NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEETING

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OPEN SESSION

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THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

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The meeting convened via Videoconference, at 1:00 p.m. EDT, Teri Hawks Goodmann, Chair, presiding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

TERI HAWKS GOODMANN, Chair, Presidential Appointee (At-Large)

ELIZABETH HEWLETT, Vice Chair, Presidential Appointee

LINDA ARGO, Mayoral Appointee

EVAN CASH, Office of the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia

ANITA COZART, Office of the Mayor of the District

of Columbia

ARRINGTON DIXON, Mayoral Appointee
BRYAN CLARK GREEN, Presidential Appointee

TAMMY STIDHAM, Department of the Interior

KRISTI TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS, General Services
Administration

1	MODO CHARE DDECEME.
2	NCPC STAFF PRESENT:
3	MARCEL C. ACOSTA, Executive Director MEGHAN HOTTEL-COX, General Counsel and Secretariat
4	JAMIE HERR, Urban Planner
5	LAURA SHIPMAN, Urban Planner MICHAEL WEIL, Urban Planner
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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(1:04 p.m.)
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Good afternoon, and
4	welcome to the National Capital Planning
5	Commission's meeting of May 1st, 19 or, 2025
6	open session.
7	First, Secretary Hottel-Cox, can you
8	please take the roll?
9	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes.
10	Commissioner Cozart?
11	COMMISSIONER COZART: Here.
12	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner McMahon?
13	(No audible response.)
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
15	(No audible response.)
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?
17	COMMISSIONER ARGO: I'm here.
18	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
19	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Here.
20	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Here.
22	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Green?

1	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Here.
2	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
3	Williams?
4	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Here.
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Here.
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
8	COMMISSIONER CASH: Present.
9	CHAIR GOODMANN: If there is no
10	objection, the agenda, as posted, is adopted as
11	the order of business.
12	And can we, please, now stand and say
13	the Pledge of Allegiance?
14	(Pledge of Allegiance.)
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Agenda item number 2
16	is Report of the Chair. And, today, I have the
17	pleasure of announcing Julia Koster's retirement
18	this month. And I think
19	(Laughter.)
20	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Sorry.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: I know. I I felt
22	like I should say the lament of Julia Koster's

1	retirement.
2	(Laughter.)
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: She has been an
4	instrumental part of the National Capital
5	Planning Commission for the last 22 years.
6	After beginning as an assistant to the Executive
7	Director, she became the Director of Policy and
8	Research from 2005 to 2009, where she tackled
9	several initiatives, including CapitalSpace,
10	workforce housing, Federal Triangle flooding,
11	the Mall levee projects, and updates to the
12	Comprehensive Plan.
13	Julia worked excuse me. Julia then
14	spent two years as the Director of
15	Intergovernmental Affairs and worked on St.
16	Elizabeths economic development opportunities
17	with the District and other federal agencies.
18	She has also been detailed to HUD for planning
19	work and the D.C. Council to assist with the
20	adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
21	Julia is best known, however, for her
22	12 years as NCPC's Director of Public

1	Engagement, where she led a team that flawlessly
2	handled all of NCPC's outreach, including our
3	beautiful website, materials and reports, public
4	meetings, and media inquiries. She set a high
5	bar for all of the work that bears our
6	Commission's name, and we are grateful to her
7	attention to detail and her planning expertise.
8	During seven of these years as Director
9	of Public Engagement, Julia also served as a
10	Commission Secretary. And this is how I and how
11	many of us came to know Julia and to appreciate
12	her and her skills so much.
13	In addition, I just want to say that as
14	Chair of NCPC and on behalf of my fellow
15	commissioners, I want to recognize your
16	exemplary career in public service and your role
17	in service to our nation and to everyone at this
18	table and to those who came before us and those
19	who all are grateful for your work.
20	So, thank you, Julia. You've served
21	the community, the District, and our country
22	with distinction. You've also exemplified

1	exceptional leadership, exceptional proficiency
2	in public engagement and collaboration, and you
3	are valued as a colleague by your peers and a
4	mentor by this commission.
5	By other local and federal partners,
6	you have been called a leader, and by NCPC staff
7	and the members of the wider D.C. community.
8	I'm very grateful that I have been able to work
9	with you. Grateful for your patience and
10	guidance, and grateful for the orientation you
11	provided me as I assumed this role. But,
12	mostly, I'm grateful to call you friend.
13	I just want to say, as the wonderful
14	Fred Rogers said, We live in a world in which we
15	need to share responsibility. It's easy to say,
16	'This is not my child. This is not my
17	community. This is not my world. This is not
18	my problem.' And then there are those who see
19	the need, who see their role, and they respond

Julia, you are one of my heroes. Thank

with service. I consider these people my

heroes.

20

1	you. And stay in touch, please.
2	And I'd also like to pass the gavel and
3	the floor to Evan, who also worked with Julia.
4	COMMISSIONER CASH: Yeah. I just want
5	to thank Julia so much.
6	Some of you might not remember, but we
7	actually shared Julia for, I think, over three
8	years, right before the pandemic. And then into
9	the pandemic, Julia was single-handedly
LO	responsible for wrangling all 13 council members
L1	to unanimously adopt the Comprehensive Plan that
L2	had been sent over to us by Commissioner Cozart
L3	and her shop.
L4	I mean, I can't even imagine how we
L5	would have done that without you, especially
L6	running into the pandemic, and everything took
L7	longer than we thought it would. But you did a
L8	masterful job in making sure that the DC
L9	Government has its own Comprehensive Plan.
20	I don't know what we're going to do now
21	that we're starting the new phase, but I hope
22	that you will at least pay attention and stay

1	involved and give any comments that you might
2	have and if and pick up the phone if we ever
3	have a question.
4	But I can't thank you enough from the
5	Council's perspective. So thank you.
6	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
7	Commissioner Cash.
8	And we want to just say thank you and
9	best of luck in your next adventure. But do
10	stay in touch. Thank you.
11	PARTICIPANT: Here, here.
12	CHAIR GOODMANN: Agenda item No. 3,
13	Marcel our Report from the Executive
14	Director, Marcel Acosta.
15	Marcel?
16	MR. ACOSTA: Thank you, Chair Goodmann.
17	And I'm going to pour it on here. On behalf of
18	the NCPC staff, I'd also like to express our
19	gratitude and best wishes to Julia Koster on her
20	well-deserved retirement.
21	Julia, as the Chair mentioned, has
22	dedicated over two decades to this commission.

1	And as the Chair has rightly pointed out, her
2	accomplishments reflect her commitment and her
3	expertise in service to our nation and our city.
4	And I know that many of you have worked
5	with Julia as in her position as secretary.
6	But I'd also like to take this opportunity to
7	kind of point out her career as an exceptional
8	urban planner. And her final project on
9	flooding and its impact on the federal footprint
10	showcases her ability to manage complex issues
11	and also collaborate with a variety of
12	stakeholders out there.
13	And I've told her this, but she's one
14	of the best planners out there, and we were very
15	lucky to have her here working at NCPC. So
16	while we will certainly miss Julia, we wish her
17	all the best.
18	And that concludes my report today.
19	And I'd like to just let you know that my full
20	report is in your packet.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Marcel.
22	And I do have a comment.

1	No, I think this most recent task that
2	Julia took, an assignment from you on flooding
3	in the District, is going to prove to be very
4	helpful sometime in the future. But I do want
5	to recognize the complex nature of the tasks she
6	is willing to take on.
7	And I'm grateful for your leadership
8	and Julia's in that regard. So thank you.
9	Thank you very much.
LO	Are there any other comments?
L1	Hearing none. Agenda item No. 4 is a
L2	Legislative Update from Meghan Hottel-Cox.
L3	MS. HOTTEL-COX: I don't have any
L4	legislation to report on this month, but I'm
L5	happy to answer any questions.
L6	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
L7	Meghan.
L8	Do Commissioners online have any
L9	questions or comments? Commissioners in the
20	chambers?
21	Hearing none. Agenda item No. 5, as we
22	have a quorum I'll call the meeting to order

1	is the Consent Calendar. There is one item
2	on this month's consent calendar. That is to
3	approve the final master plan for the Joint Base
4	Anacostia-Bolling Honor Guard Campus Area
5	Development Plan.
6	Are there any questions or discussions
7	on the Consent Calendar from Commissioners
8	online or in the chambers?
9	Okay. Is there a motion to approve the
LO	Consent Calendar?
L1	COMMISSIONER DIXON: So moved.
L2	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Second.
L3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Motion moved by
L4	Commissioner Dixon and seconded by Vice Chair
L5	Hewlett. Thank you.
L6	Now, can the Secretary please confirm
L7	the motion and the second and take the vote?
L8	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was
L9	made by Commissioner Dixon and seconded by Vice
20	Chair Hewlett.
21	Commissioner Cozart?
22	COMMISSIONER COZART: Yes.

1	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
2	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Yes.
3	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?
4	COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes.
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
6	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.
9	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Green?
10	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes.
11	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
12	Williams?
13	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?
15	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
17	COMMISSIONER CASH: Yes.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Motion has carried.
19	Agenda item No. 6A is a request to
20	approve comments on concept plans for Rock Creek
21	and Potomac Parkway Multimodal Safety and
22	Operational Improvements Plan. And Michael Weil

1	is giving the presentation today.
2	Michael?
3	MR. WEIL: Good afternoon, Chair
4	Goodmann and members of the Commission.
5	The National Park Service plans on
6	permanently eliminating the reversible lanes
7	along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and
8	this change will require the applicant to make
9	physical improvements to five different sites in
LO	Rock Creek Park, as reflected in the plan before
L1	us here today.
L2	As this is a concept review, we are
L3	commenting on issues like plan consistency, any
L4	unique or complex issues, alternative concepts,
L5	and this is generally an opportunity for our
L6	Commission to comment early in the planning
L7	process, similar to other recent concept reviews
L8	by our Commission involving the Poplar Point
L9	Master Plan and the Tidal Basin Development
20	Concept Plan.
21	Today, the Rock Creek and Potomac
22	Parkway operates with peak-period reversible

1	lanes, allowing traffic to travel southbound
2	into the city using all four lanes between 7:00
3	and 9:00 a.m. in the morning, and with all four
4	lanes used for northbound traffic between 4:00
5	and 6:00 p.m. in the afternoon. And the Parkway
6	operates with two-way traffic during all other
7	non-peak weekday and weekend times and on
8	holidays.
9	The purpose of the project is to
10	improve visitor and park police safety, to
11	minimize vehicle congestion, streamline
12	operating costs and to extend the useful life of
13	the Parkway corridor, which includes the
14	adjacent Rock Creek Trail, and to do this in a
15	manner that is sympathetic to the scenic and
16	historic character of the park.
17	For context, the Parkway runs, roughly,
18	north-south through Rock Creek Park, which was
19	created by an act of Congress in 1890. Rock

Creek Park encompasses over 1700 acres, and the

park is visited by over two million people

annually for its natural setting and to enjoy

20

21

the park's many recreational amenities, such as its golf course, equestrian trails, tennis center, hiking trails, and multiple playground and picnic areas.

The Park Service originally opened the Parkway in 1936 as a recreational corridor to connect Washington, D.C.'s monumental core, the National Zoo, and land within the park itself. The Parkway was designed to surround motorists in a secluded forest setting with views of the valley's natural landscape.

The Park Service is currently conducting an environmental assessment for their Multimodal Safety and Operational Improvements Plan, which currently is in its scoping period.

And this period lasts through May 17th. In advance of the EA, the Park Service developed the plan's proposed improvements based on a preliminary traffic study, which was completed by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center back in January of 2024.

