NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEETING

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OPEN SESSION

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THURSDAY,
JUNE 5, 2025

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The meeting convened via Video Teleconference, 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

ELLIE MCGOWAN, Committee on Oversight and

Accountability United States House of

Representatives

TAMMY STIDHAM, National Parks Service

KRISTI TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS, General Services

Administration

1	NCPC STAFF PRESENT:
2	MARCEL C. ACOSTA, Executive Director TONY CHAMP, Supervisory IT Manager
3	JAMIE HERR, Urban Planner MEGHAN HOTTEL-COX, General Counsel and
4	Secretariat GRACE KIM, IT Specialist
5	MELISSA LINDSJO, Urban Planner KARIN SCHIERHOLD, Urban Planner
6	DIANE SULLIVAN, Director, Current Planning MICHAEL WEIL, Urban Planner
7	
8	ALSO PRESENT:
9	BERNARD BERNE NORMAN DONG, Urban Land Institute Washington Technical Assistance Program
10	DWAYNE GENTRY, District of Columbia Department of
11	Human Services KITTY MELLEN HOECK, Daughters of the Republic of
12	Texas DAVID RUBIN, Land Collective
13	SUSAN SORG
14	PAUL WALDEN, Public Buildings Reform Board
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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(1:00 p.m.)
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Good afternoon and
4	welcome to the National Capital Planning
5	Commission's June 5, 2025 open meeting. First,
6	Secretary Hottel-Cox, can you please take the
7	roll call?
8	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. Commissioner
9	Cozart?
10	MS. COZART: Here.
11	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
12	MS. STIDHAM: Here.
13	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo.
14	MS. ARGO: Here.
15	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
16	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Here.
17	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Here.
19	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner
20	Tunstall-Williams?
21	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Here.
22	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon?

1	MR. DIXON
2	Here. MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
3	MR. CASH: Here.
4	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner McGowan?
5	MS. MCGOWAN: Present.
6	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Marcel Acosta,
7	Executive Director, and Diane Sullivan, Director
8	of the Current Planning Division, are also in
9	the meeting.
10	CHAIR GOODMANN: Wonderful. Noting the
11	presence of a quorum, I'd like to call this
12	meeting to order. Today's meeting is live
13	streamed and will be available in a few days as
14	a video on our NCPC website. And if there's no
15	objection, the agenda, as posted, is adopted and
16	is the order of business.
17	Would you please join me and stand for
18	the Pledge of Allegiance?
19	(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Agenda item number
21	two is Report of the Chair, and I'd just like to
22	say that, first, I have acted on a delegated

1	action that took place this month pursuant to
2	the delegations of authority adopted by the
3	Commission on March 6, 2025. I approved the
4	transfer of jurisdiction of lands from the
5	National Park Service to the District of
6	Columbia for a portion of Reservation 360 at
7	Francis Field located in Northwest Washington,
8	D.C. The transfer will promote expanded
9	recreational and educational opportunities
10	through the improvement of the existing
11	recreational facilities and programming at
12	Francis Dog Park, the Francis Pool, and the
13	basketball and tennis courts. This transfer
14	will also support the use of the outdoor space
15	in the recreational field location of the
16	Francis Stevens School.
17	And, second, I have the pleasure of
18	announcing yet another retirement. Michael
19	Sherman's retirement this month is happening,
20	and Michael has been an instrumental part of
21	this agency for 28 years. He first started as
22	an intern with NCPC in 1991, and he later joined

1	the agency in 1997 as a Geographic Information
2	Systems Manager. Michael is best known for his
3	15 years as NCPC's Policy and Research Division
4	Director, where he led the team that worked on
5	the Comprehensive Plan, the Federal Capital
6	Improvements Program, Commemoration, and many
7	other special initiatives that sought to protect
8	and enhance federal assets and cultural and
9	natural resources in the nation's capital. He
10	worked on many high-profile and catalytic
11	projects, including the design of the National
12	Museum of African American History and Culture,
13	the Height Master Plan, and Beyond Granite.
14	We would also like to acknowledge
15	Michael's military service with the U.S. Army.
16	In 2022, he retired as a colonel after 26 years,
17	and he served in two combat tours.
18	Michael, we want to thank you together
19	as a commission, and I want to thank you as
20	chair of the Commission for your federal and
21	military service and wish you very much luck and
22	all the best in your next endeavor, in your next

adventure. So, thank you, Michael.

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And I just, on a personal note, want to say that, Michael, it's been a joy to work with you. You're so helpful and when I became the Chair of the Commission, and you were very good at showing me the ropes in some of these big projects, as was mentioned, very highly catalytic projects in the District and in the Capital Region. So, thank you, and I know you'll continue to contribute to the Capital Region in your next adventure. So, thank you again.

Agenda item number three is Report of the Executive Director, Marcel Acosta.

MR. ACOSTA: Thank you, Chair Goodmann, and good afternoon. Today, our team will update the Commission on the Interagency Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative, and we're also offering similar virtual presentations to the public on Thursday, June 12, and on Tuesday, June 24, and further information can be found on NCPC's website.

