

Report of the Executive Director

During the past month, the Executive Director approved one project under the Commission's delegated authority:

1. Approval of comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the closing of a Public Alley in Square 4310, Rhode Island Avenue, NE, between Lots 0804 and 0024. (7717)



The PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE INITIATIVE

PLANNING UPDATES

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

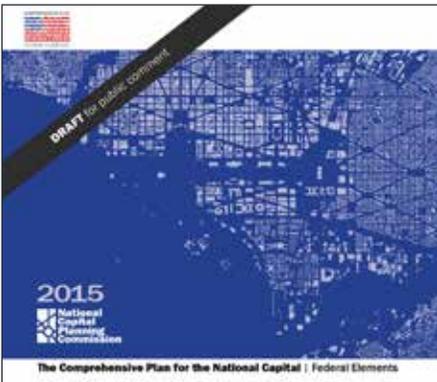
NCPC, in consultation with the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee, selected Sasaki Associates and their sub consultant HR&A Economic Advisors to prepare economic and urban design framework strategies for Pennsylvania Avenue. Now through the spring of 2016, Sasaki will work with the key stakeholders to prepare a market study and explore program and physical improvements to identify how to enliven the avenue. The Executive Committee will also work with Sasaki to seek public input on proposed recommendations. Results of this effort will help inform and scope a future update to the 1974 *Pennsylvania Avenue Plan*. In the interim, NCPC is also working with the Committee to improve maintenance operations and building/commercial use permitting along the avenue.

Comprehensive Plan

At the October 1 meeting staff will request that the Commission approve releasing the entire *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*, except for the Parks & Open Space Element, for a 60-day public comment period. Following completion of the comment period, staff will incorporate any additional feedback and then bring back the Comprehensive Plan for final adoption. Once this is done, the updated elements will be put into effect. The Parks & Open Space Element will be updated in FY 2016-2017 after the completion of the Small Parks Management Study being developed by NCPC and National Park Service staff (see following story).

NCPC and the National Park Service Small Parks Study

The National Park Service (NPS) and NCPC continue their work on a *Small Parks Management Study* for approximately 300 NPS sites within the District of Columbia. This work will complement the *CapitalSpace Study* completed by NCPC, NPS, and the District of Columbia in 2010. The study's contractor recently presented data that will be integrated into a management information system and will help inform decisions concerning the small parks and assist in developing criteria for analyzing the potential of 300 small park sites as new memorial candidate locations. The study's findings will also be used to help inform policy updates to the Comprehensive Plan's Open Space Element.





Banneker Connection Update

NCPC and National Park Service staff, in partnership with Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, are developing several access alternatives following August’s Banneker Park Pedestrian Access Improvement public meeting. These will be evaluated in an Environmental Assessment and during Section 106 consultation. The improvements will provide a safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing pedestrian connection between the National Mall and The Wharf at the southwest waterfront. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in early 2016, with construction to occur in the spring or summer of 2017 around the time that phase one of The Wharf is completed.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

A Capital City Conversation: Ottawa

On Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 pm NCPC will host its first Capital City Conversation with representatives from Ottawa’s National Capital Commission. **Dr. Mark Kristmanson**, CEO and **Steve Willis**, Executive Director of Capital Planning will share some of their current projects in Canada’s capital city. They will then sit down with the Executive Director to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities of planning in a capital city.



Nature in the City | The City in Nature

On September 24, attendees of the Speaker Series event *Nature in the City | The City in Nature* learned about the role of nature in urban design and how nature finds its way into our cities. **Doug Meffert**, Executive Director of Audubon Louisiana and NCPC Commissioner **Beth White**, Director of the Trust for Public Land’s Chicago Office presented on several projects, and then engaged in a conversation with U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Secretary **Thomas Luebke**. The program was held in honor of NCPC’s former Chief Urban Designer **Christine Saum**, and was sponsored by NCPC, the Loeb Fellowship - Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Mayors’ Institute on City Design, and the National Endowment for the Arts. A video of the Speaker Series event is available on NCPC’s website.



Beyond the Box: Washington’s Mid-Rise Architecture

A NCPC-sponsored panel discussed what makes a Washington building distinctive during a September 24 morning session at AIA|DC’s DesignDC conference. Participants included **Susan C. Piedmont-Palladino**, Professor of Architecture at Virginia Tech’s Washington/Alexandria Architecture Consortium; **Phil Esocoff**, FAIA, principal at Esocoff & Associates/Weinstein Studios; and NCPC Commissioner **Peter May**, National Park Service Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning for the National Capital Region. A video of the session is available on NCPC’s website.



NCPC Releases Field Notes Booklet

At the September 24 Speaker Series event NCPC unveiled a unique gridded pocket-sized notepad called NCPC Field Notes. This travel size document highlights the capital's planning history as well as some of the agency's contemporary planning work. Anyone attending a NCPC event will be able to take home this handy planning reference guide and are encouraged to jot down their own "field notes" inside.

PERSONNEL

We say goodbye to Management Assistant **Roszonna Whitsett** who left NCPC. We thank Roszonna for her many years of service at NCPC.

Joshua "Josh" Hock joined the Office of General Counsel as a legal intern. Josh is a third year law student at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. He is participating in a Washington semester sponsored by Washington and Lee and will be with NCPC through December. His love of cities and urban life is responsible for his interest in urban planning and development law.