And before I walk you through the Park

1	Service Plan, I would like to note that NCPC is
2	participating in the EA study as a cooperating
3	agency, since our commission would have an
4	approval authority and NEPA responsibility for
5	all future projects that come out of this plan.
6	And, also, I would like to note here
7	that our review role focuses on the plan's
8	proposed physical improvements to the Parkway,
9	park, and Rock Creek Trail, rather than on any
10	future operational traffic changes. And we note
11	these points in our executive director's
12	comments.
13	So here's a map of the plan's five
14	improvement sites. Three of these areas involve
15	intersection improvements, and the other
16	improvement areas are linear, consisting of a
17	new raised 0.8-mile median section along the
18	parkway. And the other site is a 0.8 mile
19	section of Rock Creek Trail, located adjacent to
20	the parkway, and the plan shows a proposal to
21	repave and widen this section of trail.
22	Starting with the northernmost site,

1	Shoreham Drive and Cathedral Avenue merge with
2	Beach Drive to form the parkway near the Woodley
3	Park and Kalorama neighborhoods. This area
4	currently consists of multiple ramps and a T-
5	intersection and several yield and stop signs
6	for traffic control.
7	Today, the Park Service must physically
8	install and remove temporary traffic barriers
9	here, ten times each week, Monday through
10	Friday, as they transition this area between the
11	peak-period reversible lanes and off-peak lane
12	operations.
13	And this diagram shows the Rock Creek
14	Trail crossing over Shoreham Drive. And the
15	trail here is heavily utilized by bicyclists,
16	pedestrians and joggers, and other park users.
17	And, at this point, the Park Service anticipates
18	no changes to the trail network through here.
19	In the future, the Park Service would
20	install a new roundabout with the intent of
21	creating a safer environment for motorists by
22	minimizing high-impact crashes, slowing

vehicular speeds, and by reducing turn
conflicts. And this improvement would help
enable the Parkway conversion to permanent two-
way traffic flow through the area.

However, the Park Service submission clarifies that the ultimate size of the new roundabout may change depending on the results of additional traffic modeling, and the roundabout could impact nearby historic and cultural park resources.

So for this area, we note the possibility of using the new roundabout for future commemoration, and also as a useful visual cue for Rock Creek Park users, and we recommend careful study of the roundabout operation since these can still be challenging for trail user street crossings.

And, sometimes, roundabouts can require additional traffic control measures, and we want to make sure that any additional flex posts, signage, or traffic signals associated with the new roundabout are appropriately accounted for

1	in the Environmental Assessment and Section 106
2	reviews, and we reflect these points in our
3	comments.
4	Here's a second improvement area, a 0.8
5	mile section of parkway as it passes under the P
6	Street Bridge. And, here, the Park Service
7	proposes to replace the double yellow-painted
8	median line with a new raised median barrier.
9	While the painted median is necessary
10	for reversible lane operations, the proposed
11	raised median would create a safer environment
12	for motorists by reducing the risk of head-on
13	and sideswipe crashes along the section of the
14	Parkway, which can be challenging to drive
15	through with its access ramps and limited sight
16	distance issues.
17	The Park Service submission clarifies
18	that the new median may require a slightly wider
19	parkway, and the new barrier could impact nearby
20	historic and cultural resources as well.
21	We recommend a future median that is
22	based on a balance of functionality and esthetic

1	considerations, and the Park Service should use
2	quality materials and model the new median on
3	other successful applications in the city, such
4	as existing the existing stone median along
5	Military Road in Northwest Washington, D.C.
6	The third improvement site is a 0.8
7	mile section of Rock Creek Trail, situated
8	adjacent to the Parkway. And, here, the trail
9	is currently only about 5 feet wide. And as
10	shown in the photos, the trail's pavement is
11	uneven and cracked in areas.
12	The plan shows a wider trail section up
13	to a maximum of 12 feet, so as to create a safer
14	travel environment for its users, and the wider
15	cross-section would match other existing Rock
16	Creek Trail sections in the area. However,
17	ultimately, the final trail width will be
18	determined based on additional design work and
19	informed through the EA and Section 106 study
20	processes.
21	Specifically, the Park Service
22	describes a number of benefits to a wider trail,

1	such as reducing trail-user conflicts, reducing
2	the risk of users entering the Parkway, and the
3	park-user experience benefits. However, the
4	wider trail may impact nearby historic
5	resources, cultural landscapes, vegetation,
6	soils, and utilities.
7	In our comments, we note the trail
8	improvement is consistent with a number of our
9	Comprehensive Plan policies related to
10	multimodal travel, access, and promoting
11	recreational opportunities on federal park land.
12	However, we also caution that additional
13	information is still needed so that the final
14	trail width will balance the needs of its users
15	with minimizing its impact to the park resources
16	and natural environment.
17	Moving further to the south, the
18	Parkway's intersection with Virginia Avenue is
19	the plan's fourth improvement site. This
20	intersection currently operates as a four-way,
21	signal-controlled intersection with DDOT control
22	over the Virginia Avenue approach and Park

1	Service control over the Parkway approaches.
2	And so the Park Service and DDOT will need to
3	work together to implement any future, potential
4	intersection improvements here.
5	This diagram shows how the intersection
6	currently operates during peak and off-peak
7	periods, with temporary barriers installed in
8	different locations by the US Park Police. The
9	Rock Creek Trail currently runs along the west
10	side of the intersection between the Parkway and
11	the Thompson Boat Center parking lot.
12	And, here, the Park Service Plan shows
13	two different intersection improvement concepts,
14	Concept A and Concept B, and both of these would
15	add capacity to the Parkway's southbound lanes
16	in order to better accommodate left-turning
17	traffic through here.
18	Concept A would add one new southbound
19	lane to the Parkway to enable a dedicated left-
20	turn lane at the intersection. And then Concept
21	B would add two new lanes for even more left-

turning traffic capacity, here.

Concept A would not require any changes to the Rock Creek Trail alignment through here, whereas Concept B would require the trail to be relocated to the west in order to make room for the additional parkway lanes. And this would likely impact existing vegetation along the trail. And we reflect this key difference between the two concepts in our comments.

In addition, we note the intersection is located near a potential future commemoration site, as identified in our Memorials and Museums Master Plan. And, therefore, we recommend that the applicant work to minimize any potential conflicts to this potential 2M site through the ongoing environmental assessment process.

So here's the fifth and final improvement site, an area that consists of a series of merging ramps that weave together Ohio Avenue, the E Street Extension, and the Rock Creek, and Potomac Parkway near the Lincoln Memorial. This area is currently controlled through a series of yield and stop signs with no

signalization today.

2.2

There are currently no formalized trail connections across Ohio Drive for safe access between the National Mall and Potomac Riverfront areas and the Rock Creek Trail to the south. As shown in these peak and off-peak traffic flow diagrams, this area can be complex for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to navigate through today.

The Park Service Plan shows four potential improvement concepts here, Concepts A through D, and all of these would add a new trail connection across Ohio Drive. Concept A does not include any noticeable changes to the existing roadway network. However, the Park Service would install two new traffic signals along with the new Ohio Drive Trail connection.

Concepts B and C include new Tintersection configurations with an east-west
alignment in Concept B and a north-southoriented alignment shown in Concept C. Both of
these reconfigurations would have new traffic

signals and the new trail connection.

And then here is the fourth concept, a new roundabout with new signage. And this concept may also have new signalization as well, based upon the results of the Environmental Assessments Traffic Study.

All these concepts would be compatible with ending reversible lane operations along the Parkway, and all of the concepts are intended to create safer travel environments through this area. Concepts B, C, and D would involve intersection reconfigurations, resulting in new green space in the area.

However, these concepts may also impact nearby historic and cultural resources in the park. As part of our comments, we do include a finding that the Park Service Plan is consistent with several goals from the 2009 Monumental Core Framework Plan and, also, the Foggy Bottom Area Study related to improving multimodal accessibility.

And none of the Park Service Plan

concepts would preclude a larger-scale effort to reknit the city here in the future and to better connect the National Mall and Potomac Riverfront areas.

Since this is still very early in the Park Service's EA process, we encourage the Park Service to consider best management practices and to look at other successful examples of traffic calming elsewhere in the region. And we also support additional traffic analysis in order to assess each of the plan concepts in coordination with DDOT and other interested agency and public stakeholders.

And we recommend additional coordination through the NEPA and Section 106 study processes, as well as additional coordination with the District's Department of Energy and Environment to ensure that these plan improvements would comply with District stormwater regulations and that any potential impacts to nearby water resources are successfully mitigated.

1	So with that, that concludes my
2	presentation. All of these comments are
3	included in our Staff Report to the Commission,
4	and many of these comments have also been
5	incorporated into today's presentation.
6	And with that, I would like to note
7	that we do have three Park Service
8	representatives here with us today, virtually.
9	First, we have Brian Joyner, who is the
10	superintendent for Rock Creek Park. And he
11	would, now, like to make a statement on behalf
12	of the project. And then we also have two other
13	Park Service staff members who are also
14	available for questions and comments by the
15	Commission.
16	Thank you.
17	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Michael.
18	Superintendent Joyner, would you like
19	to say a few words?
20	MR. JOYNER: Thank you very much.
21	Good afternoon, Commissioners.
22	Again, I'm Brian Joyner, superintendent

of Rock Creek Park. I'm also here representing the National Park -- National Mall and Memorial Parks, which also manages portions of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. I thank you for allowing me some time to address you today about the Parkway's Multimodal Safety Operational Improvement Plan.

As we discussed the improvements to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, it's important to highlight how this project aligns with the National Park Service's mission to provide safe and accessible experiences for all visitors, while preserving our natural and cultural resources. These enhancements not only promote visitor safety but also support our national transportation strategy goals by ensuring that our infrastructure remains in a state of good repair.

This project is a great example of partnership between Rock Creek Park and the National Mall and carrying out a mission and achieving our shared goals. By eliminating the

1	reversible operations and improving access for
2	pedestrians and cyclists, we are reinforcing our
3	commitment to enhancing the overall visitor
4	experience, while doing so in a manner that is
5	sensitive to the scenic and historical character
6	of Rock Creek Park corridor, ensuring that the
7	integrity of the park's natural and cultural
8	resources are maintained.
9	We understand that this is of great
10	importance to the Commission and to planning
11	efforts around the city, and we have extended
12	the public comment period through May 17th,
13	allowing for ample time to review and comment
14	for all.
15	Thank you so much for the opportunity
16	for me to speak today. And with that, I turn it
17	back to you.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
19	Superintendent Joyner.
20	And thank you, Michael Weil.
21	And before we move to commissioner
22	comments, we have some special guests here

1	today. But do the Commissioners have any
2	specific questions for Michael or Superintendent
3	Joyner before we move on to our guests?
4	All right. No questions. So could we,
5	now, have public testimony? And we have three
6	people signed up. We have Edward Comer.
7	You are testifying on behalf of the
8	Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A, and you
9	will have five minutes to provide your
10	testimony. Please proceed when you are ready.
11	Oh, he's online. I see. Thank you.
12	Okay.
13	MR. COMER: Hello
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes, sir, Mr. Comer.
15	MR. COMER: Can you hear me?
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes, we can.
17	MR. COMER: Okay. Thank you.
18	Advisory Commission, thank you for
19	inviting me to this.
20	ANC 2A is responsible for two major
21	elements of Rock Creek Parkway: the intersection
22	with Virginia Avenue and the proposed changes

1	with Ohio Drive closer to the Lincoln Memorial.
2	My statement today will focus almost
3	exclusively on the Virginia Avenue intersection
4	and neighboring roads.
5	But first, I want to clarify our
6	position on the overall proposal. We are not
7	taking a position on the proposal to end one-way
8	rush hour traffic. We're assuming it may
9	happen, but that's not our position. We support
LO	the addition of the median, and we support the
L1	trail improvements between K and P Streets.
L2	Our biggest concern is the Virginia
L3	Avenue intersection. Whether or not one-way
L4	rush hour traffic is eliminated, it is a very
L5	dangerous intersection, both for vehicles and
L6	for pedestrians. It probably almost certainly
L7	needs one or two more lanes going south and
L8	additional left turn lanes. But what's
L9	important is those lanes feed into Virginia
20	Avenue and then into a complex series of
21	intersections involving the access to the
22	Potomac Freeway, 27th Street, I Street, and K

Street.