1	Also, on behalf of the NCPC staff, I'd
2	like to express our gratitude to Mike Sherman on
3	his well-deserved retirement. As the Chair
4	mentioned, his accomplishments as a longtime
5	member of the NCPC staff for over two decades
6	showcase his commitment to the planning
7	profession and dedication to this agency. I'd
8	also like to acknowledge his service as colonel
9	in the Army Reserve, and we thank Mike for his
10	service and wish him all the best.
11	Your packet includes my full report,
12	and I'm more than happy to answer any questions
13	that you might have.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Marcel. Do
15	any Commissioners in the Chambers or online have
16	any questions for Marcel today? Hearing none,
17	thank you, Marcel.
18	We'll move on. Agenda item number four
19	is a legislative update from Meghan Hottel-Cox.
20	Meghan.
21	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Thank you. I don't
22	have any specific legislation to report on to

1	the Commission this month, but I'm happy to
2	answer any questions on pending legislation if
3	there are any.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Very good.
5	Commissioners, do you have any questions online
6	or in the chambers, any questions for Meghan
7	Hottel-Cox today? Hearing none, we'll move on.
8	Thank you, Meghan.
9	We have five items on the open session
LO	today, three applications and two information
L1	presentations. Agenda item 5A is a request to
L2	approve final site development plans for the
L3	Texas Legation Memorial. And today we're going
L4	to be hearing from Jamie Herr on this project.
L5	Jamie.
L6	MS. HERR: Good afternoon, Chair
L7	Goodmann and members of the commission. The
L8	National Capital Memorial for commission review
L9	and approval. Just a couple of quick refreshers
20	on memorials and where we are right now in this
21	commemorative process. This is the final review
22	for this memorial, as noted here. At this

1	point, the National Capital Memorial Advisory
2	Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
3	have approved memorial. NCMAC has an advisory
4	role over the commemorative works, whereas CFA
5	and NCPC have approval authority on site and
6	design.
7	The Commission previously reviewed the site
8	selection for the memorial in December of 2021
9	and the preliminary design in March of 2024.
10	Also, a quick reminder of the required
11	criteria outlined in the Commemorative Works Act
12	for site and design approval. This includes
13	locating the work and surroundings that are
14	relevant to the subject and in a location that
15	does not interfere with an existing work. The
16	location should also protect open space and
17	existing public use, as well as cultural and
18	natural resources.
19	And with that, I'll get into the
20	submission. In 2020, under Public Law 116-248,
21	Congress authorized the Daughters of the
22	Republic of Texas to build a commemorative work

in Washington, D.C. to commemorate and honor those who, as representatives of the Republic of Texas, served in the District of Columbia as diplomats to the United States and made possible the annexation of Texas as the 28th state.

The proposed memorial location is on the south side of Indiana Avenue N.W., as noted here. As part of the memorial design process, the applicant studied existing memorials in the area for context.

The memorial site is an existing planter surrounded by a low stone-clad wall. The site is between the Argentine Naval Attaché and public sidewalk on the south side of Indiana Avenue. The proposed memorial will not impact existing pedestrian circulation or access, and the site itself has good access and visibility from the adjacent public sidewalk and street. The existing planter contains a light fixture and trees that will be removed as part of the memorial construction.

The final memorial has not changed

significantly since the prior review and includes two main elements, the stone memorial and the landscaping. For the stone memorial, the design for the memorial includes a starshaped stone base topped with a pentagon-shaped memorial plinth and a Daughters of the Republic of Texas medallion.

The applicant is proposing the star base and plinth constructed out of white Mount Airy granite, which will be topped with the 11inch diameter Daughters of the Republic of Texas Historic Sites medallion. Here are the final plinth panel details. On the three sides of the plinth closest to the sidewalk, the applicant is proposing three memorial engravings telling the story of the Texas Legation, a map of the Republic of Texas, and the Republic of Texas diplomats sent to Washington, D.C. commission previously recommended the applicant increase the size of the memorial text to improve visibility, and the final proposed text size for the left and right engraving face is

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proposed at three-quarters of an inch, which was an increase from the previous one-half inch.

The second part of the memorial design is the landscaping. The final memorial landscape is organized by two asymmetrical plant palettes oriented to the northwest corner where the memorial is located. A field of low-growing native evergreen sedge makes up the foreground, maintaining access to the plinth. Beyond the sedge is an interplanted field of meadow plants. The Sweetbay magnolia is located on axis from the memorial plinth. The selection of plants that comprise the memorial are either native to Texas or to the Mid-Atlantic of Washington, D.C.

Here is a rendering of the memorial with the proposed landscaping.

In conclusion, staff recommends the commission approve the final site development plans for the proposed Texas Legation Memorial in Washington, D.C. This concludes my presentation. I have included the executive director's recommendations, but they are listed

Τ	nere for your reference.
2	I would like to introduce Kitty Hoeck,
3	Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Special
4	Committee chairperson with the Daughters of the
5	Republic of Texas, who would like to make some
6	remarks. Thank you.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Sorry. I didn't have
8	my mic on. Thank you, Jamie, and I would
9	welcome Ms. Kitty Hoeck to make your comments to
10	the commission.
11	MS. HOECK: I just would like to extend
12	my deepest gratitude to the National Capital
13	Planning Commission and their staff, the
14	National Park Service and their staff, the
15	Commission of Fine Arts and their staff, and the
16	Daughters of the Republic of Texas and members
17	of the Legation Memorial Committee. I'd also
18	like to thank Carolyn Warlick Levins from Beyer,
19	Blender, and Belle, she's the designer of the
20	memorial, and Sarah Downing, the landscape
21	architect. There are many, many others to
22	thank.

