



## Information Presentation

Commission Meeting: February 1, 2018

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**PROJECT**

**Commission Review of the Master Plan,  
Infrastructure Projects, and Chancery  
Applications at the Foreign Missions Center**

**NCPC FILE NUMBER**

MP305-7393

**NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER**

62.10(05.00)44501

**SUBMITTED BY**

NCPC Staff

**PRESENTER**

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The Commission has three review roles relative to the Foreign Missions Center (FMC) located on the site of the former Walter Reed Medical Center:

- (1) Review and final approval of comments on a Master Plan for the FMC developed by the Department of State/Office of Foreign Missions (DOS/OFM);
- (2) Review and approval of individual FMC infrastructure projects; and
- (3) Review and a decision to “not disapprove” individual applications submitted by DOS/OFM to locate, replace or expand individual chanceries at the FMC.

The type of application determines which review standards the Commission must apply.

The review of the FMC Master Plan is governed by 40 USC § 8722 (a)-(b)(1). The Commission is familiar with the parameters of this standard as it is the same review standard applicable to all Master Plans for federal installations in the National Capital Region. This means the Commission reviews the Master Plan in light of, among others, industry standards, customs and practices, compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, and compliance with other applicable NCPC plans. This standard allows the Commission flexibility in its review to comment upon a diverse number of issues from a general perspective such as location and layout of future development parcels, parking (location and amount), circulation (vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle), streetscape standards, open space (location, amount, and accessibility), landscaping, and the like.

The review of individual FMC infrastructure projects such as streets, sidewalk, open space, streetscape, and landscaping, is governed by 40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b)(1) and (d). Again, the Commission is familiar with these standards as they apply to all specific site development projects submitted by federal agency applicants. Like the Master Plan standards, infrastructure projects are evaluated in light of, among others, industry standards, customs and practices, compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, and compliance with other applicable NCPC plans. Infrastructure review standards afford the Commission an opportunity to play a significant role in influencing the development of the overall installation.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NCPC and DOS/OFM signed on February 27, 2017, the Commission must evaluate chancery applications to locate, replace or expand chanceries at the FMC using six criteria outlined in the Foreign Missions Act (FMA). Depending upon its evaluation utilizing the six criteria, the Commission must either “not disapprove” or “disapprove” the application. The action to “not disapprove” an application means

the chancery is presumed to be acceptable unless convincing evidence is presented to the Commission to negate the presumption.

The FMA standards the Commission must use to evaluate chancery applications at the FMC are as follows:

- (1) The international obligation of the US to facilitate provision of adequate and secure facilities for the foreign mission in the nation's capital;
- (2) Substantial compliance with Federal regulations pertaining to historic preservation;
- (3) The adequacy of off-street parking and the extent to which the area is served by public transportation to reduce parking requirements subject to such special requirements determined by the Secretary of State after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services;
- (4) The extent to which the area is capable of being adequately protected by Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary of State, after consultation with the Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services;
- (5) The municipal interest, as determined by the Mayor of the District of Columbia; and
- (6) The Federal interest as determined by the Secretary.

NCPC staff will refer all applications to the appropriate parties to obtain the information responsive to the listed criteria.

Finally, the Commission must conduct informal proceedings for all chancery applications. The proceedings must focus on a staff presentation articulating the Executive Director's position on an application. A representative from the proposed Foreign Mission may make a presentation, as may DOS/OFM. The Commission may direct questions to those entities making presentations. The process shall include public participation by those members of the public who express an interest in speaking or submit written comments, but only comments addressed to the review criteria shall be considered by the Commission.

Given the three review standards for the three types of applications, the Commission's opportunity to influence future development of the FMC resides with review of the Master Plan and follow-on review of infrastructure projects. Once the Commission signs-off on the Master Plan, and completes its review of all requisite infrastructure projects, its role in review of individual chancery applications is extremely limited.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

<b>Previous actions</b>	<b>Review of Draft FMC Master Plan in March 2017</b>
<b>Remaining actions</b> (anticipated)	<b>Final Review of Master Plan in April or May 2018</b> <b>Application to Locate the Chancery of the State of Libya at the FMC in April or May 2018</b> <b>Review of FMC Infrastructure Projects to be Determined</b>

# Commission Review of the Master Plan, Infrastructure Projects, and Chancery Applications at the Foreign Missions Center

