

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION



NCPC File No. 6914

**FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY**  
LIBRARY REPLACEMENT  
3660 Alabama Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C.

Submitted by District of Columbia Public Libraries

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

September 24, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C §8722 (b) (1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the proposed replacement of the Francis A. Gregory Library of the District of Columbia Public Libraries, located in Southeast Washington, D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No. 82.00(38.00)42718.

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The District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL) has requested preliminary and final approval of site and building plans for the Francis A. Gregory Library located at 3660 Alabama Avenue in Southeast Washington, D.C. The site is located at the intersection of Alabama Avenue, SE and 37th Street, SE in Fort Davis Park, which is owned and operated by the National Park Service. While the land for the library site is owned by the federal government, it is under the administrative jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. There is a park playground to the east and Beers Elementary School lies to the west. The neighborhood immediately surrounding the library is residential with a mixture of low-rise townhouses and garden apartments.

In 1958, the National Park Service transferred administrative jurisdiction of 15,246 square feet of Fort Davis Park to the District of Columbia for the purpose of building a library. The District built the Fort Davis Library, now known as the Francis A. Gregory Library, in 1961. Its footprint on the site is 8,240 square feet. Due to zoning restrictions and program requirements, the new library's footprint will be expanded to 11,123 square feet. To maximize space, the library will not accommodate any off-street parking. The expanded footprint is still within the area that was transferred to the District for administrative jurisdiction so no additional transfer is needed for the project.

The proposed library building is 22,500 square feet and has no off-street parking. The building is two stories with separate spaces for adult, teenager and children services. A public meeting room and conference rooms will be provided for community and library staff use. Staff offices will be on the basement level.

The facility will be designed at a minimum to achieve USGBC LEED® Silver Certification. This will be achieved by taking advantage of the site conditions, the selection of materials and mechanical systems. The building material is a glass curtain-wall with a modulating diamond pattern. The diamond shaped panels alternate between thermally insulated reflective glass panels and clear vision glass panels. There is an aluminum canopy over the entire building that provides solar control. In the summer, the canopy provides shading to reduce solar heat gain. In the winter the canopy allows sun to shine through louvers for additional solar heat gain.

Bio-retention areas located in front of the building will manage all of the runoff from the roof. Since there is no off-street parking, the roof is the only impervious area of the site. The bio-retention areas will also provide ground water recharge for the site. The proposed development decreases the impervious area of the site by 28%.



As a District of Columbia project outside of the Central Area, NCPC is advisory and does not have independent responsibility for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its September 9, 2009 meeting, and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies, except the National Park Service. The representative for NPS noted outstanding issues associated with the use of Park Service land. These issues have since been resolved. The participating agencies included: NCPC; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the Department of Housing and Community Development; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Marcel C. Acosta  
Executive Director