1	We are proud of this memorial, and we
2	are proud to join all those who contributed to
3	the memorial. Thank you.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much.
5	Thanks for joining us today, and thanks for your
6	work on this project. If there are no further
7	comments, Jamie and Kitty, then we're going to
8	ask the commissioners online if they have any
9	questions or the commissioners in the chambers.
10	Are there any questions for our presenters?
11	Hearing none, then is there a motion to approve
12	the final site development plans for the Texas
13	Legation Memorial?
14	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Move approval,
15	Madam Chair.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: It's been moved by
17	Vice Chair Hewlett. Could I have a second,
18	please?
19	MS. STIDHAM: Second.
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Seconded by
21	Commissioner Stidham. And now we will open up
22	this project for discussion, and I would like to

1	start the deliberations today with Commissioner
2	Stidham.
3	MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, and thank you
4	for the presentation. This is going to be a
5	great addition to the city, a beautiful space to
6	a very great cause, so we look forward to moving
7	from this final review to construction and
8	having this available to the public to
9	understand and learn about the history.
LO	CHAIR GOODMANN: Wonderful. Thank you
L1	very much, Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner
L2	Argo.
L3	MS. ARGO: I think this is a lovely
L4	addition to our memorials and appreciate the
L5	work that's been done on it and the interest
L6	that the commission has in seeing this going
L7	forward. Thank you.
L8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
L9	Commissioner Argo. Vice Chair Hewlett.
20	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes. Thank you
21	again, Ms. Herr, and everyone for the
22	presentation. There is a lot of history there,

1	and some not as pretty in terms of what the
2	Indian Removal Act there in Texas, but this
3	memorial is important and it's supposed to tell
4	the story of how Texas became our was it 28th
5	28th state. I guess it was from 45, and I
6	think it's important to tell that story. It's
7	important for those people who worked so hard to
8	bring this to fruition as our 28th state, but I
9	hope it tells a little bit of the whole story
10	leading up to the Trail of Tears. Thank you.
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
12	Hewlett. Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.
13	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: No real
14	additional comments, other than I know this has
15	been a long time coming, so congratulations to
16	the applicant and to the staff for bringing this
17	to a close. Thank you.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
19	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams. Commissioner
20	Dixon. Commissioner Dixon. I'm going to move
21	on to Commissioner Cash, and we'll catch up with
22	Commissioner Dixon if he gets back online.

1	MR. CASH: No additional questions or
2	comments, but thanks so much for the
3	presentation.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
5	Commissioner Cash. And Commissioner McGowan.
6	MS. MCGOWAN: No additional comments.
7	Thank you for the presentation.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
9	Commissioner McGowan, and I want to thank the
10	Daughters of the Republic of Texas for working
11	with the National Park Service to update the
12	memorial design with a larger font size so that
13	the memorial is legible to visitors and with the
14	appropriate plant selection that's relevant to
15	the memorial's commemorative intent, and I look
16	forward to seeing the memorial realized and
17	visiting it when it is completed.
18	Are there any further comments or
19	questions? Hearing none, can the secretary
20	please confirm the motion and the second and
21	take the vote by roll call?
22	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was

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1	made by Vice Chair Hewlett and seconded by	
2	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Cozart.	
3	MS. COZART: Yes.	
4	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham.	
5	MS. STIDHAM: Yes.	
6	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo.	
7	MS. ARGO: Yes.	
8	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett.	
9	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.	
10	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann.	
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.	
12	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-	
13	Williams.	
14	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.	
15	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Dixon.	
16	Commissioner Cash.	
17	MR. CASH: Yes.	
18	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner McGowan.	
19	MS. MCGOWAN: Abstain.	
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: The motion has	
21	carried. Thank you, Meghan.	
22	Agenda item 5B is a request to approve	

preliminary site and building plans for the
Heritage Men's Emergency Shelter, and we're
going to hear today from Michael Weil. Michael,
thank you.

MR. WEIL: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Chair Goodmann and members of the Commission. The District Department of General Services has submitted plans to construct a new men's shelter located along New York Avenue in Northeast Washington, D.C., and this would replace the existing shelter, which suffers from limited floor space, a failing HVAC system, and outdated electrical and plumbing infrastructure.

Here's the project site located on the outskirts of the Ivy City neighborhood just to the north of Gallaudet University and east of the National Park Service's Brentwood

Maintenance Facility. The project site is part of a larger land parcel, which is owned by the federal government outlined here in red, and this was transferred to the District for its use in 2010.

The project site is currently developed with surface parking and an animal shelter with an existing forest conservation easement area along its west side.

Here are two ground view photos, one looking directly south across New York Avenue, and then the other view here faces west, looking approximately parallel to New York Avenue.

The main entrance to the new facility would be through the Welcome Center located in the northeast corner of the site, and then the new building would have two offset multi-level dormitory wings, as illustrated here in this 3D massing model of the project.

The new shelter design has a distinctive modern look with stepped facades with space for over 400 beds and 80 to 100 additional cots during colder weather. The new men's facility will also provide medical services, educational programs, recreational activities, dining, and counseling.

The project would construct on-site

parking for staff and visitors, a loading dock area, connecting access roads, and a rear patio area with vehicular access to the site provided only from Fairview Avenue in the future. In addition, the District is currently working with the National Park Service to modify the existing forest conservation easement area in order to accommodate the project, and we note that NPS will submit the revised transfer agreement to NCPC for review and approval in the future as part of our executive director's comments.

The building design takes several architectural cues from the nearby historic Hecht Warehouse Apartments, which are located just up the street from the project site, including the new shelter's stepped facade, its punched openings, and its glass and masonry exterior.

