Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: December 3, 2015

PROJECT
World War I Memorial
Pershing Park
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

PRESENTER
National Park Service

NCPC FILE NUMBER
7682

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER
1.23(73.10)44261

REVIEW AUTHORITY
Approval
Per Public Law 113-291 and 40 U.S.C. 8905

The National Park Service (NPS), in collaboration with the World War I Centennial Commission (WWICC), will provide an information presentation on the World War I Memorial project. The WWICC is project sponsor of the Memorial and was established by the World War I Centennial Commission Act, in accordance with Public Law 112-272. WWICC is responsible for planning, developing, and executing programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I.

Title 30, Section 3091 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 (Pub. Law 113-291) designates Pershing Park in the District of Columbia, along with the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, as national World War I memorials. The Act further authorizes the WWICC to honor the service of members of the United States armed forces in World War I by enhancing Pershing Park with new sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping.

A two-stage competition is currently underway to select a memorial design. Stage I, an open call for design concepts, was completed in August 2015. The competition jury selected five finalists to continue to Stage II. During this time, the finalists will evolve their design concepts for the memorial. The concept designs will be presented to the Jury for a final selection in January 2016. During this information presentation, the WWICC will brief the Commission on the competition process and the five design concepts under consideration. The Commission is invited to a site visit to Pershing Park at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2015.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Previous actions	**None**
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Comments on concept design – Approval of preliminary site development plans – Approval of final site development plans

MEMORIAL SITE

General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I

Pershing Park is the site for the National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC. It is a 1.8 acre parcel bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue NW on the north, 15th Street NW on the west, E Street NW on the south and 14th Street NW on the east.

In its current configuration, Pershing Park is an urban open space that contains commemorative elements as a secondary feature. While the memorial to General Pershing is a contributing element within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, the memorial function of Pershing Park as presently designed is diminished because the Pershing commemorative elements, including a 12-foot bronze statue of General Pershing and adjacent granite walls inscribed with maps and text, are located in a small corner of the site; are not well-integrated into the rest of the park; and do not focus on the service and sacrifice of American servicemen and women in the war.

Pershing Park was designed by noted landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg and Partners. The park was constructed by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation as part of the improvements to Pennsylvania Avenue. Opened to the public in 1981, the park was subsequently assigned to the National Park Service to administer and maintain.