Those intersections were shown on slide
21 of the excellent presentation that you just
saw. Those intersections I'm talking about,
27th Street, I Street, K Street, and the Potomac
Freeway, were all identified in the Volpe study,
which was again mentioned earlier in the
presentation, as intersections of great concern.
Our worry is they are already highly congested.
They lack adequate safety signs. They lack
adequate lane measurements, lane identification.
We had a sign that got knocked down a
year ago that has not yet been replaced. And
we're worried that if we get more traffic
turning onto Virginia Avenue from Rock Creek
Parkway, we're just going to move the congestion
and the safety concerns from the Parkway to that
what I'll call the Square 1 area, because
ironically, this area all surrounds Square 1 in
the District, the first square identified by
Pierre L'Enfant when he designed the District.
These intersections begin less than

seven car lengths from the one that you're
talking about, Rock Creek Parkway, but they're
not identified or studied in the scoping study.
I attended a session about a year ago with the
Park Service and neighborhood interests, and
they said they were going to coordinate with
DDOT. I have talked to DDOT. They have said,
well, maybe there's you know, they've given
some comments, but there's no material now in
the public record that identifies, one, what the
implications are for this nearby area. And
probably what's more important is, how do we
resolve any problems before they occur?
Okay. I'm not asking your organization
to resolve those problems. And I'm glad to see
in the presentation that the suggestion is that
the Park Service needs to work together with
DDOT. That's what I think is important. And I
would like to urge your commission to urge that
not only that occur, but that the scoping
materials and study materials that are made
available to the public include not just the

1	materials and impacts on Rock Creek Parkway,
2	which is NPS jurisdiction, but on these other
3	streets that are DDOT jurisdiction.
4	Traffic doesn't understand the
5	jurisdictional barriers. People walking across
6	streets 27th Street is a street that you
7	cannot safely walk down as a pedestrian right
8	now. None of those things identify
9	jurisdictional boundaries that are important to
10	agencies. And we need a
11	PARTICIPANT: Time.
12	MR. COMER: analysis document that
13	covers both issues. With that, I'll stop. Open
14	to any questions, please.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
16	Mr. Comer. Yeah. It was very solid input. We
17	appreciate it. Are there any questions?
18	Hearing none.
19	Our second speaker today is Mr. Dale
20	Barnhard. And is it Barnhard or Barnhard?
21	MR. D. BARNHARD: (No response.)
22	CHAIR GOODMANN: Close enough. Okay,

1	Barnhard. You are testifying on behalf of the
2	Foggy Bottom Future, Incorporated, and you'll
3	have five minutes to provide your testimony.
4	Thank you for coming. Welcome. And please feel
5	free to proceed to the podium.
6	MR. D. BARNHARD: How do you do? We
7	put together Foggy Bottom Future as a vehicle
8	for supporting the development of this area.
9	That is pretty much in the middle of where
10	the section that Ed Comer identified. And so I
11	have a brief statement about it that from the
12	perspective of our group, which is meant to
13	support the development of that area is what our
14	goal is, and that's why we're here today. So
15	I'll read this because it's fairly brief.
16	Foggy Bottom Future is an organization
17	set up to support the much-needed makeover of
18	the southern portion of the area that NPS
19	transportation impact statement, completed by
20	USDOT's Volpe Center, seeks to address. While
21	the impact statement addresses many concerns, it
22	does not adequately address how to rebalance

1	private auto use with pedestrian, microtransit,
2	public transit modalities and reconnecting the
3	grid in future development of the area.
4	The reconnection of the city grid with
5	the Potomac Waterfront, including Kennedy
6	Center, the northwestern edge of Foggy Bottom,
7	the expansion of the National Mall, and
8	reconfiguration of the Roosevelt Bridge access
9	as contemplated in the recent NCPC and ULI
10	studies in 2024 need to be addressed in anything
11	that the NPS does regarding this area. Foggy
12	Bottom Future has applied for a planning grant
13	for this area through USDOT's Reconnecting
14	Neighborhoods program, which will be awarded
15	this year.
16	So the our application is still in
17	process along with others that and it's a
18	competitive process. To this end, we propose
19	the following.
20	Convert the Parkway back to two-way
21	operations as soon as possible. So we support
22	what the NPS wants to do with that.

De minimis changes for the time being to allow the reversion to two-way operation.

So, in other words, all of the various improvements that they have, although we appreciate their spirit, they are completely insufficient in as far as addressing the kinds of traffic issues and ingress and egress from the area as Commissioner Comer pointed out.

And then the third being, put together a public-private partnership to work with the federal government to support the makeover of this area. We have provided a preliminary sketch on a possible traffic solution for the Northwest section that would eliminate the problematic intersection of Virginia Avenue Northeast, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, 27th Street Northwest, I Street Northwest, and K Street Northwest. This would allow for the future demolition of the two down ramps that will allow for the cap over the Potomac River Freeway and the reconnection of Foggy Bottom with the waterfront.

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1	The problem of balance is lacking in
2	mid-20th-century freeway design and must be
3	addressed. What's been created is a DMZ down
4	there that is safe neither for pedestrians,
5	bicyclists, or automobiles. And as such,
6	there's also we've created a transit desert
7	down there. So that doesn't that doesn't
8	work very well.
9	The third point is that restoration of
10	the L'Enfant Plan, Vista Street, that would
11	allow a direct sight line from where the
12	Thompson boathouse parking lot terminus is with
13	the Washington Monument. And so in order to do
14	that, you're going to have to do a lot more than
15	adding a couple of lanes there to accommodate
16	traffic flow.
17	And so that's pretty much it.
18	That's where we stand. My brother has some
19	other testimony that includes some illustrations
20	that we were talking about. And that's where we
21	stand. We back up, for the most part,
22	Commissioner Comer's comments. We want to see a

1	two-way again, but we don't want to see the
2	kinds of improvements they've suggested until
3	we've gotten a much better look at this because
4	there's some profound things that need to be
5	done there, and just a few lanes on the Parkway
6	ain't it.
7	PARTICIPANT: Time.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. Thank you
9	very much, Mr. Barnhard. We appreciate your
10	comments today. Questions?
11	We'll move on to the next speaker, and
12	that is Gary Barnhard. And you are testifying
13	on behalf of the Barnhard Family, LLC, and you
14	will have five minutes to provide your
15	testimony. And please proceed when you are
16	ready, Mr. Gary Barnhard. Thank you for coming
17	and welcome.
18	MR. G. BARNHARD: I want to thank the
19	NCPS Chair and Commissioners for this
20	opportunity to testify in support of the Project
21	6A action item, with the caveat that the project
22	scope needs to be rethought. While I have

specific suggestions regarding this matter that I will address, some context is necessary.

My name is Gary Pearce Barnhard. I'm the youngest of three sons to Mary Ruby

Barnhard, born at Doctors Hospital on I Street, of all things, fourth-generation Washingtonian.

I'm the managing member of the Barnhard Family,

LLC, which owns the only private property on Square 5 of the city.

My connection to complex infrastructure planning is significant. As a robotic space systems engineer, I had the honor and privilege of helping to build the most expensive and complex piece of real estate infrastructure our species has ever constructed, the International Space Station. My concerns about the proposed Project 6A scope are that the planning process needs to focus on fostering and managing outcomes, rather than being misdirected by ill-considered half measures or being subsumed by interminable processes. This concern can likely be best expressed through an example.

A long time ago in a great city that
some believe is in a galaxy far, far away, some
of the most desirable land for development was
offered to the gods of freeway development with
the fervent hope that traffic would flow and a
plethora of benefits would befall the
inhabitants. Alas, what reality and passage of
time have wrought has proven far less sanguine.
What is known as Square 5 has for over 50 years
languished as a set of three nondescript
townhouses stranded in a sea of failed traffic
intersections, bisected by a collection of
freeway ramps, leaving effectively all the
remaining ground unusable and inaccessible.
The magnitude of the lost opportunity
to the city comes into focus with the fate of
Square 5 is considered in the context of the
available property in the adjacent squares. The
19 parcels combined total development of land
area is approximately 500,000 square feet. To
put this in perspective, the potential
aggregation of parcels is larger than the entire

Watergate complex, coming in at approximately
435,000 square feet. This situation is
presented not as a personal lament for resources
wasted over many real estate cycles but as an
example of process failure and the need to fix
how the respective planning bodies, the federal
government, and the city orchestrate fine-
grained development opportunities, particularly
those at larger scale.

established that allows large-scale development projects in the city to progress along a deterministic timeline. Even the most well-coordinated, planned urban developments seem to be resolved through court action, rather than a negotiated confluence of interests that ensures the best possible outcomes for the city and its inhabitants. The failure to achieve these objectives will result in ad hoc development, which is far less optimal for all stakeholders. So, returning to our opening example, should we wait for the future of whatever comes, or should

we lend our efforts to architecting the future we wish to see come to pass?

I recommend the later or latter and request that the NCPC support the approval of Project 6A rescope to be part of a coordinated and collaborative fine-grained planning effort aimed at achieving the best outcome for the impacted area. As promised, we have specific suggestions that outline the proposed rescoping of the planning area for Project 6A, the key areas of focus, the general considerations, and the broader context of the original plan for Washington, D.C. You know, the partial perspective is shown in figure 1, you know, in -- covering the proposed planning envelope, and it attempts to illustrate the potential site envelope in a non-prescriptive manner.

The figure shows both the extents of the proposed planning area and draws out the key focus points that we feel that need to be addressed in the 6A rescoped plan. We lay out the following focal points. The -- you know,

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each of the Potomac River Freeway interchange
ramps should be included in the effort. There
are five of them. Secondly, the planning effort
should include the roadbeds for 27th Street and
between L and Virginia and the 2600 block of I
Street. The planning effort should include the
following structures, which include our
properties, the campus living boathouse, the
you know, the gas stations, and the Metro
substation.

The planning effort should also create a new intersection between K and 26, and that there are various Rock Creek Parkway routing adjustments that could make a material difference in the flow of the traffic and address all of the intersections, which will show up in the, you know, second diagram that's made available. And in terms of general considerations, the rework may consist of moving, decking, widening, and intersection functionality. Cost and functionality must be explicitly traded to allow for --

1	PARTICIPANT: Time.
2	MR. G. BARNHARD: comparison of the
3	options. Thank you very much for the
4	opportunity to speak. And we're happy to
5	provide additional details. And we encourage
6	the Commissioners to visit the
7	foggybottomfuture.org website. Thank you all
8	very much.
9	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
10	Mr. Barnhard. We appreciate you coming. And
11	are there any questions at this time from the
12	Commission?
13	If not, we'll move to our comments from
14	the Commission. Thank you.
15	MR. G. BARNHARD: Thank you all.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: And thank you very
17	much for coming.
18	All right. This concludes public
19	testimony, and I want to thank them thank all
20	of our guests today for speaking, both online
21	and in person.
22	Is there a motion to approve comments

1	on concept plans for the Rock Creek and Potomac
2	Parkway Multimodal Safety and Operational
3	Improvement Plan?
4	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: So moved.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. It's been
6	moved.
7	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Second.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: But thank you very
9	much. It's been moved by Commissioner Stidham,
LO	and it's been seconded by Vice Chair Hewlett.
L1	I'm now going to open up the floor for
L2	discussion. And is if everyone's ready, I'm
L3	going to start with comments from Commissioner
L4	Stidham.
L5	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Thank you very
L6	much.
L7	Thank you for the presentation. And
L8	thank you to those who came to speak about the
L9	project.
20	You know, I think that it's often
21	forgotten why Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway
22	came to be. There was a concern about

protection of the creek when sewage was being
dumped, raw sewage was being dumped into it. So
the Commission decided that there needed to be
protection of the creek. And not only
protection of the creek, but also a means by
which to get from the zoo downtown and this
pleasure drive, which was created, that had
ample room on either side to provide a proper
setting for what is to be a parkway and a grand
entrance into the city. And over the years, it
has become quite the commuter route, I think, as
everyone has agreed.

But it's not safe. It's extremely expensive operationally to have Park Police out there twice a day every day to make these changes. It's not safe for them either. It doesn't function well traffic-wise, and there needs to be some changes. And we are not jumping into this without proper research and modeling and coordination with the DC Department of Transportation. We have spent a considerable amount of time coordinating with them to ensure

I	that changes that we're proposing don't affect
	neighborhoods, don't snarl traffic, and that
	this continues to be an entrance to the city
	that protect the resources of the park, both
	cultural and natural, but also provide a means
	to get in and out of the city and a wonderful
	way and for citizens to move through the
	city.
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If you are ever caught in Georgetown when the traffic was going opposite the way you really needed to be, then you were narrowing your way through those tiny little streets where, you know, traffic doesn't need to be. So this will help resolve that. And so that's where we will continue to work with DDOT, on these intersections, to help them alleviate with small changes to ensure that we're not causing any impacts, and just to be sure that our design is the best that it can be for everyone involved.

CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
Commissioner Stidham.