Here's the project's landscape plan, which shows approximately 25 new trees on the site, and the district is considering additional trees along the street frontage as they continue

1	to refine their plans. And NCPC staff supports
2	a more robust streetscape here so as to enhance
3	the visual quality of the corridor as an
4	important gateway into downtown Washington,
5	D.C., and we also reflect this point in our
6	executive director's recommendation comments.
7	The landscape plan shows separate,
8	mostly native planting palettes for the
9	bioretention and non-bioretention areas, with a
10	variety of meadow and pollinator species and two
11	species of milkweed, swamp milkweed and
12	butterfly milkweed. And we do have one person
13	who has signed up to testify here at today's
14	meeting who would like to urge the district to
15	add common milkweed to their plan, as well, and
16	to use all native plants and parent species.
17	However, staff has reviewed the landscape plans,
18	and we find it to be consistent with our best
19	practices guidance, and we note this as part of
20	our executive director's comments.

recommendation of the Commission, and our

So here is our preliminary approval

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1	comments have all been included in my
2	presentation here today. And before I conclude,
3	I would like to note that we do have the
4	project's land use attorney, Ms. Meredith
5	Moldenhauer, who is here in person, as well as
6	several of the design team members who are at
7	today's meeting virtually, and they are all
8	available for any questions that you may have
9	after the testimony. Thank you.
10	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Michael.
11	Are there any questions from commissioners in
12	the chambers or online? Any questions for
13	Michael? Yes, we have one question. Is there a
14	reason, I know it is in your regular site, but
15	why the buildings don't hold the straight edge?
16	Is that a programmatic choice, or is it just a
17	design choice?
18	MR. WEIL: I believe it's a design
19	choice, but I would like someone from the design
20	team to respond.
21	MS. STIDHAM: Yes. Hi. This is Suman
22	Sorg, and I'm the lead designer from Sorg

1	Architects. You know, the grid on this part of
2	Ivy City is orthogonal shifting to radial, so
3	the property lines become radial as you go east
4	on Fairview Avenue. So one of the wings
5	parallels New York Avenue, and then the other
6	one becomes a radial wing as you go east.
7	The other reason for it not following
8	all along New York Avenue is that the community
9	and the client, DHS, did not want a long block
10	institutional-looking building. They wanted
11	smaller-scale residential buildings scattered in
12	a garden, so it gives a protected courtyard
13	space both between the two wings in the front
14	and the back for outdoor gathering.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay. Thank you.
16	Thank you very much. Are there any additional
17	questions? Yes, Commissioner Cash.
18	MR. CASH: As long as we're talking
19	about design, I guess I'll bite. So one of the
20	things that really kind of leapt out to me here,
21	the patios. Like, I haven't seen that design in
22	any of the other shelters that we've done

lately, and it seems like for an institutional use like this, I mean, I would love to have a patio. I've been living in D.C. for 25 years and haven't, but it's taking away a lot of square footage that could otherwise be used for, like, program space or for shelter space. I'm just wondering what the idea behind these large patios were for a use such as this.

MS. SORG: Well, if I may answer, the COVID taught us that being an outdoor space contiguous to the residential space without going through the building mixing with other people was very important. So this shelter is designed with only 50 beds per floor, only 10 beds per dorm. And so each end of each floor is a lounge space and a quiet space, and off the lounge space is a small terrace, which is open to the sky so that people can use the terrace in small groups you know, and it's a supervised terrace. And so each dorm of 10 people or so can be let into the lounge and into the patio in a secure way.

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1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much.
2	Commissioner Cash, did you have any additional
3	questions? I see another comment coming. I
4	can't read it though, so perhaps someone could
5	help.
6	MR. CASH: I think it was someone from
7	DHS that was raising their hand.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: From DHS who had
9	raised their hand online, is there someone who
LO	wanted to comment an answer to that question?
L1	No.
L2	MR. GENTRY: I'm sorry.
L3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes?
L4	MR. GENTRY: No, my apologies. I
L5	recently joined as a panelist. But just to
L6	answer or add more context to the previous
L7	question, my name is Dwayne Gentry. I'm the
L8	facilities operations manager for the Department
L9	of Human Services.
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay. Welcome.
21	MR. GENTRY: Thank you. Thank you very
22	much for having us.

1	There's another example where we've
2	utilized a patio at the short-term family
3	housing site at The Terrell, which is at 1400
4	Clifton Avenue, and it does allow us the
5	flexibility to be able to offer or to allow for
6	more entertaining within the space rather than
7	congregating outside the space.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you for sharing
9	that information. We appreciate that.
10	Okay. Are there any further questions
11	from commissioners in the chambers or online?
12	Hearing none, we're going to now turn to public
13	testimony, and we do have one person signed up
14	to speak today, Mr. Bernard Berne, who is
15	attending the meeting virtually. You have three
16	minutes to provide your testimony. Could you
17	please first of all, are you there, Mr.
18	Berne? Mr. Berne, are you online?
19	MR. BERNE: Oh, now can you hear me?
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes, sir, we can hear
21	you. It's good to hear your voice. Go for it.
22	MR. BERNE: I was muted for some

1	reason. I said this before to you, but I'll
2	repeat it again. The landscape project plan for
3	this project, as many others, does not radically
4	conform to the NCPC's Pollinators Best Practices
5	Resource Guide. The guide states common
6	milkweed is clearly an important species that is
7	critical to the survival of the monarch
8	butterflies. This is important because now it
9	is being considered as a designation as a
10	threatened species by the Fish and Wildlife
11	Service.
12	Within meadows, landscapes, designed
13	landscapes, common milkweed should be planted,
14	along with diversity of other milkweed species,
15	on federal landscape plans to the fullest extent
16	possible and as appropriate for the site
17	conditions. Nevertheless, the landscaping does
18	not contain any information and, for some
19	strange reason, staff didn't consider this a
20	major deficiency. It is.
21	Ditches are within a broad array of

thrives in meadows. Common milkweed is adapted
to standing water, which often accumulates in
ditches. The agency should, therefore, install
common milkweed in the project's planned
stormwater retention management or bioretention
facilities. The bioretention plant schedule
contains swamp milkweed. However, this is an
early successful plant that tends to disappear
as vegetative densities increase and habitats
dry out. The planters should, therefore,
contain swamp milkweed only if the soil area
soil will not dry out, which is not likely.
The native plant or grass wildfire
mixes contain butterfly weed, Asclepias
terriburum tuberosa. However, the guide states
that studies have shown that monarch butterflies
lay fewer eggs on Asclepias tuberosa than on
other milkweeds. The agency should replace all
butterfly milkweed plugs with similar numbers of
common milkweed plugs. The agency should also
replace containers of swamp milkweed in the
bioretention plan schedule with similar numbers

