

Report of the Executive Director



Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy (1)



Fifth and Morse Street, NE (5)



888 New Jersey Avenue, NW (8)

During the past month, the Executive Director took the following actions under the Commission's delegated authority. Note: Unless otherwise indicated, projects are located in Washington, DC.

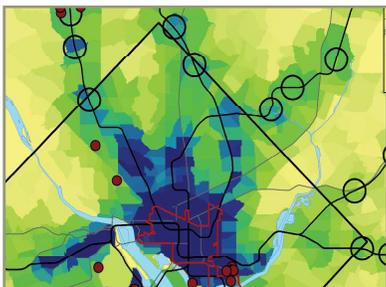
1. Approved preliminary site and building plans for the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy--All-Star Improvements, 3675 Ely Place, SE. (7904)
2. Approved comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the closing of a public alley in Square 5017 - S.O. 16-24507, 3450 Eads Street, NE. (7805)
3. Approved comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the closing of a partial public alley in Square 5196 - S.O. 17-26544, Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE at Division Avenue, NE. (7897)
4. Approved comments to the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the closing of a public street in Squares 5822 and 5830 - S.O. 17-22719, 17th Street, SE between Gainesville and Frankford Streets, SE. (7899)
5. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 3591, Lot 2, Parcel 129-104 and a portion of Parcel 129-106 - Fifth and Morse L-Cal, LLC and Sixth and Morse L-Cal, LLC, 500-530 Morse Street, NE. (ZC 16-05)
6. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Map Amendment at Square 5017, Lots 839, 840, 841, and 842, and a portion of the public alley abutting lots 839 and 840 - 3443 Benning, LLC, 3450 Eads Street, NE. (ZC 16-20)
7. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Zoning Map Amendment at Square 3917 - EYA Development, LLC, 1200 Varnum Street, NE. (ZC 16-17)
8. Approved comments to the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia regarding a Consolidated Planned Unit Development and Related Zoning Map Amendment at Square 563N - Capital Vista Community Partners and the District of Columbia, 888 New Jersey Avenue, NW. (ZC 17-06)

PLANNING UPDATES

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee held a workshop on July 27 to frame draft goals and near- and long-term strategies to improve the Avenue's economic and physical conditions. The committee completed a Market Study, Pedestrian Life Study, and an Urban Design Analysis, which informed their discussion. The District Department of Transportation provided an update on a technical transportation analysis that will be completed in early 2018. Staff will brief the Commission on the work of the Executive Committee this fall, including an overview of the key findings and workshop outcomes.





Parking Study

NCPC staff, in partnership with the Volpe National Transportation Center, are finalizing the Parking Study that assesses the validity of NCPC's current parking ratio goals. The study will have key findings for three components: literature review, a local parking comparison, and a modeling analysis. NCPC staff plans to present an information presentation on the study to the Commission at its October 5 meeting.

NCPC Submission Guidelines and NEPA Regulations

At its September meeting, staff will ask the Commission to approve new Submission Guidelines and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations. These are primary guidance documents for the Commission's review of plans and projects, a core agency responsibility. In May 2017, the Commission authorized release of the draft guidelines and regulations for a 45-day public comment period. Two public meetings were held to solicit feedback, and NCPC staff met with several applicant agencies for their input. The feedback helped inform revisions to both documents.



Updates to the guidelines and regulations proceeded concurrently to ensure that they were coordinated, thereby improving the applicant experience and providing the Commission with the information necessary to support its decision-making. These updates also respond to the Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch by increasing the agency's efficiency and effectiveness through an improved plan review process. The guidelines and regulations will be effective after a final notice of rulemaking is posted in the Federal Register, approximately 30 days after the Commission's approval.



NCPC Hosted Flood Workshop

On August 23, NCPC hosted a flood workshop for public sector agencies to review the flood-specific sections of NCPC's draft Submission Guidelines. These sections specify the type of information project applicants should provide to describe how potential floods could affect their projects and how their designs address potential flood risks. Staff incorporated feedback into the Submission Guidelines update that will be presented to the Commission at its September 7 meeting. Representatives from the General Services Administration, National Park Service, Department of Defense, Smithsonian Institution, and the District of Columbia Government participated.



Metropolitan Washington, DC Coastal Storm Risk Management Study Begins

On July 18, 2017, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District signed an agreement to begin an approximately \$3 million, three-year study on coastal storm risk in the region. The study will look at possible ways to address coastal flooding and storm damage across more than 57 square miles in Washington, DC and surrounding areas in suburban Maryland and northern Virginia. NCPC serves as an advisor on this study, and the Commission will hear an information presentation providing a study overview, goals, as well as an explanation of how federal and other stakeholders will be involved at its September 7 meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

NCPC Launches New Beta Website

NCPC recently rolled out the beta version of its newly designed website: <https://beta.ncpc.gov/>. Features include a modern design, easier navigation, and more interactive tools to provide better information about the Commission's work and federal planning resources in the National Capital Region. The new site will work across all mobile devices and offer new ways to display key information. The beta site will become the main website in mid-October.



Staff Communications Training

On Thursday August, 17, **Jonathan Neely**, former staff editor at Greater Greater Washington, provided training for all NCPC staff on the principles and structure of great blog posts. After learning about the short-form style of writing and practicing during the workshop, staff will have the opportunity to hone their new writing skills by creating content for NCPC's new website. NCPC staff also received media training from Defense Information School (DINFOS) instructors on July 19. The training gave staff a deeper understanding of how to prepare for an interview and provided an opportunity to practice their new skills. Tips included the do's and don'ts of interviews and general guidelines of how to practice. DINFOS is the Department of Defense school for training journalists, broadcasters, and public affairs professionals.



NCPC Bids Farewell to Summer Associates

NCPC thanks its summer interns who assisted the agency over the past few months. Interns were University of Maryland graduate student **David Lipscomb**, who worked with the Office of Public Engagement; and Harvard Graduate School of Design student **Melanie Stern** and University of Maryland undergraduate **Teresa Tinta**, who both interned with the Policy and Research Division. In a related event, on July 26 NCPC hosted an exchange between its interns and those from DC Office of Planning.

NCPC Welcomes a New Director of Administration

NCPC is pleased to announce the selection of **Debra Dickson** as the Director, Office of Administration. Ms. Dickson will oversee all matters pertaining to Budget and Finance, Contracting and Procurement, Information Technology, Human Resources Management, Facilities Management, and other mission support areas. Ms. Dickson joins NCPC from the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board where she served in a similar capacity. Prior to her tenure with the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, Ms. Dickson served as the Director of Administration for the Office of the Federal Coordinator, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Dickson.



Debra Dickson