1	Commissioner Argo?
2	COMMISSIONER ARGO: I don't have any
3	additional comments. It's an interesting I
4	appreciate, particularly, Commissioner Stidham's
5	comments. I was going to say something else,
6	and now I don't remember what it was, but I
7	think we need to move on. Thank you.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
9	Commissioner Argo.
LO	Vice Chair Hewlett?
L1	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes. First of
L2	all, thank you, Mr. Weil, for your presentation,
L3	and Superintendent Joyner. Also, for the folks
L4	who've the Barnhards who've attended today
L5	and Mr. Comer who attended virtually, I'd like -
L6	- thank you for bringing the comments and
L7	concerns about the transportation and and
L8	traffic concerns to our attention, because this
L9	the whole purpose of this is to improve
20	transportation safety for vehicles, for
21	cyclists, and for pedestrians, while still
22	preserving the historic aspect, and so and

1	particularly for the Park Police as well. That
2	is dangerous. And thank you, Commissioner
3	Stidham, for your comments.
4	I'm glad to hear I know when we read
5	everything, I know there was emphasis on
б	consultation with the US Department of
7	Transportation, but I also hear that you're
8	working with the District of Columbia DDOT. So
9	that's important. And I think it's imperative
10	to recognize that this is just the concept plan.
11	And so all of these things will be fine-tuned
12	further as Commissioner Stidham indicated. And
13	so I think it will come together basically with
14	with all the concerns that are in the report
15	today, the concerns that we are raising today,
16	the concerns that we've heard today, and that it
17	will be fine-tuned further. So those are my

22 CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,

only comments because I, too, am concerned about

the -- any other transportation issues that we

may be causing while trying to fix some. Thank

you.

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1	Vice Chair Hewlett.
2	Commissioner Green? I think you're on
3	mute, Commissioner Green.
4	COMMISSIONER GREEN: There we go. How
5	about that?
6	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yeah. It works.
7	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Thank you. No, I
8	appreciate the presentation. And and I
9	especially appreciate the comments of the three
10	citizens who spoke today and just hope that they
11	are brought in as part of this process. They
12	may already have been. But I hope that those
13	perspectives become part of the planning process
14	as it moves forward. Thank you very much.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
16	Commissioner Green.
17	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams?
18	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
19	Thank you for the presentation, and thank you to
20	Park Service for looking at this issue. I am a
21	resident that lives up near there, and it is a
22	pain in the neck, both from the remembering,

what time does it start? When do I have to go?

But also just the bottleneck, particularly at

both the big intersections at either end, are

really a challenge for people that live along

there and want to get in and out or move through

the city. So I think hugely important.

But I do agree with Mr. Comer and the Brothers Barnhard about the importance of what happens once you get off. And I know it's outside the scope of your project, but to the extent that you can deal with DDOT, I think -and some of it is you, like, going north onto Beach Drive, going from two lanes into one. That's that massive bottleneck that you can spend 20 minutes sitting in, or be a jerk and go all the way up to the top and cut over. things that you can do for that, as well as the sort of mixing bowl that is there by the gas stations, I -- I would support whatever the Park Service can do to connect with DDOT to sort of further the scope of the project. otherwise, I think it's a great effort and a

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1	much-needed one.
2	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
3	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.
4	Commissioner Dixon?
5	COMMISSIONER DIXON: First of all, as
6	always, we appreciate the fine work of the staff
7	and the great presentation. Always do, though I
8	may not comment. Also, I think this is a real
9	complex situation here. Like many of us here,
10	I've used the one ways, the two ways, and all
11	the wrong way when you need to go someplace.
12	But, so I think it's complicated, and it's being
13	looked at very thoroughly. I think all the
14	right eyes are on it. And I think the Barnhards
15	need to definitely be brought into play because
16	they've made a family investment in this. I
17	only regret that the space, the station, you had
18	a lot of space to work with. We don't have a
19	lot of space to work with here, so we have to do
20	our best. So keep up the good work. I'm happy
21	to see it go forward and it's great.
22	I would like to be sure, though, that

1	the transportation beyond these spaces, the
2	lights and all, when you get up around further
3	up up the park, that the flood of traffic
4	that we'll now feel will be accommodated with
5	lights that may be timed differently. I'm
6	always impressed when I go down to my home in
7	Virginia and come back some nights. The lights
8	don't stop you if nobody's coming the other way.
9	They freeze. They just keep going green. And
10	I'm not sure we can go that far, but timing the
11	lights could be very useful, I think, in this.
12	Thank you. Keep up the good work.
13	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
14	Commissioner Dixon. Thank you very much.
15	Commissioner Cash?
16	COMMISSIONER CASH: No, thanks so much
17	for the presentation. I mean, my primary
18	concern is that there's a lot of good work
19	between DDOT and Park Service and making sure
20	that this doesn't have any negative impact on
21	the rest of the transportation system. It
22	sounds like that's the case. So I look forward

1	to the project moving forward and with that in
2	mind.
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
4	Commissioner Cash.
5	Commissioner Cozart?
6	COMMISSIONER COZART: I want to thank
7	staff for the great presentation and the work on
8	this project and appreciate how National Park
9	Service is working with Department of
LO	Transportation about this. I don't have any
L1	further comments.
L2	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
L3	Commissioner Cozart.
L4	And I hear one more thing over here
L5	from
L6	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: One
L7	thing I
L8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Commissioner
L9	Tunstall-Williams.
20	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: I
21	forgot to mention, and I believe I heard, but I
22	want to confirm. The traffic study was done in

1	January 2024. Are you looking at redoing that
2	based on the return to office and all that is
3	going on? The traffic on the parkway is
4	markedly different, I think, than it was in
5	January 2024.
6	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: We've already
7	done that.
8	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS:
9	Awesome.
10	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: We are sure that
11	we've incorporated any and all return to office
12	into our traffic modeling to ensure that we are
13	properly characterizing the traffic.
14	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Great.
15	Thank you.
16	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: And I hope
17	you're not one of those zipper folks.
18	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: I am
19	not. I mean, I go the other way. I watch them.
20	Then I just get angry at that.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
22	Commissioner Stidham and Commissioner Tunstall-

| Williams.

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comments from the Commission, I will close by
just saying again, thank you, staff, and thank
you. We always appreciate input from residents
and citizens of the area. We appreciate your
coming here both online and in person and
commenting today. We do want to thank the
National Park Service for submitting these
concept plans for review. Rock Creek Park is a
jewel in the Park Service system and in
Washington, DC. It serves many masters, from
open and recreational space to wildlife habitat,
and it is a multimodal corridor.
The goals of the project are laudable,
particularly to improve access to all users. As
the planning advances, it's going to be very
important, as many have stated, that NPS
continues to coordinate with stakeholders,

And unless there are any further

residents, as well as DDOT. And I certainly,

continue. And I look forward to seeing how the

you know, want to encourage that work to

1	plans develop as this engagement continues over
2	the next several months. I don't live here. I
3	don't drive here. But I know that it doesn't
4	matter where you are in this country, that older
5	transportation systems come into conflict as
6	time passes with new uses and multimodal
7	transportation users, and also with the limited
8	space that they were originally built in.
9	So I do encourage you to, you know,
LO	continue to work together because it's probably
L1	more difficult than a space station, in my mind,
L2	so. But thank you. Thanks to everyone.
L3	Are there any further comments or
L4	questions?
L5	Hearing none, can the secretary please
L6	confirm the motion and the second, and take the
L7	roll call?
L8	MS. HOTTEL-COX: The motion was made by
L9	Commissioner Stidham and seconded by Vice Chair
20	Hewlett.
21	Commissioner Cozart?
22	COMMISSIONER COZART: Yes.

1	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
2	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Yes.
3	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?
4	COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes.
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
6	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.
9	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Green?
10	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes.
11	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
12	Williams?
13	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?
15	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
17	COMMISSIONER CASH: Yes.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
19	Meghan.
20	The motion has carried. Agenda item 6B
21	is a request to approve comments on concept
22	plans for Capital One Arena improvements. Jamie

1	Herr is making the presentation today.
2	Welcome, Jamie.
3	MS. HERR: Thank you. Thank you. All
4	right. All right.
5	Good afternoon, Chair Goodman and
б	commissioners. The District of Columbia Deputy
7	Mayor for Planning and Economic Development,
8	along with Monumental Sports & Entertainment and
9	their design team, have submitted concept plans
10	for review and comment by the Commission.
11	Overall, staff recommends the Commission approve
12	the comments in the executive director's report
13	that I will also review in this presentation.
14	The applicant initiated a consultation
15	with staff in December and then gave an
16	information presentation to the Commission at
17	the February Commission meeting. NCPC staff and
18	the applicant initiated the Section 106 process
19	in February and held consultation meetings in
20	March and April. Today, the Commission is
21	reviewing the concept-level design and providing
22	comments. The applicant will come back at a

future date for the preliminary and final reviews.

As I noted, today we are looking at the concept plan where the Commission should be focused on issues such as consistency with NCPC's Comprehensive Plan and other policies, appropriateness of the concept for the site, and are there any particularly unique and/or complex issues. Today, I will cover the following topics in review of this concept: the location and existing context, the existing conditions of the site, the project's goals, the updated building design, access and site design, signage and lighting, and the recommendations.

Capital One Arena is located on the block bounded by 6th Street on the east, 7th Street on the west, and F Street on the south.

Gallery Place Way is on the north. The arena is located in the middle of downtown, surrounded by significant National Historic Landmarks or NHLs, including the Patent Office, now the Donald W.

Reynolds Center for American Art and

Portraiture, also known as the Reynolds Center,
the General Post Office, now called Hotel
Monaco, and the Pension Building, which is now
the National Building Museum.

Capital One Arena is in a central location of the historic L'Enfant city plan and is surrounded by L'Enfant streets, including 7th, F, and 6th Streets. The arena is adjacent to the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District, the Downtown Historic District, and two NHLs. The National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process for this project was initiated in February, as noted earlier, and staff has hosted two consulting parties meetings thus far. meetings were to evaluate the historic context and potential adverse effects of the updated This process is ongoing, and staff requests the applicant continue to coordinate with consulting parties in preparation of the memorandum of agreement for the project as part of the 106 process.

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originally the Patent Office, is considered one
of the most significant buildings in Washington,
with its porticos modeled after the Parthenon in
Athens. It sits prominently within the 8th
Street axis, anchored by the Carnegie Library to
the north and the National Archives and National
Gallery Sculpture Garden to the south. I'd like
to note the setting of the Reynolds Center is
unique in that the block in which it sits
extends beyond adjacent blocks and allows for
more public space, elevating the building's
significance, especially on F and G Streets.
This allows for more expansive views of the
building in this setting.
Next, I will review the existing
conditions of the building and the site. The
existing building, which opened in 1997, was
designed to appear as a series of separate
facades to break up the building massing. The
primary corner of 7th and F Street includes a
large corner digital display. The main entry on
7th Street or on F Street is demarcated by the

large awning. These images show several views of the existing building, including the entry areas, pedestrian views, and existing examples of transparency.

The existing arena has a main entry point on F Street noted here. There are two secondary entry points on 7th and Gallery Place. There is an existing retail space at the southeast corner of the building, and the Metro entrance is at the southwest corner. These images show the existing conditions inside the arena, specifically the entry experience and circulation.

Next are the applicant's project goals. The applicant has indicated that their goals and objectives for the project are to transform the arena with a unified identity to extend the functional life. They intend to improve access and circulation, improve building materials, transparency and activation, with the goal of being a catalyst for area renewal. Staff supports the project objectives to extend this

functional life of the arena and reinforce its urban presence within downtown Washington by improving access, enhancing wayfinding and the arrival experience, enlivening the arena exterior to make it a must-see building for residents and visitors, and activating the arena as an entertainment venue in the heart of the city.

Next, we will go into the updated design of the building. Since the information presentation in February, the applicant has updated several elements of the design noted here. These updates include new areas of wall transparency, removal of one of the wall signs, updated materials, including more transparency in the veil material, new street-level elements, such as artwork, a team history wall, and an information sign, and an updated Metro entrance.

In this section, I will be comparing the new design to the previous design when available. To start, this is a reminder of the current building at the corner of 7th and F

Streets. This was the rendering of the same
corner presented to the Commission at the
February meeting. This view introduced the
concept of the veil, wrapping the building and
moving the main entry west closer to the Metro
entrance. The updated rendering shows that
additional glazing has been added to the facade
on 7th Street. The transparency of the veil has
increased. The main building materials have
changed, with limestone at the street level and
metal panels above. The reflective tile has
been removed from the Metro station as well.
In this additional updated view, you
can see the transparency of the veil and the
addition of elements to activate the street
level, including artwork on 7th Street and the
team history wall on F Street. There's also a
new digital wall information board on F Street.
This updated view shows the new wall of glazing
that denotes the relocated main entry. The

entry was moved west to provide better flow for

patrons entering the building.