Τ	of common milkweed containers. These are simple
2	changes, but they don't seem to be done.
3	The plant schedules and mixes for this
4	phase project will contain eight species of
5	plants that are either not native to North
6	America or native to North America but are not
7	native to the National Capital Region. Three of
8	these are already known to be invasive. Two of
9	the native grass wildflower mixes contain one of
10	these plants, purple cauliflower. The agency
11	should replace all non-native species with
12	species that are native to the National Capital
13	Region.
14	My written testimony could say more
15	information on this and some other things too.
16	Thank you.
17	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
18	Mr. Berne. We appreciate your input. Thank you
19	for testifying today.
20	Is there a motion to approve the
21	preliminary site and building plans for the
22	Heritage Men's Emergency Shelter?

1	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: So moved, Madam
2	Chair.
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay. It's been moved
4	by Vice Chair Hewlett. Is there a second?
5	MS. STIDHAM: Second.
6	CHAIR GOODMANN: It's been seconded by
7	Commissioner Stidham. And now I'm going to open
8	this up for commission discussion. So I will
9	start deliberations with Commissioner Cozart.
10	MS. COZART: I don't have any comments.
11	Thanks to the staff for your work on this.
12	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
13	Commissioner Cozart. Commissioner Stidham.
14	MS. STIDHAM: Thank you for the
15	presentation. We are very supportive of this
16	work. We are working with the district to re-
17	transfer this property for this use and feel
18	like it's a very good project to move forward.
19	Thank you.
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
21	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Argo online.
22	MS. ARGO: Yes. I'm very supportive of

1	this and the work that's been done. Appreciate
2	the presentation. Looking forward with our
3	approval to have this get underway. It's
4	overdue. Thank you.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
6	Commissioner Argo. Vice Chair Hewlett.
7	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes. Thank you,
8	Mr. Weil, for the presentation. And I concur
9	with my colleagues for their very positive
10	response to this initiative. I truly applaud
11	the mayor's Homeward DC initiative to begin
12	with, and these new beds and these new
13	facilities will be a tremendous asset and much
14	needed asset for people. And I just thank you
15	for that.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
17	Hewlett. Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.
18	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Thank you for
19	the presentation. And I, too, am very
20	supportive of the project. I do, I think, share
21	Commissioner Cash's concern that are we leaving
22	some development on the table for a much needed

1	resource, right? Is there a way to get
2	additional rooms and beds here? Obviously,
3	there's budgetary and other implications, but I
4	think it's worth exploring because there is, I
5	think, additional development capacity on the
6	site while still providing the outdoor sort of
7	respite that you're looking to provide them.
8	Because I can't help myself, I know
9	we're at preliminary design, the facade
10	expression feels very checkerboardy to me. So I
11	would it feels a little, I don't know, you
12	don't want to have the connotation of people
13	being pawns. So just thinking about how that
14	expression sort of evolves over time to soften a
15	little bit. It kind of seems incongruous with
16	the soft landscape around it.
17	So just something to think about as the
18	design develops. I know we're very early days,
19	but very supportive of the project and welcome
20	to see how it evolves.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
22	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams. Commissioner

1	Dixon online. Commissioner Dixon, I think we've
2	lost you. We'll come back if Commissioner Dixon
3	reappears. Commissioner Cash.
4	MR. CASH: Thank you. Not to beat a

dead horse, but I thank Commissioner Tunstall-Williams for her comments.

So, I mean, just looking at the 1400 Clifton property, I mean, they seem to have a decent size roof area. I think it's great to have that outdoor space. I know when we were looking at the shelter up on Idaho Avenue, there was a lot of pushback from the neighbors about having congregating space outdoors, and I'm hoping this is kind of a response to that where we're just going to say, okay, we're going to keep it on the site so people won't circulate the neighborhood because I think those concerns have turned out to be kind of unfounded.

So when we're talking about a constrained site that we're kind of have a lot of untapped development potential for a really huge patio for a 10-person dorm and especially,

1	as you're saying, there's going to be supervised
2	program space on each floor. I'm just thinking
3	that's extra DHS staff on each floor. I just
4	think that, while you're still at the
5	preliminary design phase, if we get, like, two
6	more beds in per floor with some of this
7	reclaimed space and have a lot more communal
8	space that will maximize the number of beds we
9	can get in here to make still a very comfortable
10	and great facility, I think it's just something
11	to look at.
12	So I'll just leave it there. So thanks.
13	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
14	Commissioner Cash. Appreciate your comments. I
15	want to thank Mr. Berne. Again, he's always
16	prepared to share thoughtful comments with us,
17	and we do appreciate that, Mr. Berne. And it
18	does help shape our approach to these projects.
19	Obviously, this is a very worthwhile
20	project, and I would like to associate myself
21	with those who have said that perhaps there's a
22	way to get a few more rooms into the design.