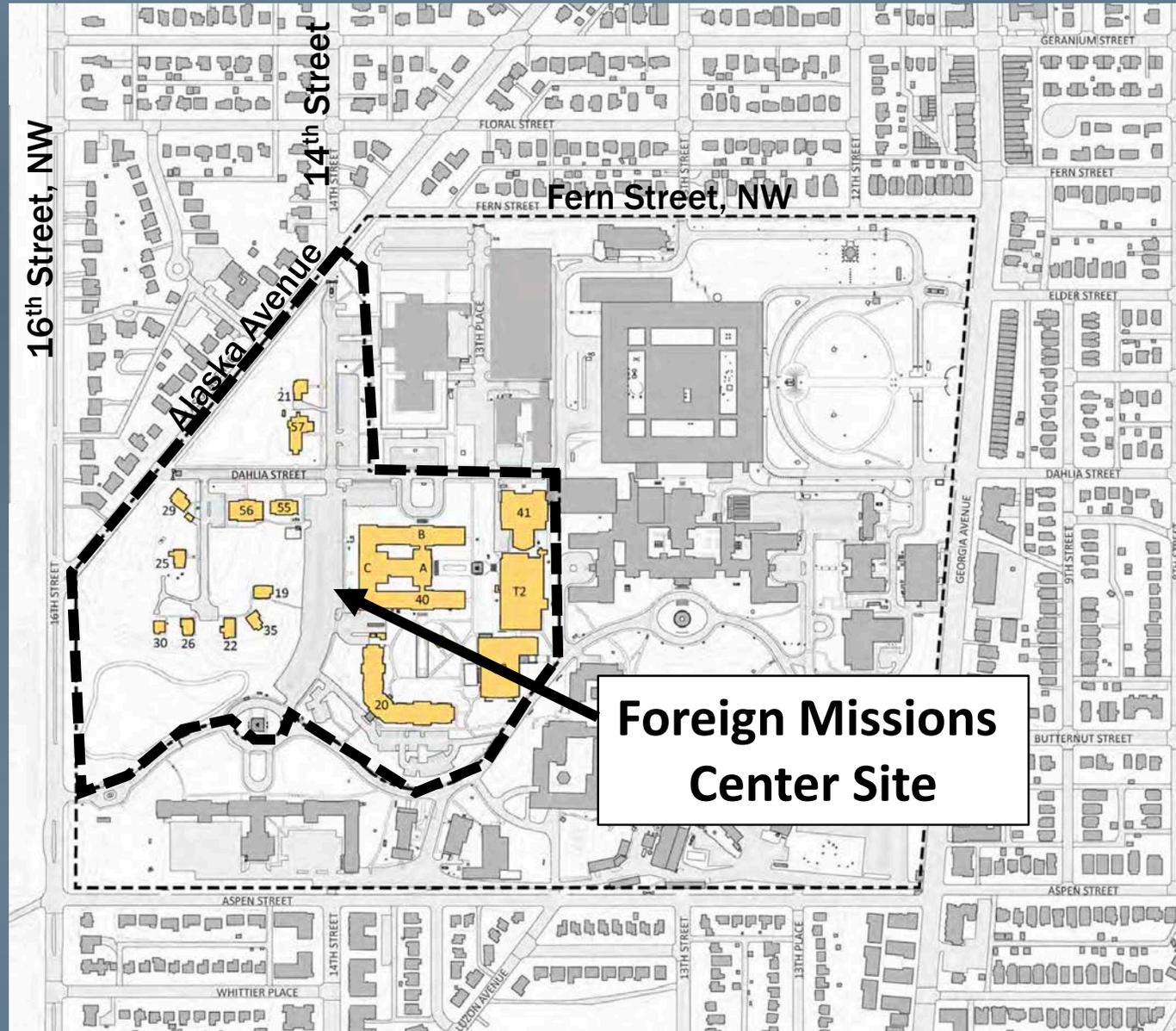
16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW between Alaska Avenue, NW and Aspen Street, NW  
Washington, DC

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Submitted by NCPC Staff

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### Three Commission Review Roles for the Foreign Missions Center (FMC):

- Review and final approval of comments on the FMC Master Plan developed by the Department of State/Office of Foreign Missions (DOS/OFM).
- Review and approval of specific site development projects (infrastructure).
- Review and a decision to “not disapprove” individual applications submitted by DOS/OFM to locate, replace or expand individual chanceries at the FMC.

Master Plan review standards governed by 40 U.S.C. § 8722(a)-(b)(1):

- Same review standard applicable to all federal installation Master Plans.
- Allows review in accordance with industry standards, custom and practices; conformity with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan; and conformity with other applicable NCPC plans, among others.
- The review standard allows the Commission the flexibility to comment generally on a variety of issues.



Draft FMC Master Plan Concept 2017

Infrastructure review standards government by 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d):

- Generally the same as above except the Commission can focus its attention on and approve specific aspects of the FMC site development to include roads, opens space, landscaping, storm water management, and the like.



Approximate Location of Infrastructure

The review criteria specified by the Foreign Missions Act (FMA) and incorporated into the MOA governs applications to locate, replace or expand individual chanceries at the FMC.

## FMA Criteria:

- The international obligation of the US to facilitate the provision of adequate and secure facilities for foreign missions in the National Capital;
- Historic preservation provided substantial compliance is required with DC and federal regulations governing historic preservation;
- The adequacy of off-street parking and accessibility to mass transit to permit parking reduction;
- The extent to which the area is capable of being adequately protected, as determined by the Secretary of State in consultation with protective services;
- The municipal interest as determined by the Mayor; and
- The federal interest as determined by the Secretary of State.

## Required format for proceedings:

- The Commission must conduct “informal” proceedings.
- Proceedings focus on staff presentation articulating the Executive Director’s recommendation.
- Representatives from the proposed Foreign Mission and DOS/OFM may make presentations.
- The Commission make question the entities making the presentations.
- Members of the public make speak or submit written comments. Prior sign-up not required.

### Commission take-away from this presentation:

- Commission opportunity to influence development at the FMC resides with its Master Plan Review and the individual infrastructure projects.
- Once the Commission signs-off on the Master Plan, its role in review of individual chancery applications is limited.

### Forthcoming actions by the Commission:

- Commission final review of Master Plan – April or May 2018.
- Application to locate the chancery for the State of Libya at the FMC – April or May 2018.
- Review of FMC Infrastructure Projects to be determined.