The updated design also widened the
entry to the Metro from the previous iteration
and added the digital information sign at the
street level. As noted, the applicant has
updated the materials to include ETFE as the
veil, which stands for ethylene
tetrafluoroethylene I'm only going to say
that once and is a semi-transparent
lightweight polymer as the veil material,
sculpted metal panels, glazing, and limestone at
the street level to coordinate with the existing
buildings in the area.
This view shows the main entry and team
history wall. The shape of the veil was also
modified to lift at the corner in deference to
the Reynolds Center cornice. As noted, the
applicant is proposing a new street-level
activation, including a team history wall on F
Street just east of the relocated entry, as
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noted here.

corner with the veil lifting up and around the side to end on 6th Street. There was also a new digital sign included on this facade.

The applicant has modified the design by eliminating the digital signboard and replacing it with additional glazing and softening the outer edge of the veil. Moving further north on 6th Street, the applicant previously showed an improved accessible entrance on this location. The updated facade on 6th includes improved transparency at the accessible entry, in addition to the new glazing that replaced the removed digital signage. As noted, the applicant has updated the materials and their locations on the building, as noted here.

Moving back over to 7th Street, just north of the Metro entrance, the applicant is proposing integrated artwork on the walls and improved transparency. Here is another view of the same area on 7th Street with the integrated artwork panels and the improved transparency.

This new area of glazing creates the opportunity to experience the veil element from the interior of the building, as shown here. This rendering shows the interior view through the new glazing and the veil looking toward the Reynolds Center to the west.

At the northwest corner on 7th Street and the terminus of G Street, the applicant included an updated digital signboard intentionally located to allow for G Street to be used as a viewing area for the screen. The veil in this previous iteration sweeps out over the sidewalk on Gallery Place Way as it curves around the corner. The updated design of this corner of the building maintains the large digital signboard but pulls the edge of the veil into the building at the corner.

The updated materials include the expanded glazing at 7th Street as noted here.

The previous design included an expanded entry of Gallery Place Way where the veil terminates.

This entry included the integration of a wood

material on the facade. The updated design tucks the veil closer to the building and removes the digital sign band to address adjacent condominium owner concerns and improve weather protection. The Gallery Place entry includes all the updated materials previously noted, as well as the composite wood material.

As part of the updated design process and the Section 106 process, the applicant has done a series of viewshed diagrams for analysis. These views show the existing conditions on the left, and then on the right the proposed condition with the updated building. This first view is looking northeast towards the corner of 7th and F Streets. The Reynolds Center is in the foreground on the left. Staff finds that while there is ample opportunity for a modern approach that unifies and elevates the design of the arena, it must also be complementary of both the Reynolds Center and Hotel Monaco and be deferential at key viewpoints to preserve the settings of these important NHLs.

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Shifting to the other end of F Street,
this view looks west with the existing on the
left and the proposed on the right. This view
is on 7th Street, looking north toward the
arena. The Hotel Monaco is on the left in the
foreground. The final viewshed diagram we've
included is of G Street, looking at the terminus
at 7th. The proposed design, as noted earlier,
shifts the digital sign to be more centered on G
Street as a viewing stage for large events.

In summary on the building design changes, staff supports the design changes made to date, especially the increased glazing, improved streetscape engagement elements, updated materials, and the additional viewshed studies. However, the redesigned arena will appear prominently in this setting, and it is an opportunity to help improve the setting and enhance the public space. To do so, we recommend the applicant continue to refine and unify the composition of all elements, building, display screens, and veil, to better respect the

1	setting of the National Historic Landmark
2	buildings. In particular, the overall
3	composition of the design, including the
4	building, LED display boards, newly introduced
5	LED band, and veil, could be further integrated,
б	elevating the overall design and reflecting the
7	arena's importance within downtown and its
8	prominent location adjacent to two NHLs.
9	Next, I will walk through the proposed
10	site design changes with a focus on pedestrian
11	access and ground floor activation. The
12	applicant has updated the street-level
13	activation to the extent practicable, given the
14	internal constraints of the building. The
15	current building only has one corner of street-
16	facing retail noted here on the left. The
17	updated design on the right includes the same
18	retail section but adds in the team history wall
19	and artwork pictured earlier. While the new

design is an improvement, staff encourages the

applicant to continue to explore opportunities

for additional street-facing uses, including

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retail, to help activate the pedestrian realm, particularly when the arena is not in use.

One of the key aspects of the design is that entries will be provided from all sides so that visitors can access the arena from each frontage. Some existing entries are not accessible or have the appropriate equipment for screening. These will all be upgraded. A new accessible entrance will be added on 6th Street, and the entry from F Street will be shifted west. This is important for several reasons. As part of the design process, the applicant determined the existing entry was not ideal as it opened onto the elevator bank, as noted on the left.

As the elevators are too complicated to relocate, the applicant is proposing to relocate the main entry further west to allow better movement into the building. The applicant plans to implement frictionless security screening that can process up to 3,600 guests per lane per hour, pilot facial recognition ticketing, and

vastly improve distribution of entries into the arena, and vertical circulation within the building. With clearly defined zones for security, ticketing, concourse access, guests will move through each stage seamlessly, making the overall arrival experience faster, safer, and more comfortable.

Having accessible entrances on all frontages is important because visitors can arrive at four different Metro exits as shown here. This includes Chinatown, Gallery Place, and the Portrait Gallery. The intent will be to better balance pedestrian access so that not everyone is entering from just F Street. the physical improvements will help, it is important to also change people's behaviors, particularly for regular patrons. As such, as part of the next review, staff requests additional details on how the new building design, combined with pedestrian management, will improve pedestrian safety and the user experience at the entry points. Basically, how

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will the applicant work to direct people to these new or expanded entrances?

The existing streetscape of the building has limited greenery as noted on the left. The updated plan removes existing trees and fails to utilize space for new landscaping that could soften the streetscape. Staff finds the existing streetscape lacks tree canopy and greenery, and the proposed plan further reduces vegetation that could impact pedestrian comfort, and requests the applicant submit, as part of the next review, a plan that shows additional landscaping on F Street where there currently appears to be none.

Next, I will go through the proposed lighting and signage. Here you can see the existing conditions. The existing building includes a variety of building signage, as well as LED screens. As shown here, these screens can show both event-related advertising, as well as commercial advertising not related to events.

I'll note the proposed design reduces the

1	number of LED screens but consolidates square
2	footage into larger LED displays specifically at
3	the corner of 7th and F Streets, which reflect
4	upon the National Historic Landmark buildings.
5	As part of the Section 106 process, the
6	applicant has prepared nighttime lighting
7	studies to show how the signage and lighting
8	might impact the setting of the arena, and
9	particularly the NHLs. On the next few slides,
LO	I'll show you some of those studies. Here's a
L1	view looking east along F Street with the
L2	existing and proposed buildings. You can see
L3	the new larger consolidated LED screen at the
L4	corner and then the new LED band underneath.
L5	The veil is illuminated across the top of the
L6	building. The Reynolds Center is located in the
L7	foreground on the left. In general, staff is
L8	concerned about any increased intensity of light
L9	cumulatively from the new LED displays,
20	lighting, and the veil.
21	Here is a view looking west along F
22	Street. Again, the Reynolds building is in the

foreground. In this view, the veil is the most
evident illuminated element. Overall, staff is
appreciative of the additional design
development that has occurred, as well as the
additional study of the lighting effects. As we
noted previously, the redesigned arena will
appear prominently in this setting, and it is a
great opportunity to help improve the setting
and enhance the public space.

To do this, we again recommend the applicant continue to refine and unify the composition of all elements of the building to better respect the setting of the National Historic Landmarks. In particular, the overall composition of the design, including the building, large LED display boards, newly introduced LED band, and the veil, could be further integrated, elevating the overall design and reflecting the arena's importance within downtown and its prominent location adjacent to two NHLs. We also suggest eliminating or reducing the proposed LED band, particularly at

the corner of 7th and F Streets, to minimize visual and lighting impacts on the setting of the NHLs.

And as the design is further improved, staff requests the applicant submit, as part of the next review, a complete lighting plan with the location and specification of building lighting, including foot-candles, lumens, color temperature, and hours of operation for all elements that create exterior light, including but not limited to the digital boards and bands, the information board, the veil, and interior lighting inside the large glazing walls, pedestrian-level lighting, and any exterior uplighting, and a daytime street view from the area around F and 9th Street Northwest to better understand the impact of the veil on the surrounding area.

This information, along with the other requests I have previously mentioned, will help clarify aspects of the proposal and ensure the design is both meeting the applicant's goals,

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1	while complementing this important setting
2	within downtown Washington, DC.
3	Again, we want to recognize the
4	applicant team for their work thus far. As this
5	is a concept review, the comments and
6	recommendations of the Commission will help
7	guide the design development prior to returning
8	for additional review. This concludes my
9	presentation. I have incorporated the
10	recommendations into my presentation, but I have
11	them here for your reference.
12	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you.
13	MS. HERR: Okay. The applicant and
14	their design team are here to answer any
15	questions that you may have. Thank you.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. Thank you,
17	Jamie. We appreciate the presentation. And we
18	do welcome our guests from the design team when
19	we recognize that you're here. And if you have
20	any comments, you're okay. Well, we're going
21	to move on then. Do any of the commissioners
22	online or in person have any questions for

1	Jamie? Any questions?
2	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Madam Chair?
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Oh, yes.
4	COMMISSIONER COZART: Hi. Jamie, thank
5	you for the presentation. I'm wondering if you
6	could say just a little bit more about the
7	recommendation of the integration of the veil
8	and the LED display, and there was - and a third
9	part that you mentioned. Yes.
10	MS. HERR: So obviously, this is a
11	topic that has come up constantly within the
12	design review. And I think it's really up to
13	the applicant's design team to take all the
14	comments that they've received, not just from us
15	but from others. And I think those comments
16	have ranged anywhere from eliminating the veil
17	entirely to basically better integrating it with
18	the building and the street level and all of the
19	different elements that they've added to the
20	building to make it a unified, cohesive design
21	as opposed to a disparate set of elements.
22	COMMISSIONER COZART: Thank you.

1	CHAIR GOODMANN: That answers your
2	question? Okay.
3	COMMISSIONER DIXON: I just wanted to
4	say
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Any other questions?
6	Yes. Commissioner Dixon.
7	COMMISSIONER DIXON: I think it's a
8	fascinating slide.
9	I think it's a fascinating slide.
10	That's why I'm I call for it. And I wonder
11	if Mr. Barnhard could come back in and talk to
12	us about the Space Station coming to DC. It's a
13	very, very futuristic-looking building site.
14	But what I like about this, if you notice, the
15	modern image we have of the of the building,
16	and then look to the right, there's an analog
17	clock, which I think is really interesting.
18	It's like an analog clock in an image with a
19	building that looks like it's very futuristic.
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Very observant
21	COMMISSIONER COZART: I'm impressed
22	with

1	(Simultaneous speaking.)
2	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes, Commissioner
3	Dixon, there
4	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Does that not say
5	a lot?
6	COMMISSIONER COZART: that was very
7	good.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yeah.
9	COMMISSIONER DIXON: I don't know if
10	you all picked that slide.
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: That's right.
12	COMMISSIONER DIXON: But that's really
13	cool.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay.
15	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Thank you.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: So, back to the
17	future. We are
18	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yeah.
19	CHAIR GOODMANN: Any other comments on
20	here?
21	COMMISSIONER DIXON: No.
22	CHAIR GOODMANN: No? Okay. Any other

1	commissioners and do commissioners have any
2	additional questions, Brian, or our
3	commissioners online? No? Okay.
4	Well, hearing no more questions then,
5	we are looking for a motion to
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: So moved, Madam
7	Chair.
8	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Second.
9	CHAIR GOODMANN: It has been moved and
LO	seconded that we approve the comments for the
L1	concept plans for the Capital One Arena
L2	improvements. So Commissioner Dixon made the
L3	motion. And Vice Chair Hewlett seconded it. So
L4	now we're open for discussion. And I'm going to
L5	start with Commissioner Cozart.
L6	COMMISSIONER COZART: Well, thanks
L7	again to the staff for their work on this really
L8	important project. And obviously, it's very
L9	important to the District. And appreciate the
20	way the project team has really responded to a
21	lot of the comments. I really, in particular,
22	like that the improved transparency of the

materials, of the building itself, you know,
kind of night and day, certainly, of the
existing condition.