1	But I also want to congratulate the team for
2	identifying a living residential space for
3	vulnerable individuals that is surrounded by
4	beauty because I do think that it's very
5	important for all of us to be surrounded by
6	nature and to have spaces where we can just be
7	in direct contact with nature. So I'm reading
8	this report, found that that was significant.
9	It jumped out at me, and I thought, wow, that's
10	a powerful, that's a powerful location. I love
11	it.
12	So I do understand that we need,
13	there's a great need. So I just want to
14	congratulate the team and look forward to seeing
15	the final designs returned back to the
16	commission.
17	Are there any further questions or
18	comments? Hearing none, we'll move on. Can the
19	secretary please confirm the motion and the
20	second and take the vote by roll call?
21	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was
22	made by Vice Chair Hewlett and seconded by

1	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Cozart?
2	MS. COZART: Yes.
3	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?
4	MS. STIDHAM: Yes.
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?
6	MS. ARGO: Yes.
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?
8	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.
9	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?
10	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.
11	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-
12	Williams?
13	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.
14	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?
15	MR. CASH: Yes.
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner McGowan?
17	MS. MCGOWAN: Abstain.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much.
19	That motion has carried.
20	Agenda item 5C is a request to approve
21	final site and building plans for joint base
22	Myer-Henderson Hall unaccompanied enlisted

1	personnel barracks. And Jamie Herr returns and
2	is going to give this report. Jamie, welcome
3	back.
4	MS. HERR: Yes. I hope you're not
5	tired of me yet. All right. Good afternoon
6	again, Chair Goodmann and members of the
7	commission.
8	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on
9	behalf of the U.S. Army, has submitted the final
10	site and building plans for the unaccompanied
11	enlisted personnel barracks project at Joint
12	Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Fort Myer, Virginia
13	for commission review and approval. The
14	commission's final review of projects focuses on
15	whether the applicant addressed the comments and
16	recommendations made during preliminary review
17	on topics such as landscape design, stormwater
18	management, programming, and consistency with
19	the comprehensive plan.
20	Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall includes
21	two locations, the joint base in Fort Myer,
22	Virginia, and Fort McNair in southwest

1	Washington, D.C. Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
2	is 272 acres that is home to several Army and
3	U.S. Marine units, including the headquarters
4	for the joint base, command battalion, and U.S.
5	Marine Corps, as well as the U.S. Army Band, the
6	Old Guard, the Radar U.S. Army Clinic, and the
7	Commander-in-Chief's Guard. The northern
8	portion of the base is primarily Army-focused
9	missions, and the southern portion is Marine
10	Corps missions.
11	The project site is in the center of
12	the base along Sheridan Avenue, as shown here.
13	The applicant is also proposing a site for
14	habitat restoration as part of the tree
15	replacement requirements northeast of the
16	project site, noted here.
17	The existing site contains several
18	buildings, including historic residential
19	duplexes, garages, and a decommissioned pool
20	facility planned for demolition as part of the
21	project. As a reminder, the applicant is able
22	to demolish these buildings by complying with

1	the process outlined in the program comment for
2	Department of the Army Inter-War Historic
3	Housing Associated Buildings and Structures and
4	Landscape Features from 1919 to 1940, also
5	referred to as the program comment, which was
6	enacted in 2020.
7	The applicant has finalized the details
8	of the barracks with only minimal changes since
9	preliminary review. The main updates are to the
10	landscape plans, the courtyards, dormers,
11	roofing material, and front porches, which I
12	will now go into in more detail.
13	As noted, here are the final proposed
14	materials. The applicant is proposing brick and
15	stone to match existing buildings, faux slate
16	roofing, and standing seam metal on the porches.
17	This is the design approved by the
18	commission at the preliminary review last year.
19	As you can see here, the buildings are almost
20	unchanged from the preliminary review at this
21	view and include historic massing and scale to

coordinate with existing buildings and historic

districts in the area. This is a view of the building from the east at the preliminary review a year ago. And this is the updated view of the courtyard as viewed from the landscape area to the east. The applicant has made minor changes to the porches and courtyards.

In more detail, here's a close-up of one of the courtyards from the preliminary review and the final review, the courtyard treatment where you can see the updates, including terracing and additional seating. Here's a bird's-eye view of the updated buildings. Given the updates, staff commends the applicant for finalizing the design to respect the historic integrity of the site. Specifically, the applicant has maintained the overall scale, materials, fenestration, and design of the architecture from the preliminary review to continue to be compatible with the Fort Myer National Historic District. They've updated the courtyard spaces to create restful space for enlisted personnel. They've ensured

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that the security standoff requirements are met without sacrificing design quality. And they've preserved existing street trees by providing a greater setback and adding landscaping to create a campus environment that blends with the existing context.

The applicant has also made minor changes to the landscape plans. The proposed plant selections are focused on non-invasive and hardy species as pictured here. Many of the proposed plants will be used in the bioswale plantings to the east of the buildings or in the habitat restoration zone.

In addition to the site plantings, the applicant designated a habitat restoration area northeast of the site for tree replacement. The area will include a walking path and a mixture of plants, some of which are pictured here, and staff commends the applicant for updating the habitat restoration area to create a high-quality and inviting space.

In regards to the overall landscape

1	plan, the commission has received public comment
2	indicating concern about a lack of native
3	pollinator species and the use of non-native
4	species in the planting palette. The applicant
5	has responded that some of the suggested changes
6	were incorporated into the design of the
7	landscape plan and the offsite habitat
8	restoration area, including the use of milkweed
9	and buttonbush.
10	The applicant has also indicated,
11	however, that some of the suggestions were not
12	appropriate for the landscape or location.
13	Staff notes the applicant has updated the plans
14	with some plants they deemed appropriate and
15	believes the plans comply with the Comprehensive
16	Plan for the National Capital and guidance in
17	NCPC's Pollinator Best Practices Resource Guide.
18	In conclusion, staff recommends the
19	commission approve the final site development
20	plans for the unaccompanied enlisted personnel
21	barracks at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. This
22	concludes my presentation. I have incorporated

1	the executive director's recommendations into my
2	presentation, but I've included them here for
3	your reference. I'm available to answer any
4	questions you may have, and the project team is
5	available to answer any questions as well.
6	Thank you.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Jamie. Do
8	commissioners online or in the chambers have any
9	questions for our presenter today? Any
LO	questions?
L1	Hearing none, we'll turn now to public
L2	testimony. We have one person signed up to
L3	speak today, Mr. Bernard Berne. You have three
L4	minutes to provide your testimony. Please
L5	proceed when you are ready.
L6	MR. BERNE: Hello. Can you hear me?
L7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes, we can. Thank
L8	you.
L9	MR. BERNE: I can't work this time.
20	Most of my comments for this project are similar
21	to the ones that I made for the previous
22	projects. I have to repeat them, unfortunately.

