

## Report of the Executive Director



Building 57, Washington Navy Yard (1)



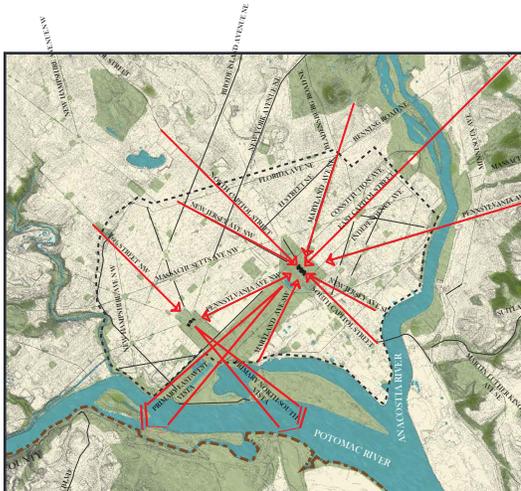
Ord Weitzel Gate, Arlington National Cemetery (3)



Photovoltaic system at Garrison Elementary School (9)

During the past month, the Executive Director approved 13 projects under the Commission's delegated authority:

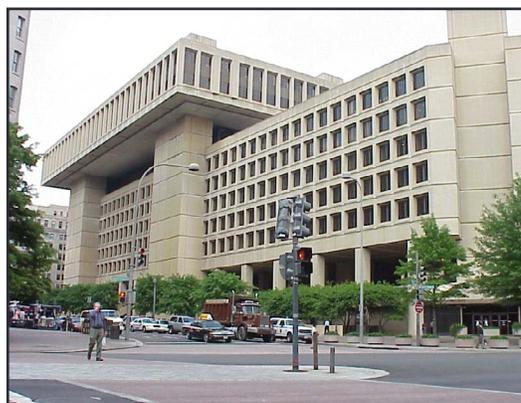
1. Preliminary and final site and building plans for accessible entry into Building 57 at the Washington Navy Yard, 9th and M Streets, SE. (7702)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for reconstruction of the west boundary wall at Arlington National Cemetery. (7693)
3. Approval of comments on concept site development plans for relocation of the restored Ord Weitzel Gate at Arlington National Cemetery. (7708)
4. Preliminary and final site development plans for landscape improvements at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, 3700 North Capitol Street, NW. (7709)
5. Preliminary and final site development plans for a stream and wetland restoration project at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland. (7705)
6. Preliminary site and building plans for building expansion at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE. (7710)
7. Preliminary and final site development plans for architectural lighting at the Francis Case Memorial Bridge, between Washington Channel and Maine Avenue, SW. (7677)
8. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a photovoltaic solar system at Garrison Elementary School, 1200 S Street, NW. (7697)
9. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a photovoltaic solar system at the Metropolitan Police Department Evidence Control Branch, 17 DC Village Lane, SW. (7698)
10. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a photovoltaic solar system at Roosevelt High School, 4301 14th Street, NW. (7699)
11. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a photovoltaic solar system at Stoddert Elementary School, 4001 Calvert Street, NW. (7700)
12. Preliminary and final site and building plans for a photovoltaic solar system at Brookland Middle School, 1150 Michigan Avenue, NE. (7701)
13. Finds that plans for a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 722, Lots 1, 2, 6, 7, 19, 801, and 802 (M Street Development Group, LLC and Square 722 Development, LLC) are not inconsistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. (ZC 14-19)



Preeminent viewsheds and corridors from the Urban Design Element.



Pennsylvania Avenue



## PLANNING UPDATES

### EDR Format Changes

NCPC staff updated the Executive Director's Recommendation (EDR) format to provide an emphasis on project analysis and recommendations, with a goal of making the documents clearer and easier to use. Detailed project descriptions and background information, which previously formed a significant portion of the EDR, may be found in the application submittal, which is now available on-line for review.

### Submission Guidelines

NCPC will also update its project submission guidelines to clarify requirements for applicants while meeting best planning practices and current guidance. To assist in the work that will begin this month, NCPC issued a Request for Proposals from interested urban planning and design practitioners with expert knowledge of federal planning principles and the design review process.

### Comprehensive Plan

Staff will bring the Urban Design Element to the Commission for final approval in September 2015. NCPC staff continues its work on the remaining elements and plans to bring the full plan—minus the Parks & Open Space Element—to the Commission in October to request release for a 60-day public comment period. The Parks & Open Space Element will be updated in FY 2016-2017 after the completion of the NPS/NCPC Small Parks Study. Recommendations from this study may have implications for policies in the Parks & Open Space Element, particularly as they relate to future memorial sites.

### Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

NCPC staff is working with the Pennsylvania Avenue Executive Committee to prepare a market analysis for the Avenue and explore a broad range of urban design and programming strategies. This work will help inform a future update to the 1974 *Pennsylvania Avenue Plan*. To assist in the process, NCPC submitted a Request for Proposals for consultant services to prepare economic and urban design framework strategies for Pennsylvania Avenue. NCPC staff is also coordinating with the Committee to address near-term improvements to streamline maintenance and building/commercial use permitting along the Avenue.

