

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.



Capital Bikeshare Station (1)

1. Approved preliminary and final site development plans for a Capital Bikeshare Station in Anacostia Park, SE. (7921)
2. Approved comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the revised partial closing of a public alley in Square 5624 – S.O. 17-21054. (7863)
3. Approved a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a modification of significance to plans under the CG design review at Square 666, Lot 15 – Jemal's Lazriv Water, LLC, 1900 Half Street, SW. (ZC 16-06A)
4. Approved comments to the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment regarding a special exception for a fast food establishment in the Naval Observatory Mixed Use and Residential House Zones at Square 1300 – 2330 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. (BZA 19600)



1900 Half Street (3)

PLANNING UPDATES

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

On October 5, the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative's Executive Committee released the Market Analysis and Urban Design Analysis at the Commission meeting. During the meeting, NCPC staff presented an overview of the two analyses and the Initiative's goals moving forward. Staff's presentation also described the Executive Committee's next steps, which include a near-term focus on programmatic improvements to strengthen the Avenue's identity and character, and a long-term focus on redesigning the Avenue to reinforce its civic significance, strengthen its daily use and experience, and ensure operational success. The Executive Committee will meet in November to begin drafting the action plan. An update to the Commission on the action plan is anticipated in spring 2018.



Comprehensive Plan Updates

Staff continued to work on an update to the Parks and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Anticipated changes to the element include reorganized content and streamlining policies to address emerging issues, such as balancing multiple uses within parks, providing access to and connections between parks, and building partnerships and coordination among multiple landowners and jurisdictions. Staff anticipates submitting the draft to the Commission and requesting the release for public comment in December 2017. In addition to the Parks and Open Space Element, staff began the process of updating two other elements of the Comprehensive Plan by developing work plans for both the Federal Workplace and Transportation Elements. The National Capital Region Federal Parking Study, presented to the Commission last month, will help inform updates to the Transportation Element.





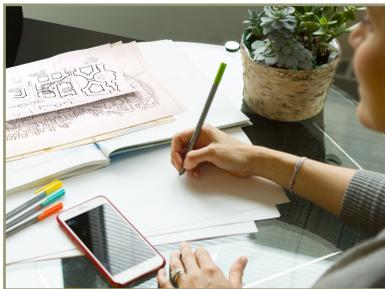
Georgetown Canal Plan

NCPC and the National Park Service, in partnership with Georgetown Heritage, Georgetown Business Improvement District, and the District of Columbia Office of Planning, are preparing plans and an Environmental Assessment to revitalize portions of the C&O Canal and Rock Creek Park. The Georgetown Canal Plan will address deferred maintenance and related safety and accessibility concerns associated with the towpath; improve connections between Georgetown and the C&O Canal; and enhance the visitor experience through increased signage and functional improvements. At an upcoming public meeting on November 2, the project team will provide an update on boundary adjustments, initial plan alternatives, and collect public comments. An update to the Commission is anticipated in December 2017.



Montgomery County Public Spaces Master Plan

Staff provided comments on the Montgomery County Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP) Draft. The overall goal for the EPS FMP is to create outdoor spaces in the highest populated areas of the County where people of all ages and incomes can meet, play, relax, exercise, and enjoy nature in a range of parks and open spaces. Once approved, the EPS FMP will also provide an analysis tool that will identify areas with the greatest need for open spaces and help inform future master plans and sector plans.



Submission Guidelines and NEPA Regulations Take Effect

The revised Submission Guidelines and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations took effect on October 30, 2017. All projects submitted to NCPC must now follow these revised documents, which are the two primary guidance documents for the Commission's review of plans and projects. The guidelines and regulations were initially approved by the Commission on September 7, 2017, but required a 30-day waiting period after appearing in the Federal Register to take effect.

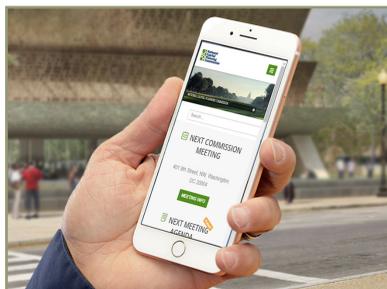
PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

NCPC Transitions to New Website

Shortly after the October Commission meeting, NCPC officially switched to its newly designed website. The new site works across all mobile devices and offers new ways to display key information. Please be aware that some URLs have changed, and you may need to update the web addresses for previously bookmarked pages.

Fitwel Brown Bag

On October 26, NCPC hosted an internal brown bag session with **Liz York** from the Center for Active Design for a presentation of Fitwel, a building certification standard to support healthier building environments. The development of Fitwel was a joint effort of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the General Services Administration. Fitwel is based on the idea that location, design, and management of buildings has a direct impact on occupant wellness and employee productivity.





Canadian Parliamentary Precinct Branch Visits NCPC

NCPC staff met with a group of Canadian officials for presentations and discussions on areas of mutual interest including urban design, public realm, and security at federal campuses and facilities. Following the meeting on October 25, the delegation joined Senior Urban Planner **Sarah Ridgely** in a walking tour along Pennsylvania Avenue to talk about recent changes and to learn about the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative.

Walking Tour: A History of Flooding on the National Mall

On October 28, Urban Planner **Nick Bonard** and the District Department of Energy and Environment's **Trevor Cone** hosted a walking tour on the National Mall that described Washington, DC's history of flooding. The tour, which was part of the local American Planning Association conference for the National Capital Area Chapter, highlighted flood resilient elements of well-known memorials and visited some of the city's key flood protection structures such as the 17th Street Levee Closure.



International Delegation Visits

This past month, NCPC hosted three delegation visits. On October 11, Officials from Hunan Provincial and Municipal Government visited NCPC to learn more about the agency's mission, plans, and experience in sustainable development. Urban Planner **Mike Bello** discussed NCPC's general operations and Urban Planner **Meghan Spigle** presented specifics on the SW Ecodistrict. On October 19, a group from the City of Tianjin's Municipal Engineering Design and Research Division met with Architect **Ken Walton** to learn about agency Building Information Modeling applications and NCPC's approach to urban design modeling. On October 23, Urban Planner **Carlton Hart** presented to planning officials from the Seoul, South Korean Metropolitan City Government who visited NCPC to learn about urban planning and design in a national capital.

RECOGNITION

Square Guidelines Wins Vision Award

On October 18, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City presented a Vision Award to NCPC for the Final Square Guidelines for Squares 378 and 379 (the J. Edgar Hoover Building, FBI Headquarters). Vision Awards recognize work that represents new models for sustainable problem solving and achieving excellence in that endeavor, all within the context of the principles and values emerging from the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans. Square Guidelines are the development controls for sites within the 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Plan that ensure a unified vision for the Avenue.