The landscape plan for this project
does not adequately conform to the NCPC's
Pollinator Best Practices Resource Guide. As I
previously noted, the guide states, within
meadows and designed landscapes, common milkweed
should be planted along with a diversity of
other milkweed species on federal landscape
plans to the fullest extent possible and as
appropriate for the site conditions.
Nevertheless, the landscape for this
project also does not contain any common
milkweed, although it is appropriate for the
site conditions. As I stated previously,
ditches are within the broad array of natural
habitats of common milkweed, which also thrives
in meadows. Common milkweed is adapted to
standing water, which often accumulates in
ditches.
As I stated in the previous project,
the agency should install common milkweed in the
project's planned stormwater management and
bioretention facilities. I have to repeat this

1	often. The landscape will contain swamp
2	milkweed. However, as I also stated previously,
3	this is an early successional plant that is not
4	a good vegetative competitor and tends to
5	disappear as habitats dry out.
6	The planting should therefore include
7	swamp milkweed only if the site soil will not be
8	able to dry out. This is not likely because
9	they do dry out, even at bioretention
10	facilities.
11	The agency will border a paved outdoor
12	plaza with Ginkgo trees. That non-native tree,
13	although not invasive, does actually hosts few
14	or no native pollinators. You won't see chewed
15	up leaves on the Ginkgo trees. The agency
16	should replace the Ginkgos with willow oaks,
17	which were planted in similar areas within the
18	project.
19	The proposed landscape plantings
20	include Valley Forge American elm. This
21	cultivar has only limited resistance to Dutch
22	elm disease. At my request, the agency proposed

1	to consider Jefferson and Princeton American elm
2	as a substitute for Valley Forge. However, the
3	parent tree of Jefferson, which was on the
4	national wall, was dying in 2023 because of
5	Dutch Elm disease. It's not a good tree to
6	plant, considering that.
7	The agency should, therefore, install
8	New Harmony and Princeton rather than Valley
9	Forge or Jefferson. A national elm trials
10	cooperators chose those two as their favorite
11	American Elm cultivars. That's New Harmony and
12	Princeton. Please make that change that to
13	those trees. Thank you.
14	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Mr. Berne.
15	Are there any questions from commissioners
16	online or in the chambers for our witness today?
17	Hearing none, thank you again, Mr.
18	Berne, and we will move on. Is there a motion
19	to approve final site and building plans for
20	Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall unaccompanied
21	enlisted personnel barracks?
22	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: So moved, Madam

1	Chair.
2	CHAIR GOODMANN: There's been a motion
3	by
4	MS. ARGO: Second.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Vice Chair Hewlett,
6	second by Commissioner Argo, and I'll open this
7	up to the commission for discussion. And I'm
8	going to start with Commissioner Green is not
9	here, so we're going to move on to Commissioner
10	Tunstall-Williams.
11	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: I don't have
12	any questions, but I would like to commend the
13	design team on this careful contextual design.
14	I mean, I remember touring the site a couple
15	years ago early on, and that wasn't at all a
16	given. So I do commend the team for great
17	progress. I think it looks great.
18	My only question is whether those
19	courtyards will get any sun so the beautiful
20	plants can grow. But, otherwise, great project.
21	I look forward to it moving forward.
22	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,

1	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams. Commissioner
2	Dixon. No, is he not on? Okay. Commissioner
3	Cash?
4	MR. CASH: I was also going to thank
5	the team for the tour a couple years ago. I
6	think it was good to get the context of the site
7	and walk around, especially the buildings with
8	the courtyards. I remember walking by them, so
9	I think that designs landed in a good place, and
10	I look forward to moving forward.
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: Great. Thank you.
12	Commissioner McGowan?
13	MS. MCGOWAN: No comments. Thank you
14	for the presentation.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
16	Commissioner McGowan. Commissioner Cozart?
17	MS. COZART: Thanks to the staff for
18	their work on this project, and it's turned out
19	to be in a really good place. No other comments
20	from me.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
22	Commissioner Cozart. Commissioner Stidham?

1	MS. STIDHAM: I also thank you, and I
2	think it looks great, so nothing further from
3	me.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
5	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Argo?
6	MS. ARGO: I have aligned myself with
7	other commissioners' comments. It looks really
8	good and something that I think we're, at least
9	those of us I've heard from, are happy to
10	support, so thank you. No other comments.
11	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
12	Commissioner Argo. Vice Chair Hewlett?
13	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Thank you, Ms.
14	Herr, for your presentation, and I, too, align
15	myself with the comments of my colleagues and
16	applaud the design team for the continued
17	refinement as well. Thank you.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
19	Hewlett. Mr. Berne, I would just like to say
20	thank you again for sharing your comments with
21	the commission, and thank you to the applicant
22	team for the inspired design. I am also very

		33
1	impressed. And after touring the site but also	
2	seeing the great work that was done in the	
3	design, just very, very nice. And it's so	
4	important to provide quality housing for service	
5	members and also to ensure that these projects	
6	contribute to the base as a whole.	
7	So thank you very much.	
8	Congratulations all around.	
9	Are there any further comments or	
10	questions? Hearing none, can the secretary	
11	please confirm the motion and take the roll?	
12	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Yes. The motion was	
13	made by Vice Chair Hewlett and seconded by	
14	Commissioner Argo. Commissioner Cozart?	
15	MS. COZART: Yes.	
16	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Stidham?	
17	MS. STIDHAM: Yes.	
18	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Argo?	
19	MS. ARGO: Yes.	
20	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Vice Chair Hewlett?	
21	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes.	
22	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Chair Goodmann?	

