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 interpretive signage at the St. Elizabeths West Campus, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE. (8110)
2. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a revised guard booth, mail screening room, and site improvements at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, 3522 International Court, NW. (7135)
3. Approval of a report to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a map amendment at Square 1193, Georgetown 29K Acquisition, LLC, 1051 - 1055 29th Street, NW. (ZC 19-08)

During the past month, NCPC staff determined that the following projects are exempt from Commission review based on certain criteria. Unless otherwise noted, all projects are in Washington, DC.

1. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the elimination of a building restriction line in Square 3832 - S.O.19-46622, 3250 9th Street, NE. (8105)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for a micro-bioretention area in the Riverdale Community, 5200 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland. (8106)
3. Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the dedication of land for public street purposes in Square 5180, Lot 814 - S.O. 19-46536, 50th and Foote Streets, NE. (8103)

Planning Updates

Panel Considers Intersection of Security and Public Space

More than 150 people were on hand for a September 24 event sponsored by NCPC in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects held at the U.S. Navy Memorial Naval Heritage Center’s Burke Theater. Plot Strategies’ Jess Zimbabwe moderated the session that featured CivicMoxie, LLC’s Susan Silberberg; Federal Protective Service’s Kris Cline, and Reed Hilderbrand LLC’s Gary Hilderbrand. The high-level conversation examined rethinking what security in the public realm currently looks like vs. what it could look like. Panelists noted the importance of risk assessments and appropriate security requirements, developing multifunctional solutions to balance security measures and well-designed public spaces, and the need for including security earlier in the design process by bringing together design and security professionals. They observed that security solutions are often reactionary but that it is important to be more proactive in providing appropriate security solutions. Video of the event will be available online at NCPC’s website https://www.ncpc.gov/
Draft Federal Transportation Element Public Open House

NCPC will host an open house on Monday, October 7 from 6:00-7:30 pm to give the public an opportunity to learn more about the proposed updates. These include policies addressing parking at federal visitor destinations and more detailed discussion of emerging trends and new technologies. Attendees can learn about the update, ask questions, and provide written comments. NCPC is accepting comments through November 12, 2019 at https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/transportation/.

Memorials & Museums Master Plan Update

The memorials and museums in Washington's monumental core symbolize the city and the nation. The Memorials and Museums Master Plan (2M Plan), prepared in 2001 in partnership with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, built upon the Legacy Plan’s vision to strategically distribute memorials and museums to all quadrants of the city. While the 2M Plan was successful in helping site a few memorials, many memorial sponsors still want to locate memorials as close to the National Mall as possible. To address this, NCPC will update the original plan. The process will begin with a stakeholder’s workshop in December. Ideas the workshop will consider include how to acknowledge the city’s growth and development since 2001; the use of different types of commemoration; and how to incorporate local history and culture into national memorials.

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission Meeting

Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman represented NCPC during the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission’s September 24, 2019 meeting. The Commission reviewed H.R 473/S. 1705, a bill to authorize the “Every Word We Utter” monument (honoring the passage of the 19th Amendment, the 100th anniversary of which is in 2020) in the District of Columbia and its environs; H.R. 3465/S. 1969, a bill to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs; and the site selection for the Emergency Medical Services Memorial.

Interagency Security Committee Meeting

Policy and Research Division Director Michael Sherman represented the agency at the Interagency Security Committee’s (ISC) Quarterly Meeting on September 17. The meeting featured a presentation from the U.S. Secret Service on mass attacks in public spaces and an update on ISC initiatives and compliance reporting.

Public Outreach

Blog: Kennedy Center Grand Opening

The Reach at the Kennedy Center opened to the public on September 7, and NCPC Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster shared her thoughts on what makes it special, how it addresses some of NCPC’s long-standing planning interests, and how the Commission’s review shaped the outcome we see today. All blogs are available online at https://www.ncpc.gov/news/.
Urban Land Institute Fall Meeting

Several staff members joined more than 6,500 participants from every sector of the real estate industry for the Urban Land Institute’s flagship event held from September 18 to 21 in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The conference featured sessions on Emerging Trends in Real Estate, speakers from their “Changing World” speaker series, and a presentation by Nikki R. Haley, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

NCPC Hosts Ottawa Parliamentary District Planners

On September 26 NCPC hosted a 10-member delegation developing a long-term vision and plan for Ottawa’s Parliamentary Precinct. Staff learned more about plans for the precinct, discussed the SW Ecodistrict and Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative, and took the visitors on a walking tour of both. Participants included Office of Public Engagement Director Julia Koster, Physical Planning Director Elizabeth Miller, Urban Planner Meghan Spigle Dowker, Senior Urban Planner Sarah Ridgely, and Public Affairs Specialist Stephen Staudigl.

Staff Participates in American Association of Retired Persons Community Service Project

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Foundation recently launched its fifth annual Meal Pack Challenge, and on September 11 volunteers joined the organization on the National Mall to help seniors facing hunger. Policy and Research Division staff members Kael Anderson, Angela Dupont, Jennifer Hirsch, Johanna McCrrehan, Michael Sherman, and Ken Walton volunteered and assisted by packing close to 700 meals. The session packed one million meals which were donated to the Capital Area Food Bank.