I also like the inclusion of the limestone as a way to really connect with the kind of surrounding character and also appreciate kind of the art panels that just -- it really, I think, creates kind of an -- at a street level, kind of an art district feel to it. So appreciate that.

and I was particularly compelled. I was at the Arena Stage yesterday. And just the view that you have from inside the Arena Stage to looking at the buildings around The Wharf, it really reminded me of this idea of when you're inside one building and being able to see the others through that transparency and experience, that you're not in one place - you're in a neighborhood - that that really matters. So appreciate, you know, kind of the attention to that and how the result of this -- these revisions kind of speak to that. And that was

1	in one of the slides from the presentation
2	today.
3	So, encourage continued work to that
4	end. And really, helping to, I guess, tell the
5	story of how all of these pieces fit together, I
6	think that's going to be important as we go
7	forward as well. But really excited about the
8	project overall, excited about where we are in
9	terms of the design, and very excited to move
10	forward.
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. Thank you,
12	Commissioner Cozart.
13	Next, we have Commissioner Stidham.
14	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Thank you for
15	the presentation. I think the timing is a
16	little interesting with the Capitals and the
17	Stanley Cup. So
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Go Caps.
19	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: I appreciate the
20	facade changes. I think they do a better job of
21	integrating well, first of all, you know, it
22	took the plainness out of the facade and took in

1	more of an interesting material to give it a
2	little bit more significance and to tie it a
3	little bit more into the community. So I think
4	those changes are great they they made, along
5	with the changes in the entrances.

You know, the veil seems like an addon. It doesn't feel like it is part of the
overall design. It feels like it was just
plopped on top. So, I think that there needs to
be some additional work in making the entire
design more cohesive so that all of the pieces
are working together and feel like they are
integrated and not just stuck on the top.

I mean, it's a complicated project because you're trying -- you're in a historic area, so you want to be sensitive to the setting, but yet you want to create a unique urban experience. So you're going to have to find that balance between integration into the setting and making yourself stand out, in a way.

I -- you're not there yet. So I'm really glad that it's in for comments on concept, because I

1	think you have some work to do. But you're at
2	least moving in the right direction. So thank
3	you for the changes.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
5	Commissioner Stidham.
6	Commissioner Argo?
7	COMMISSIONER ARGO: I agree with the
8	comments that we've already heard. I appreciated
9	the emphasis on the fact that I don't know if
LO	there was much emphasis, but that the visitors
L1	are arriving from four different Metro stops,
L2	which you don't necessarily appreciate until you
L3	think about it, and so how that visitor
L4	experience is experienced from so many different
L5	angles and perceptions. And that's something to
L6	keep I think, to keep in mind, in the front
L7	of our minds as we continue this experience, the
L8	in reviewing this plan. I think I'm
L9	looking at my notes.
20	Other than that, I think we're moving
21	in the in the right direction and to continue
22	to hope we continue to see in the design the

1	kind of activation that we're seeing here and
2	that has been and it has been emphasized by
3	several commenters and commissioners.
4	Appreciate the work. This is it's exciting.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. Thank you,
6	Commissioner Argo.
7	Vice Chair Hewlett?
8	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: I like it. I
9	really, really like it. I like the
LO	increased transparency. I like the street-level
L1	artwork and the team history. I think that's a
L2	nice thing to incorporate. I love the modified
L3	veil and the updated materials. And I
L4	respectfully disagree with my colleague, I love
L5	the veil, right? And it might be because I'm a
L6	hat person. I put that hat on, and I wear it
L7	with attitude.
L8	And I think that just is just
L9	beautiful. It sets it off. It's a major, major
20	arena, and it should stand out. At the same
21	time, I do think a little bit more refinement is
22	great you know in terms of the historic sites

1	to make sure we respect those historic sites. I
2	come there a lot, and I always take the Metro.
3	So I like that, moving the entrance right there
4	a little bit closer and wider. And so you're
5	not standing in line forever and ever when as
6	they search your purse and whatnot.
7	But it's I just think it's really,
8	really nice and exciting and vibrant. And I
9	think I do like a little bit more landscaping
10	there, though. That would be good too. But
11	that's all I had to say on that. I thank you so
12	much for working with us. And I thank you, Ms.
13	Herr, for your presentation.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
15	Hewlett.
16	Commissioner Green?
17	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Thank you very
18	much.
19	I just want to start by saying I
20	appreciate the efforts of the applicant. The
21	design has moved, you know, since the last time
22	it was here. And certain elements I, you

know, particularly appreciate, like, the
addition of street-level artwork and the team
history, but there still are some overall larger
concerns that I still have. You know, as we
talked about previously, the design intent of
the original building was to make a vast arena
appear to be a series of small structures. Of
course, it couldn't achieve that.

And rightfully, the current rehabilitation is prioritizing making the building appear as a coherent whole. And the trick is to really make it one coherent whole, not repeating the -- repeating the error -- the original error of making it appear to be a bunch of different parts that are each responding to their own -- sort of their own microenvironment. And so I think -- you know, and this one's got a -- and this has the added challenge of being in a very special location and needing to respect the two NHLs in the area while necessarily asserting its presence. large building, and it should be a large

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building.

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So a couple specific things. I still think the lower 20 to 30 feet of the building are really important in the pedestrian experience. And I'm concerned that the changes since the last time, removing some of the exterior-facing retail spaces to improve access and amenities for scheduled arena events, could unfortunately undermine the urban vitality of the area. I'm not sure that that's exactly achieving what it's setting out to do.

And when we move to the veil, the veil still appears to be disjointed, and it doesn't have the cohesion needed to hold the building together and really contribute meaningfully to the urban environment. And additionally, some of the relationships between this new design element, the veil, and the large rectangular video screens is not yet well integrated. They're working against each other.

The extensive lighting plan is exciting, but that alone will not achieve the

1	goal of activating the neighborhood if the
2	broader architectural and urban planning issues
3	remain unresolved. And to sort of to
4	conclude, you know, to better serve both its
5	operational and business objectives, I think
6	this design would benefit from a balancing a
7	slight rebalancing of priorities. This would
8	ensure that the facility continues to contribute
9	to the vibrancy and character of this city's one
10	of its most important civic spaces.
11	The building really needs to become a

single building. And even with the proposed revisions, which moved it closer in that direction, it's still not there. And this is both in the overall massing, which -- again, largely with the deployment of the veil, which is not yet coherent and in details. And in the current revision, it's the addition of even more new materials, which in some ways is working against that integration into a single building.

I just think it needs to become one single urban building. And once that happens,

1	as a part of that, then I think paying attention
2	to its siting and the views of it from other
3	buildings, especially the National Portrait
4	Gallery, can really be resolved at that point.
5	But I do appreciate the efforts. I can see the
6	movement. I just believe a bit more is
7	necessary to really make this building both do
8	its job as an arena and be a good neighbor to
9	the buildings around it. Thank you.
10	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
11	Commissioner Green.
12	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams?
13	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS:
14	Commissioner Green always steals my thunder.
15	No, I wholeheartedly agree with his comments.
16	And I wrote Ms. Herr politely said refine and
17	unify. Yes. I wrote, my words, hodgepodge of
18	good ideas with no one having a primacy. And so
19	I think the I a hundred percent agree with
20	the intent. Like, this should be a marquee
21	building. I my preservation peers are going
22	to be like, What?

I'm less concerned about the NHLs. I think that those buildings are very strong, and they can stand on their own. But your building needs to stand on its own, and right now, it doesn't, right? You're -- you've got a bunch of different things going on that do not sort of -- it's not a cohesive whole.

I personally, I do like that you -- the glazing and the material -- the material changes, I think they help, but I'm not sure they do what you want it to do, right? Then it starts to feel more like the theater across the street, and some of those -- which is just more, like, kind of pedantic. We've got those everywhere.

And if you're trying to really go,
Well, I don't think the veil works as it is. It
needs to go further, you either need to take it
off and kind of tone down the building or just,
like, go for it like, I'll -- like the Vegas
Sphere kind of thing, where you're integrating
the digital and the roof, like -- because all

	these different parts, i just it's not
2	something's not working. Datum lines aren't
3	lining up, things like that.
4	So I encourage you to go back and look
5	at it. And I think you can you either need
6	to be timid or you need to be bolder. And
7	you're kind of in the middle right now. And I
8	don't think you've quite hit the right note. So
9	again, you're at concept, so it's it all
10	is not lost. But I encourage you to just kind
11	of keep pushing and thinking about how this can
12	be as Commissioner Green says, it's a big
13	building. It's going to be a big building.
14	The way it is now, kind of I used to
15	have a very fat cat who would hide behind very
16	skinny things. And he wasn't hiding. And
17	that's kind of what the building is. So it's
18	like, hey, let's celebrate what it is and allow
19	it to be its own marquee building. That's my
20	comment.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
22	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.

Commissioner Dixon?
COMMISSIONER DIXON: Well, I like this
fat cat idea. And also, you know, I'm not a hat
person.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER DIXON: I'm not a hat
person. But I like I think this is like a
crown, crown on winning teams, on a winning
city. So I don't know how you can integrate it.
And I like the idea of going further. I like
to go further stuff. So maybe a bigger hat.
But also, I have a question: the the
all the screens are used can be used as
also television screens? So if we have a New
Year's, we can also have a the ball that
image on there these are image screens, not
just digital with the with the with the
characters. It's going to be okay.
PARTICIPANT: Any content.
COMMISSIONER DIXON: Any I mean, I'm
assuming it's like like Times Square and that
kind of thing. I also wanted to say I just

1	well, I like the newness of it. And
2	Commissioner Green is a is an academician and
3	a recognized, knowledgeable person and stuff.
4	But I think we're going beyond historical
5	building structures here. We're making a new
6	statement for a city that's moving forward and
7	upward, and to the Space Station concept.
8	So I think I'm very I'm
9	encouraged. I certainly would like you to
LO	incorporate the thoughts of my colleagues, but
L1	I'm liking the idea. Also, I would like to
L2	suggest that you when you get this done
L3	I'm not trying to promote your work, but that
L4	you talk to the people at the stadium. We might
L5	need a crown on that one, too, so we have two
L6	buildings that have similar kind of a new genre,
L7	kind of a pitch. So keep up the good
L8	whatever you're doing. And I'm encouraged,
L9	excited. Isn't that so I said excited? I'm
20	excited.
21	Go ahead. I'm sorry, Mr. Cash, your
22	Madam Chair.

1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
2	Commissioner Excited Dixon. I appreciate
3	everything that really love your enthusiasm.
4	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Not much
5	excitement these days, you know, I could say.
6	CHAIR GOODMANN: Commissioner Cash?
7	COMMISSIONER CASH: Well, I'm going to
8	associate myself with Vice Chair Hewlett. I
9	really think that the design is great. I think
LO	that it's come a long way from even what this
L1	Commission saw. I saw it maybe a few months
L2	before. And the veil was not necessarily
L3	clicking with me. But I think that a lot of the
L4	improvements on the veil, making it more
L5	transparent, making it instead of, like,
L6	swooping out, it's now kind of staying closer to
L7	the building. I think a lot of that has really
L8	gotten me comfortable with the veil.
L9	And I'm actually going to ask you to go
20	back to a slide 2. If you could go back to
21	slide 29. I think one of the underrated stories
22	about what's going on with this and remember,

1	this is it's not a new building we're talking
2	about. Like, we're we're
3	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Right.
4	COMMISSIONER CASH: rehabbing a very
5	old building, trying to fix
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Right.
7	COMMISSIONER CASH: a lot of what's
8	wrong.
9	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Right.
10	COMMISSIONER CASH: But I don't know
11	how many people have gone down 6th Street, what
12	it looks like right now, but this is what 6th
13	Street will look like now. I mean, if you go
14	down there right now on the left, that was the
15	Jackson Graham Building, which was the old Metro
16	headquarters, which was a horrible, brutalist,
17	concrete thing. And it was fine because the
18	what's at Cap One right now essentially looks
19	like a giant loading dock.
20	But I mean, I think that the
21	improvements to 6th Street by expanding the
22	sidewalk and making this entrance where it's at

1	ground level because, like, right now, if you
2	want to use that entrance back there - I mean,
3	it looks like a loading dock - you have to go,
4	like, up a ramp to keep all the, like,
5	headphones or something out there where you have
6	to like, the purses where you have to put
7	your phones. So I think that kind of the untold
8	story about reactivating 6th Street here is a
9	really big deal, because I don't know if
10	you've ever been in the arena and, like, tried
11	to just make your way out. I always seem to
12	somehow end up on 6th Street, right there where
13	the cars are coming out, and I'm just looking
14	around, not sure where I'm at in this tiny
15	little sidewalk.
16	So I think it's really exciting. If
17	you're not a fan of the veil, you've got 6th
18	Street here, which doesn't have as much veil.
19	So but I think that the reactivation of 6th
20	Street, along with the rehabilitations going on
21	with the Jackson Graham Building and all that
22	stuff, I think it's really just making one of

these streets that feels like an alley right now
kind of come back to life. And I think it
offers a lot of opportunity with stuff going on
on the other side of the street to actually kind
of activate stuff here rather than just having
some loading dock.

