

## Report of the Executive Director



KIPP DC Hamilton Campus (2)



Southeast Federal Center design (6)



Gallaudet University and Florida Avenue, SE (7)

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 exterior signage at the U.S. Department of Energy James V. Forrestal Building and the U.S. Tax Court Building. (7869)
2. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for a photovoltaic solar system at the KIPP DC Hamilton Campus, 1405 Brentwood Parkway, NE. (7868)
3. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Zoning Map Amendment Petition to re-map 2601 and 2641 Virginia Avenue, NW from RA-5 to MU 2 (DC Boathouse, LLC). (ZC 16-25)
4. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a text amendment for the Continuing Care Retirement Community land use definition adopted as part of the 2016 zoning regulations. (ZC 17-01)
5. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Text Amendment for Use Clarification Language to Subtitle U. (ZC 17-02)
6. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding the Southeast Federal Center design review for The Yards, Parcel L1-Square 771, Lot 800 (JW Partners, LLC and Geolo Capital II, LLC). (ZC 17-07)
7. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a first stage Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 3591, Parcels 129-70, 129-103, 129-106, and 129-112 (Gallaudet University and the JBG Companies) bounded by Penn Street to the north, Florida Avenue to the south, 5th Street, SE to the west, and Gallaudet University to the east. (ZC 15-24/15-24A)

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### PLANNING UPDATES

#### **Pennsylvania Avenue Draft Urban Design Analysis**

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee is currently reviewing the draft urban design analysis prepared by staff and the consultant team. The analysis examines the study area's physical conditions to understand the programmatic and spatial relationships between land uses, transportation modes, urban form, and place-making elements. The analysis identifies the strengths and issues facing Pennsylvania Avenue, and will be used to develop objectives and explore potential near and long-term strategies to bring new life to the Avenue to best serve local and national interests in a 21st century capital. Staff anticipates briefing the Commission on the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative this fall.





### **Parking Study Nears Completion**

The completion of the study to assess NCPC's adopted parking ratios led by NCPC staff and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center is expected this July. The Volpe Center recently finished a draft literature review, developed an existing parking standard comparison with jurisdictions in the National Capital Region, and, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, started analyzing modeling approaches to assess existing parking ratios in the context of current and projected (20-year time horizon) mode share and transit accessibility. NCPC staff will provide an information presentation on the study this summer.



### **Parks Management Strategies Study**

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with NCPC, completed the final draft of the Small Parks Management Strategies Study. The study will help the National Park Service's National Capital Regional Office develop a complete small parks inventory and consistent strategies for improving management of NPS's urban parks. It will also help inform policies for the update of the Comprehensive Plan's Parks & Open Space Element. The planning effort builds on the need for holistic, consistent, and coordinated management and partnership strategies across the small park network. Updated management for parks will help NPS fulfill its agenda for urban parks in the coming years. NPS and NCPC staff will provide an information presentation about the final report this summer.



### **Carnegie Library NEPA Scoping and Section 106 Consultation Meetings**

NCPC, in cooperation with EventsDC, will prepare an Environmental Assessment to analyze potential impacts of EventsDC's plans to rehabilitate and modernize the Carnegie Library into a retail and education facility. Concurrently, NCPC will initiate the Section 106 Consultation process to determine if the proposed rehabilitation could impact historic properties or any of the library's character-defining features. On Tuesday, May 9 at 4:00 pm NCPC will host a public NEPA scoping meeting at the Carnegie Library, 801 K Street, NW. On Wednesday, May 17, at 4:00 pm, NCPC will host a Section 106 Consultation Meeting at NCPC's offices at 401 9th Street, NW. The Historical Society of Washington, DC will continue to operate its administrative offices, research library, and exhibit galleries in the building.

### **NCPC Comments on the Preliminary Greater Cheverly Sector Plan**

The Sector Plan amends the 2014 Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan by defining the boundaries of the Cheverly Metro Local Transit Center. The sector plan also represents an effort to chart a direction for future planning policy in the Greater Cheverly area. The plan's objectives include improving pedestrian and cyclist safety, access, and connections within the plan area; increasing mode connectivity; preserving and strengthening residential neighborhoods; and identifying opportunities for infill and redevelopment of the Arbor Street/Tuxedo Road area and the Prince George's Hospital site. Greater Cheverly is located near important regional ecological resources including the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Anacostia River Park, a Capper-Cramton stream valley. NCPC staff lauded the policies to mitigate the effects of development on the natural environment and address ecological challenges that require remediation to meet environmental goals. Adoption by the Planning Board and approval by the District Court is anticipated in May.