### FBI Headquarters Relocation

The FBI Headquarters is located at the heart of Pennsylvania Avenue, NW on Squares 378 and 379, which were designated for its use in the *Pennsylvania Avenue Plan*. In anticipation of the General Services Administration's potential consolidation of the headquarters, NCPC is in the early stages of initiating an amendment to the plan to provide for private mixed use development on these squares. NCPC is coordinating closely with GSA and other key federal and local stakeholders. Staff will provide an information presentation to the Commission at October's meeting on the plan and amendment process. Staff anticipates bringing a proposed general plan amendment to the Commission for review in December.



**Banneker Connection Update**

The city's land development agreement with Hoffman-Madison Waterfront requires the developer to plan and construct an interim pedestrian connection between Banneker Park and the southwest waterfront as part of The Wharf redevelopment project. The developer entered into an agreement with the National Park Service to design and construct the improvements to increase accessibility and provide a safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing pedestrian connection. NPS and NCPC, as cooperating agencies, partnered with Hoffman-Madison Waterfront to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Benjamin Banneker Park Pedestrian Access Improvements. Thirty-five people attended the August 11 public scoping meeting. The EA and Section 106 work is scheduled to be completed in early 2016, and it is anticipated that the improvements will be constructed in the spring or summer of 2017.



Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan

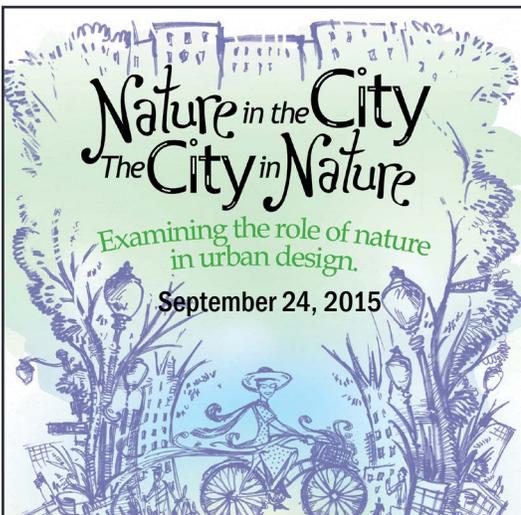
**South Mall Campus Master Plan**

The next meeting of the Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan Section 106 consulting parties will take place on Wednesday, October 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Capitol Gallery, 600 Maryland Avenue SW, 5th Floor, Suite 5001, in the Main Conference Rooms A+B. The discussion will focus on the Smithsonian Castle.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE**

**Nature in the City |The City in Nature**

Formal or wild, carefully protected or randomly thriving, nature finds its way into our cities. But how are communities reinforcing and returning nature back into the city and how might urban design respond to nature, particularly in the shape and sensibility of the public realm? On September 24 the Speaker Series program *Nature in the City |The City in Nature* aims to find out. Participants include **Thomas Luebke**, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; **Beth White**, Project Manager, The 606 and Director, Chicago Office, Trust for Public Land; and **Doug Meffert**, Executive Director, Audubon Louisiana. A reception will take place at 5:30 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm. The event will take place at the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies. This program will honor NCPC's former Chief Urban Designer **Christine Saum**, and is sponsored by NCPC, Loeb Fellowship - Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Mayors' Institute on City Design, and the National Endowment for the Arts.





### DesignDC Panel to Examine Washington's Mid-Rise Architecture

On September 24 at 10:30 am, *Beyond the Box: Washington's Mid-Rise Architecture* will take a look at what makes a Washington building distinctive from a design perspective. At this session organized by NCPC as part of the DesignDC conference, panelists will also discuss the best approaches to creating high quality architecture in Washington's mid-rise context. Participants include **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 **Peter May**, NCPC Commissioner and National Park Service Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning for the National Capital Region.



Matt Flis



Jason Beske

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### PERSONNEL

NCPC welcomes two new staff members. **Matt Flis** is the new senior urban designer in the Urban Design and Plan Review division. He comes to NCPC from the Town of Vienna, Virginia where he was Deputy Planning Director. Prior to that he, worked as an urban designer in Fairfax County. Matt holds a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Houston.

**Jason Beske** is the new senior community planner in the Policy and Research Division. Jason was most recently a principal community planner and urban designer with Arlington County. He previously worked as a senior planner with the City of Overland Park, Kansas and the Town of Leesburg, Virginia. Jason has Bachelors and Master's degrees in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.

We also say goodbye to IT Specialist **Grace Kim**, who left NCPC to work with the Library of Congress. We wish Grace best of luck in her new role, and thank her for efforts at NCPC related to cyber and network security.

NCPC also thanks summer interns **Emily Votroubek** and **Artisha Naidu** for their hard work and assistance. Best wishes for a good start to the school year!