So I'm really excited about this side of the building. I'm excited about what's going to come eventually when we see the stuff that's going to talk more about the -- what's going on in the streets around the actual arena instead of the arena itself. But I really thank the team for the improvements they've made. I'm sure there'll be more improvements. But I'm very happy with where this has come to. So thanks.

CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much, Commissioner Cash.

And I'd just like to, again, thank the applicants for listening to the Commission the last time and making improvements. I believe in the design. And I'd like to associate myself

1	with all the comments of all the commissioners,
2	because I, too, am somewhere in the middle. I
3	do think that I lean toward the fact that
4	you've made great improvements in the veil. I
5	think it's much improved over the last visit.
6	I'm not sure it's finished yet, but I
7	congratulate you on that.

And I live in an old town where we have to retrofit 200-year-old buildings for -- oldest town west of the Mississippi. And it's much smaller than DC. But retrofitting old buildings into new venues and even building new buildings between historic buildings or on a street full of historic buildings is very challenging. do want to recognize the challenge that you're confronted with here. And while I don't live in DC, I do stay at the Monaco almost every month when I come here. So I feel like that's my neighborhood, and I love it. And I do feel like those streets are screaming to be closed in many respects around that site in some ways, I'm just saying.

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The Christmas Christmas shopping was
great in front of the hotel there, the Portrait
Gallery. These are incredible historic assets
in the in Washington, DC. And so the
challenge I'm just acknowledging that your
challenge is great, but I think that you're
working toward a better product that I think is
going to work. So I think limestone is nice
because it calls out to the surrounding
neighborhoods.

I do love the art because it also speaks to the art in the Portrait Gallery, but also just the great art in -- and the artistic nature of what often happens in the building, not last night, but most often, frequently, right? So I just think that we want to continue to support you in your efforts to create this signature landmark in DC and celebrate it when it opens. I think there's more work, and I feel like you're listening. So I just want to say, again, thank you, and continue to be respectful of the setting. And thanks for your good work.

1	Can the secretary please confirm the
2	motion and call the roll?
3	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was
4	made by Commissioner Dixon and seconded by Vice
5	Chair Hewlett.
6	Commissioner Cozart?
7	COMMISSIONER COZART: Yes.
8	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
9	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Yes.
10	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?
11	COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes.
12	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
13	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Green?
17	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes.
18	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
19	Williams?
20	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
21	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?
22	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.

1	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
2	COMMISSIONER CASH: Yes.
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you
4	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Thank you.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Meghan.
6	The motion has carried. Agenda item 6C
7	is a request to approve comments on the concept
8	master plan for the Civil War Defenses of
9	Washington Management Plan Amendment. And Laura
10	Shipman is going to be making the presentation.
11	Thank you, Laura.
12	MS. SHIPMAN: Thank you.
13	Good afternoon, Chair Goodmann and
14	Commissioners. The National Park Service
15	submitted concepts for an updated management
16	plan for the Civil War Defenses of Washington,
17	also known as the Fort Circle Parks. Today, we
18	are looking at concept master plan-level review
19	where the Commission should be focused on issues
20	such as consistency with the Comprehensive Plan
21	and other policies, historic preservation and
22	environmental considerations, any particularly

1	unique and/or complex issues, and meaningful
2	differences between alternatives, if applicable.
3	The Civil War Defenses of Washington
4	Management Plan will amend the 2004 Fort Circle
5	Parks General Management Plan and will evaluate
6	and update management zones park-wide to meet
7	current and future needs. Management plans
8	typically cover a broad area, providing high-
9	level guidance on land management and park uses.
10	Later stages in park development include
11	development concept plans, which develop major
12	park elements. The Reimagine Anacostia Park
13	Development Concept Plan is an example. Then
14	there's the project design, which advances
15	design for specific elements, such as the
16	parkland rehabilitation design the Commission
17	recently reviewed, and finally, construction and
18	implementation.
19	As background, the Civil War Defenses
20	of Washington were built as a circle of
21	fortifications on high ground to protect
22	Washington, DC, during the Civil War. The 1902

1	McMillan Plan sought to revitalize these
2	neglected areas by connecting the forts with a
3	parkway. While never fully realized, this
4	initiative spurred preservation efforts and
5	public investment. By the mid-20th century,
6	these battleground remnants were turned into
7	federal parks. Today, the parks form a historic
8	greenbelt with prominent views to and from the
9	city.
10	This is an overall map of the Civil War
11	Defenses of Washington. The majority of the
12	parks are located in the District, with one
13	located in Maryland, Fort Foote, and one in
14	Virginia, Fort Marcy. Along the left, you can
15	also see the seven management zone categories
16	from the 2004 General Management Plan. The
17	proposed concepts retain the existing management
18	zone categories and revise the existing zoning
19	definitions to adjust vegetation management
20	descriptions and accessibility features.
21	Two new zones are also introduced,
22	including the site-sensitive recreation zone and

1	the community garden zone. The site-sensitive
2	recreation zones are intended to allow use to
3	allow use for recreation that is not ground-
4	disturbing in areas with archeological
5	resources. And the community garden zones have
б	been applied to the locations of existing
7	community gardens. Staff finds the two new
8	management zones will complement the existing
9	zone categories and enhance the visitor
10	experience by formalizing community uses within
11	the parks and by protecting cultural resources
12	without prohibiting recreational use altogether.
13	NPS noted the existing GMP does not
14	adequately accommodate future planning and
15	changes that have occurred since its adoption.
16	To ensure more frequent adjustments to changing
17	conditions, staff recommends NPS consider
18	developing and incorporating a process for
19	periodic amendments to the management zones to
20	address emerging needs and any significant
21	archeological and natural resource discoveries.
22	Access to and connections between the

1	Civil War Defenses of Washington are limited.
2	And in some cases, steep paths and unsafe
3	conditions make it hard for pedestrians and
4	cyclists to enter the parks. Staff recommends
5	the management plan amendment identify existing
6	streets, sidewalks, and trails where it's
7	possible to improve access and connections
8	between the Civil War Defenses of Washington
9	historic fort sites and surrounding communities.
10	Future trail planning should aim to create a
11	continuous, accessible, and well-maintained
12	trail network linking all the Civil War Defenses
13	of Washington parks.
14	NPS notes that many residents and
15	visitors feel that there aren't enough
16	recreation options in the Civil War Defenses
17	parks, because so much of the land is reserved
18	for cultural and natural resources. People
19	often propose uses and improvements for these
20	areas that are inconsistent with the
21	preservation requirements because the park's
22	significance is not readily apparent to the

public. With this plan update, the aim is to balance the management of federal parkland with local community needs.

Staff recommends continued engagement with adjacent communities to understand and incorporate their recreation and facility needs into the planning process and to discuss the land management constraints and opportunities. Additionally, improved visitor amenities and signage are needed to guide visitors and increase awareness of the historic importance of the park's cultural resources. Community groups have voiced interest in a continued volunteering and stewardship role in the Civil War Defenses of Washington parks. Therefore, staff recommends NPS continue to actively partner with public and nonprofit entities on programs which can enrich the visitor experience and provide educational services.

Significant archeological and natural resources have been identified since the adoption of the existing GMP. As a result, some

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1	archeological resources are outside of the
2	current plan's cultural and natural resource
3	zoning designations. Staff supports efforts to
4	protect these recently discovered resources
5	through revisions to the management zone
6	designations. In terms of viewsheds,
7	historically, the views from the forts were
8	critical in the site selection and design
9	process to ensure that the Army had clear line
10	of sight for enemy troops approaching the city.
11	However, many of the vistas from the forts are
12	overgrown with vegetation and blocked by
13	development over time.
14	Staff supports the aim to protect or
15	restore significant viewsheds and recommends
16	continued evaluation of additional vistas that
17	could be maintained or reestablished through the
18	Civil War throughout the Civil War Defenses
19	parks. Additionally, NPS notes that
20	uncontrolled growth of invasive of invasive
21	plants limits access to trails, recreation
22	areas, and important cultural or natural

resources. Staff recommends the amendment include an invasive species management plan to prevent overgrowth in the future.

The plan update separates the parks into four focus areas that geographically encircle the capital from west to east and include George Washington Memorial Parkway and Rock Creek Park West, labeled 1 through 3; Rock Creek Park East, labeled 4 through 8; and National Capital Parks-East North, labeled 9 through 11; and finally National Capital Parks-East South, labeled 12 and 13. The proposed updates to the focus area management zones are based on consideration of present and future desired conditions, consistent application across parks, and expansion of compatible public use.

First, we'll take a look at the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Rock Creek Park West focus area. This area includes Fort Marcy, Battery Kemble and Palisades Park, and Fort Reno. No management zone changes are proposed

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1	for Fort Marcy, Battery Kemble, and Palisades
2	Park. Proposed management zone changes to Fort
3	Reno include a new site-sensitive recreation
4	zone, as well as community and visitor use
5	zones. Significant archeological resources
6	connected to the former Reno community were
7	identified at Fort Reno. Therefore, staff
8	recommends careful consideration of impacts to
9	cultural resources at Fort Reno with any future
10	planning.

Next is the Rock Creek Park East focus area, which includes the Missouri Avenue corridor, Fort Slocum, Fort Totten, the Barnard Hill and Fort Totten corridors, and Barnard Hill. Most of this area is designated currently as connecting corridors and cultural resource zones. The proposed changes include providing opportunities for recreation, formalizing community uses, and adding natural resource zoning. The northeast quadrant of the District is identified as an area with less dense tree canopy cover. Therefore, staff supports

management zone changes to protect the character of wooded and densely vegetated areas in Rock Creek Park East.

Additionally, staff recommends the amendment identify strategies and areas within the Rock Creek Park East focus area to increase tree canopy cover while preserving any significant views and limiting impacts to archeological resources.

The next focus area is National Capital Parks-East North, which includes Fort Mahan,

Fort Dupont, and Fort Stanton. This focus area currently includes primarily natural and cultural resource management zones. The proposed concepts expand recreation and community use areas to the extent possible and improve connectivity. The Fort Dupont concept includes two options for proposed zoning. The zoning options are the same, except option two adds a connecting corridor zone along Missouri Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Ridge Road, Fort Dupont Drive, and Fort Davis Drive.

Staff supports the proposed connecting
corridor zone in option two, for Fort Dupont, as
the addition of this management zone will allow
opportunities to increase multimodal
connectivity and safety around and through the
park, providing provided that adverse impacts
to natural areas are avoided or minimized.

And finally, the National Capital

Parks-East South focus area includes Shepherd

Parkway and Fort Foote. Currently, this area is

primarily zoned for the protection of natural

resources due to the dense vegetation and steep

slopes.

Proposed changes encourage
opportunities for site-sensitive recreation and
enhance connectivity to surrounding
neighborhoods. The Commission approved site
development plans in June 2024 for the Shepherd
Parkway, Parkland Rehabilitation Project, which
will improve the existing park site and offer
residents of all ages a variety of amenities and
recreational opportunities. Therefore, staff

supports the change from natural zone to recreation zone proposed for Parkland to align with the approved recreational improvements to the park.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington sites touch all four quadrants of the District, as well as part of Maryland and Virginia. Continued coordination with state and local agencies is crucial for future planning to ensure appropriate updates to land management and zoning. NPS also notes that limited staff and resources compromise overall management of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and that administrative tools to enhance park management are needed. Staff encourages the use of a variety of management and maintenance strategies, including partnerships, cooperative management agreements, or, when appropriate, transfer of administrative jurisdiction to improve these parks and create a unified open space network.

