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 Capital Bikeshare Station in Rock Creek Park at the intersection of P Street and Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway, NW. (8148)
2. Final site and building plans for a truck inspection area at the Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW. (8133)
3. Preliminary and final site development plans for a carport installation at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW. (8152)
4. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia on the proposed dedication of a Right of Way for First Street, NW in Lot 252, Square 620 - S.O. 19-48848, between L and Pierce Streets, NW. (8146)

Planning Updates

Comprehensive Plan: Transportation and Workplace Federal Elements

Staff continues to work with federal and District agencies to refine polices in the draft Transportation Element. Staff is revising the draft narrative and polices for both the Workplace and Transportation Elements and expects to bring final drafts to the Commission this summer for approval. Staff will provide an information presentation on the Transportation Element at the March Commission meeting to address NCPC's proposed Transportation Management Plan monitoring procedures and parking ratio policies.

Monumental Core Streetscape Framework and Lighting Policy

Public comments on the Monumental Core Streetscape Framework and Lighting Policy are being accepted through March 14 on NCPC's website. NCPC staff and the National Mall Roads Interagency Working Group are initiating work on the initiative's Task 2, Development of Streetscape Guidelines.

Antenna Guidelines Update

Staff is working with federal agencies, including the General Services Administration, to update NCPC's Guidelines and Submission Requirements for Antennas on Federal Property in the National Capital Region. Last amended in 2001, the update will address issues related to safety, visibility, and cumulative impacts as well as new technologies including small cells and temporary antennas that were not previously addressed. Staff will provide a progress update at the April 2 Commission meeting.
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission


Public Outreach

National Tidal Basin Idea’s Lab

On February 13, Physical Planning Division Director Elizabeth Miller, advisory member to the National Tidal Basin Idea’s Lab, attended a meeting to hear and provide input on ideas to address complex and challenging environmental issues impacting the Tidal Basin which is increasingly threatened by subsidence, daily flooding, visitation, and crumbling infrastructure. The Trust for the National Mall and National Trust for Historic Preservation are holding an Ideas Lab to envision bold, creative, and integrated design approaches to address these challenges. Five landscape architecture firms—James Corner Field Operations, DLANDstudio, GGN, Reed Hilderbrand, and Hood Design Studio—are collaborating on the lab. Their results will be available online and at an exhibit in Washington this fall.

Southwest/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy Inter-Agency Kick-off Meeting

On January 31, the DC Office of Planning hosted a kick-off meeting with District and federal agencies and local stakeholders to discuss scoping of the Southwest/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy. This strategy would consider an integrated network of blue/green infrastructure to protect Southwest and the Buzzard Point peninsula, its people, and infrastructure from flooding due to extreme rain events.

NCPC Staff Participate in Federal Triangle Flooding Workshop

On February 21, NCPC staff, including Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster, Senior Urban Planner Sarah Ridgley, and Urban Planner Jamie Herr participated in an agency workshop sponsored by the DC Silver Jackets to discuss system-wide solutions for flood risk management in the Federal Triangle. This charrette built on earlier workshops that provided updated information on changing conditions and potential concepts.

Flood Risk Planning Presentation

At the invitation of District Commission on Climate Change Committee Chair Uwe Brandes, on February 7 Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster presented NCPC’s work in project review, policy development, and flood risk planning. This group had invited several agencies to share their work to better understand the breadth of initiatives and planning in Washington and the region.
Public Space/Private Ground

On Tuesday, February 12, Physical Planning Division Director Elizabeth Miller served on a panel titled "Public Space/Private Ground" hosted by Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. Moderated by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts' Tom Luebke, the panel included Gensler's Bob Peck, Skansa USA's Justin Chapman, and Eastman Perkins' Scott Kilbourne. Panelists discussed the role of public space and development in the capital city, and its contribution and value to new or planned development projects, such as The Yards and The Wharf, among others.

Capital Trails Coalition Brown Bag

On February 13 at a NCPC staff brown-bag, Jack Koczela, Liz Thorstensen, and Leah Gerber of the Capital Trails Coalition shared how this collaboration of public and private organizations, agencies, and citizen volunteers works together to advance completion for an interconnected network of multi-use trails in the region. They also presented their methods of mapping the network and criteria for an equitable trail project analysis for existing and planned trails to meet both recreational and transportation needs.

Personnel

NCPC Welcomes Two Urban Planners

Chrishaun Smith joined NCPC on February 18 as an urban planner in the Policy & Research Division. He previously worked with the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Before that, Chrishaun worked as a county planner with Prince William County and as a city planner with the City of Norfolk. He holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in urban and environmental planning.

Melissa Lindsjo joined the Policy & Research Division on March 2 as an urban planner. She most recently worked as a senior planner with Loudoun County. Before that Melissa worked as a fiscal/economic analyst with a consulting firm and as a senior planner with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. She holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in geography from Wittenburg University.