sites. The underlying property for each chancery will remain in federal ownership, and the DOS intends to lease sites to foreign countries on a long term basis. Under the Agreement, the Commissioner will conduct the sole review of each chancery to be constructed at the FMC using the six decision-making criteria contained in the Foreign Missions Act. This brings to successful closure a long, but important process and, as indicated by the Chairman, demonstrates NCPC’s efforts to work cooperatively with other agencies to carry out its mission while recognizing and accommodating the often unique circumstances and constraints of another agency.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

SW Ecodistrict Used as a Case Study

The SW Ecodistrict recently served to inform design curricula at two universities. NCPC hosted a webinar on the SW Ecodistrict Plan for University of Arizona architecture and landscape architecture graduate and undergraduate students on February 13. The webinar provided a case study example to inform studio design work on a proposed ecodistrict in downtown Tucson, Arizona. Rutgers University’s 2016 fall/winter landscape architecture studio focused on developing sustainable design concepts for several projects within the SW Ecodistrict. Staff hosted a site tour and offered guidance on student design development.
University of Michigan Students Learn about Commemoration

On February 2, Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman, and Urban Planner Angela Dupont hosted a University of Michigan senior design class visiting Washington, DC to learn about the process, design, construction, and maintenance of national memorials. The students also attended the February Commission Meeting where two commemorative projects, the Eisenhower Memorial and the Washington Monument Visitor Screening Facility were reviewed for design modifications and improvements. The student’s professor, Anca Trandafirescu, was team leader on one of the four finalist proposals in The Memorials for the Future ideas competition conducted by NCPC, the National Park Service, and Van Alan Institute.

Capital City Conversations

Mark Kristmanson, Chief Executive Officer of Canada’s National Capital Commission, visited Washington on February 21. He and Julia Koster, Director of the Office of Public Engagement, met with representatives from the White House Office of the Curator and Blair House to learn more about issues relating to official residences.