The National Park Service initiated

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1	public scoping for the management plan
2	amendments environmental assessment in March,
3	with the public comment period open until May
4	9th. This concept review is early in the
5	management planning process. And there will be
6	additional opportunities for the public to
7	provide input on the amendment. The applicant
8	anticipates releasing a draft environmental
9	assessment for public review and comment in the
10	fall of this year.
11	With that, staff supports the National
12	Park Service goal to balance the protection of
13	cultural and natural resources within the Civil
14	War Defenses of Washington, with the provision
15	of expanded community uses and improvements to
16	the visitor experience, and recommends the
17	Commission approve the comments on the proposed
18	concepts for amendments to the management plan
19	that are listed on the following pages and that
20	I touched on throughout the presentation.
21	And that concludes my presentation. I
22	would like to introduce National Park Service

1	Superintendent, Brian Joyner, who will make a
2	few remarks about this planning effort. Thank
3	you.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Laura.
5	Mr. Joyner?
6	MR. JOYNER: And we're back.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay.
8	MR. JOYNER: Good afternoon,
9	Commissioners. I'm Brian Joyner, the
10	superintendent at Rock Creek Park. And I
11	represent all three of the superintendents in
12	the park units involved in the Civil War
13	Defenses of Washington, DC, this afternoon. And
14	I'm joined by my colleague Christine Bruins, the
15	planning portfolio manager for the National
16	Capital Region. In 2004, the National Park
17	Service completed a management plan for the
18	Civil War Defenses of Washington, formerly known
19	as Fort Circle Parks.
20	The plan established management zones
21	and allowed uses for the 19 forts and green
22	spaces in between. In the 20 years plus

following the plan's completion, we've heard from local residents a desire for better utilization of the spaces and for additional recreational amenities. The National Park Service has recognized that many of the fort sites and open spaces are isolated and lack connectivity with each other and to the other parks and other community networks.

In addition, significant archeological and natural resources have been identified since 2004. As a result, some archeological resources are located outside of the cultural and natural resource zoning designations. Updating the Civil War Defenses of Washington Management Plan provides an opportunity for the NPS to, with community input, revisit zoning and allowable uses park-wide to protect the resources for future generations while considering more flexible zoning to meet community recreation needs. I look forward from hearing -- to hearing from the commissioners and any public comments that are to come by. Thank you.

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1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you.
2	Ms. Bruins, did you have a comment you
3	wanted to share? Okay. No. Okay, great.
4	Well, Laura, thank you. And
5	Superintendent Joyner, thank you very much. We
6	appreciate the presentation.
7	Do the commissioners have any
8	questions, commissioners online or in person for
9	our speakers today? Yes, sir. Commissioner
10	Dixon?
11	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Fort Stanton, I
12	didn't pick up what changes or what in
13	dealing with Fort Stanton, what was recommended
14	in the report. I'm not asking for you to go
15	through the whole thing. I'm just curious. I
16	didn't I'm trying to follow
17	MS. SHIPMAN: We can pull up the slide,
18	and Superintendent Joyner or Christine, if you
19	want to go through the changes to Fort Stanton?
20	MS. BRUINS: Sure, I can
21	COMMISSIONER DIXON: And let me tell
22	you one let me tell you one of my

1	MS. BRUINS: I can take that.
2	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Let me tell you
3	one of my focuses. The connectivity between
4	Howard Road and Marion Barry Avenue now, is that
5	is that been is that still there, or is it
6	there because it gives access to Fort Stanton to
7	people who are on Marion Barry Avenue now and
8	the folks in Fort Stanton itself? That's one of
9	my that's my one of my real focuses,
10	talking about connectivity.
11	MS. BRUINS: So the proposed changes at
12	Fort Stanton are right now, it's zoned almost
13	entirely as a natural resource management zone.
14	We're establishing a viewshed management area
15	in the area shown in orange by the red dotted
16	line. That's an area
17	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yeah.
18	MS. BRUINS: where the community
19	watches fireworks and has a
20	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
21	MS. BRUINS: great view of Downtown.
22	So we're proposing to manage that viewshed for

1	the community. We're rezoning the areas near
2	the Smithsonian Institute that's been
3	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
4	MS. BRUINS: transferred for their
5	use. We're also looking at managing views near
6	Our Lady of Perpetual Help. And there's a site-
7	sensitive recreation zone proposed in that area,
8	in that in that field, which would allow for
9	recreation so long as there's no ground-
LO	disturbing structures like concrete footings.
L1	And then the area that you're talking about, by
L2	Marion Barry, we're proposing a new walking,
L3	biking connection there. I believe there's,
L4	like, basketball courts or
L5	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
L6	MS. BRUINS: a trail. So if you see
L7	in yellow, we're rezoning from a natural to a
L8	recreation zone to formalize those uses and
L9	provide a better pathway between those local
20	streets and the fort sites themselves.
21	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Right. That's
22	what I'm so there is going to be some

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1	attention given to that connection between	
2	Howard Road and through past the basketball	
3	courts, over to Marion Barry Avenue; is that	
4	correct?	
5	MS. BRUINS: Correct.	
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Oh, good. Very	
7	good. Thank you.	
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Ms. Bruins.	
9	Thank you, Commissioner Dixon.	
10	Any other questions for Laura and team?	
11	Hearing none no questions, we're	
12	going to move on.	
13	Then was there any was there any	
14	testimony that you had okay, thank you.	
15	Then is there a motion to approve	
16	COMMISSIONER DIXON: I move. So moved.	
17	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Second.	
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Been moved and	
19	seconded that we would approve comments on the	
20	concept master plan for the Civil War Defenses	
21	of Washington Management Plan Amendment.	
22	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Thank you.	

1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
2	Commissioner Dixon, for that motion.
3	And for the second, thank you to
4	Commissioner Stidham.
5	Now, we're open for discussion. And
6	the first speaker will be Commissioner Green,
7	please.
8	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Thank you.
9	No, I just really want to applaud the
LO	Park Service for this plan. This is really
L1	important. And I just want to reinforce one of
L2	the I mean, there were many important
L3	components to this, but I just wanted to draw
L4	attention to one, that I just wanted to
L5	reinforce the importance of an invasive species
L6	management plan and just the conscious
L7	management of these viewsheds.
L8	I mean, this is such an essential part
L9	of the original design of these forts. And
20	there's nothing we can do about the new
21	development that blocks and impedes and changes
22	some of these things. But we can address the

1	invasive species, which really just, in many
2	cases, block these views. And just you know,
3	this would do so much to address the visitor
4	experience. And just want to, you know, just
5	shout out for that part and hope that it remains
6	an important part of the plan. So thank you.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
8	Commissioner Green.
9	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams?
10	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: No, I
11	will align myself with Commissioner Green's
12	eloquent comments, as usual. And I don't have
13	anything else to add. Thank you.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
15	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.
16	Commissioner Dixon?
17	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yeah, I support
18	what's been presented. I'm also excited. I
19	spent a lot of time in Fort Stanton. I used to
20	make that hike up Howard Road from my the
21	apartments we lived in on Shannon Place just off
22	of MLK, and played basketball on those courts

1	after that hike up the hill, and used to use			
2	that field to play football. Thanksgiving, we			
3	had a big, big, big football game there on			
4	Thanksgiving. The guys who thought they were			
5	professional football players showed up for that			
6	event. And after having a few after having a			
7	few sips, they were pretty good. So it's a			
8	it means a lot to me. So I'm pleased to see the			
9	connection. Thank you.			
10	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,			
11	Commissioner Dixon.			
12	Commissioner Cash?			
13	COMMISSIONER CASH: Thanks so much for			
14	the presentation, and no additional comments.			
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,			
16	Commissioner Cash.			
17	Commissioner Cozart?			
18	COMMISSIONER COZART: Really appreciate			
19	the work on this and the presentation. And			
20	kudos to the Park Service. I know this is a			
21	tough project. You all have sets of resources			
22	that are not infinite to be able to			

1	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.				
2	COMMISSIONER COZART: make this				
3	happen.				
4	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.				
5	COMMISSIONER COZART: But you have				
6	aspirations.				
7	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yeah.				
8	COMMISSIONER COZART: I was just				
9	looking at that partnerships piece and all the				
10	neighborhoods that are touched by this and how				
11	much people feel connection to, dare I say,				
12	ownership over some of these parks. So just				
13	really want to applaud you for the work on this.				
14	And look forward to seeing it going forward.				
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,				
16	Commissioner Cozart.				
17	Commissioner Stidham?				
18	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: First of all,				
19	thank you for the presentation. You know, a				
20	general management plan is probably the least				
21	glamorous thing that we do. And talking about				
22	zoning and rezoning is something you know,				

you see people's eyes glaze over. 1 2 So thank you for that. I have to say this was one of the first plans I did when I 3 4 came for the Park Service. So to see it come 5 back around is both heartening, but then I feel 6 like I've been here a long time. 7 COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: But it is 8 vitally important. Over the years, we have 9 heard that our original zoning was inconsistent 10 with the communities as they were changing. 11 And, you know, it takes us a while to be able to 12 respond to this, but we are. And we're trying 13 to find ways to integrate those resources but 14 also to protect the resources at the same time. 15 So while this is not glamorous, it does set a 16 strong foundation for moving forward on other 17 projects and continued community involvement and 18 engagement in our integration. So it is vitally 19 important. So thank you all for everybody's 20 work. 21 CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much, 2.2 Commissioner Stidham.

1	Commissioner Argo?
2	COMMISSIONER ARGO: No additional
3	comments. This is exciting. And it's just
4	great to see this kind of work happening. Not
5	glamorous but so important. Appreciate the
6	work. Thanks so much.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
8	Commissioner Argo.
9	And Vice Chair Hewlett?
10	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: I, too, applaud
11	the National Park Service for this important
12	work. And I echo the sentiments of my
13	colleagues. And no additional comments.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
15	Hewlett.
16	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Chair? Madam
17	Chair?
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes. Commissioner
19	Dixon.
20	COMMISSIONER DIXON: I want to make one
21	point. You know, we face a real challenge here
22	in the District with our parks. Most other

1	jurisdictions, big companies are very happy to				
2	put money in to help develop parks and				
3	because they got they get contact with the				
4	political leadership, and they get the extra				
5	support when they come to Congress to get things				
6	ecause they help put a park in Chicago or in				
7	someplace else.				
8	We don't have that, that extra that				
9	juice. So it's really hard for us to get folks				
10	to find money other than our own money to do it.				
11	So it's a real it's a real problem. And I				
12	just I just want that's a challenge that				
13	we're trying it's going to it's even more				
14	I guess, people even more now with some of				
15	the stuff that's going on for us to worry about				
16	the funding for our community. So I just want				
17	to make that thank the Park Service for the				
18	struggle with it. And I understand that we				
19	that's that's an issue.				
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much				
21	for highlighting that, Commissioner Dixon.				
22	And I just want to say, too, that, you				

1	know, this, as we say in Dubuque, Iowa, may lack
2	some of the sex and sizzle of other projects.
3	It is an important project. It's a very
4	important project because these parks are what
5	touches people.
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: And it also is it's
8	it's just so important to not to maintain
9	what we already have. And maintenance isn't
LO	exciting sometimes, but I think there is, as
L1	some have mentioned, some of the commissioners,
L2	excitement in being able to work with the
L3	communities within these boundaries, because
L4	it's an as we said, an opportunity for
L5	engagement. I think that, you know, this public
L6	feedback, it has you've been listening to it
L7	already. And I think that you'll continue to
L8	to listen to that.
L9	And we'll be balancing the protection
20	of the natural resource with the desires of
21	for further development and learning to how
22	to incorporate these. So I'm I think that

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1	this is a great project. And I think it is	
2	exciting. And contrary to what we say in	
3	Dubuque, I think it does have a lot of sizzle.	
4	So we're very grateful today for the	
5	presentations. And are there any further	
6	comments from the commissioners?	
7	Hearing none, can the secretary please	
8	confirm the motion and take the roll?	
9	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was	
10	made by Commissioner Dixon and seconded by	
11	Commissioner Stidham.	
12	Commissioner Cozart?	
13	COMMISSIONER COZART: Yes.	
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?	
15	COMMISSIONER STIDHAM: Yes.	
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?	
17	COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes.	
18	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?	
19	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.	
20	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?	
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.	
22	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Green?	

1	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes.
2	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
3	Williams?
4	COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?
6	COMMISSIONER DIXON: Yes.
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
8	COMMISSIONER CASH: Yes.
9	CHAIR GOODMANN: Again, thanking the
10	Park Service for their good work. They have a
11	full plate. And we appreciate the great public
12	service you provide. So thank you for being
13	here today. Thank you to Tammy.
14	Are there any further questions or
15	comments?
16	Hearing none, this concludes our open
17	session meeting for today. And our next regular
18	meeting will be on Thursday, June 5th at 1:00
19	p.m. So if there's no further business, the
20	meeting is adjourned.
21	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22	went off the record at 4:00 p.m.)

Τ	
2	This is to certify that the foregoing transcript
3	was duly recorded and accurately transcribed
4	under my direction; further, that said
5	transcript is a true and accurate record of the
6	proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for,
7	related to, nor employed by any of the parties
8	to this action in which this deposition was
9	taken; and further that I am not a relative nor
10	an employee of any of the parties nor counsel
11	employed by the parties, and I am not
12	financially or otherwise interested in the
13	outcome of the action.
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