Josh Bassett





### **NCPC is a Cooperating Agency for Washington-Baltimore Maglev Study**

NCPC is a cooperating agency for the Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMAGLEV) Tier I Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The SCMAGLEV is a magnetic levitation (maglev) railway system based on the principle of magnetic repulsion between the track and the cars. On March 30, staff attended an inter-agency meeting to discuss the proposed train system's environmental study. The meeting focused on developing preliminary alternatives and the screening process. The proposed system would run between Washington, DC and Baltimore, and the study area is approximately 40 miles long and 10 miles wide. Numerous natural and historic resources inside this area include the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Refuge; Patapsco Valley State Park; Anacostia Park; the U.S. National Arboretum; and various state parks and designated wetland areas. Federal installations in the study area include Fort George G. Meade, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and the National Security Agency. The Federal Railroad Administration anticipates completing the alternatives report by the spring of 2017, the draft EIS by the winter of 2018, and the final EIS by the spring of 2019.

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## **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE**



### **May 15 Panel Reconsiders Modernist Landscapes**

Consider how 20th century modernist urban landscapes can, or should, respond to contemporary expectations for public space. **Gary Hilderbrand**, Reed Hilderbrand and Harvard University, and **Elizabeth Meyer**, University of Virginia, discuss case studies—including Boston's City Hall Plaza and Christian Science Plaza—and ideas for how to sensitively honor and adapt landscapes, in a conversation moderated by **Brad McKee**, Editor, Landscape Architecture Magazine. *Modernist Landscapes Reconsidered* is co-sponsored by NCPC and the National Building Museum. The program begins at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 15.

### **University at Albany Students Visit Agency**

On April 17, NCPC hosted 19 people from the University at Albany's Semester in Washington program. Office of Public Engagement Director **Julia Koster** spoke with the group about NCPC and its work. The visiting students are completing internships and learning about Washington, DC's history, architecture, urban planning, and politics.



### **NCPC Executive Participates in Local Planning Efforts**

Office of Public Engagement Director **Julia Koster** chaired the Transportation Planning Board's Transportation Land Use Connection grants panel, which awarded \$420,000 in consultant services to regional jurisdictions and organizations in support of more coordinated planning and early project development within activity centers. Ms. Koster is serving as a faculty advisor for ULI Washington's Regional Fellows Program. As part of this effort, she co-chaired a two day panel working with Fairfax County on a two-day exercise to improve and expand their citizen engagement and outreach.



### **Architect Don Hawkins Provides L'Enfant Plan Presentation**

On April 13, NCPC hosted **Don Hawkins**, a local architect and one of the foremost historical cartographers of the federal city, for a Brown Bag luncheon presentation. Mr. Hawkins presented his investigations into the geography, design, inspirations, and aspirations of the L'Enfant Plan and how it's been interpreted since its inception in 1791. He devoted his life to the study of early Washington, DC and L'Enfant's plan, and in the early 1990s drew the first topographic map to show Washington City's original 1700s terrain.

### **Staff Presents Memorials for the Future at Georgetown University Smart Cities Assembly**

On April 28, 2017, Policy and Research Division Director **Michael Sherman** and Architect **Ken Walton** were discussion topic leaders at a Georgetown University Urban & Regional Planning sponsored Smart Cities program. They discussed the Memorials for the Future ideas competition and its implications for Smart City technology as part of a panel on "Design Thinking and the User Experience." The half-day, interactive workshop advanced the networks of researchers and practitioners developing new applications and solving big and small problems at the nexus of cities, technology, and information. Other roundtable included "Data-Enabled Infrastructure Performance," "The New Place Management," "Energy and Climate: Embracing the Data Frame," and "Partnerships to Finance the Virtual Place." More than 200 people attended the workshop.