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1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Yes.	
2	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Tunstall-	
3	Williams?	
4	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.	
5	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner Cash?	
6	MR. CASH: Yes.	
7	MS. HOTTEL-COX: Commissioner McGowan?	
8	MS. MCGOWAN: Abstain.	
9	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,	
10	Meghan, and now we're going to move on to the	
11	last two agenda items. The first is Agenda Item	
12	6A, and this is an information presentation on	
13	the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative update.	
14	Karin Schierhold will introduce the update on	
15	new Pennsylvania Avenue plan from the design	
16	team, David Rubin Land Collective.	
17	I'm very excited about our federal and	
18	District partners' progress to develop a new	
19	plan that will beautify the avenue's public	
20	spaces, upgrade the aging infrastructure, and	
21	create efficient stewardship to improve	
22	maintenance operations and programming. I just	

1	want to say this is an incredibly exciting
2	project. It is going to be a legacy project.
3	It's going to define the next half century in
4	Washington, D.C., and it's a rare opportunity to
5	be participating in this.
6	And from reading the reports and
7	following this, I just want to say thank you for
8	all the work in advance on this because it's
9	breathtaking in scope, and it's a very important
10	project. So thank you.
11	So, Karin, if you'd like to proceed,
12	please, you and David. David, thank you so much
13	for being here in person today. Your legacy
14	sort of precedes you, too, so thank you for
15	being a part of it. Okay. Thank you. Karin?
16	MS. SCHIERHOLD: Thank you, and good
17	afternoon, Chair Goodmann and members of the
18	Commission. I'm very happy to be here today
19	with David Rubin from our consultant team to
20	share a progress update on the new Pennsylvania
21	Avenue Plan Public Space Master Plan. For those
22	that may be tuning in for the first time, I'll

briefly cover some background information.

Our project area is focused on the 1.2-mile segment of Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the U.S. Capitol and includes the intersecting streets, adjacent blocks, and about 40 acres of public space. The avenue is currently guided by a 50-year-old 1974 plan developed by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. This plan is administered through a complex jurisdictional structure with several federal and District agencies responsible for different aspects of planning and operations within the corridor.

In 2023, NCPC, the National Park
Service, the U.S. General Services
Administration, District of Columbia government,
Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District, and
Events DC formed a partnership to prepare a new
Pennsylvania Avenue plan. Federal and local
stakeholders agree on a new vision that the
avenue should be a beautiful street designed for
people first, and that its highest and best use

1	is as a venue, elevated as America's stage for
2	events of regional and national significance.
3	And the avenue needs to be a better place for
4	daily life, a memorable destination that
5	balances pedestrian, bikes, vehicles, and
6	transit with beautiful and engaging public
7	spaces for people to enjoy every day, all day,
8	and into the evening.
9	Two teams are leading the development
LO	of this new plan. David Rubin Land Collective
L1	is leading the Public Space Master Plan, which
L2	is the subject of today's presentation. This is
L3	a physical public space plan that will address
L4	the alignment and configuration of the street
L5	and public spaces and the infrastructure needs
L6	to realize the vision of the avenue as a venue.
L7	Improvements to the avenue's corridor and public
L8	spaces will make them safe, beautiful, and
L9	event-ready.
20	HR&A Advisors is leading the
21	implementation program, which will address
2.2	governance, including administration.

1	operations, and maintenance, all critical to the
2	avenue's use, upkeep, enjoyment, and long-term
3	success. The consultant teams are working
4	closely with our partners, both senior
5	executives and their technical experts, as well
6	as NCPC's internal planning and design staff.
7	The design team, Land Collective, shown
8	in the green bars, started in December. They're
9	currently working towards preliminary design
10	alternatives that will be part of the new plan.
11	This is where we are now.
12	The next phase of work will be to begin
13	NEPA in Section 106 later this fall. Once we
14	initiate NEPA in 106, we have a year to complete
15	the design development and required
16	documentation. That year includes going to this
17	commission and the Commission of Fine Arts for
18	review, comment, and ultimately approval of the
19	new plan. We will have several opportunities
20	for public comment during this phase.
21	We hope to have the new plan
22	substantially complete by America's 250th

1	anniversary of independence, though we
2	anticipate approval of the final plan to be
3	sometime in early 2027. Once approved, certain
4	aspects of the new plan will require legislative
5	actions before implementation, after which
6	another entity, and not NCPC, will lead final
7	design and construction.
8	And now I'm very excited to turn it
9	over to David Rubin from David Rubin Land
10	Collective, who will share his team's initial
11	findings and initial ideas.
12	MR. RUBIN: Thank you, Karin. I wanted
13	to extend my appreciation for NCPC and the
14	partnership they put together. It continues to
15	be an honor to explore this exciting project
16	with all of the partners associated with the
17	project.
18	As Karin made reference, our project
19	outline is here identified in red. I call your
20	attention to the dashed areas to the southeast,
21	one on 4th Street between buildings associated

with the National Gallery of Art and the other

1	that extends to the Peace Memorial on the
2	Capitol, which is under jurisdiction of the
3	Architect of the Capitol. I want to say that
4	both entities have been extremely cooperative
5	with us and are working in alignment and
6	complementing the work that we're doing.
7	I also want to acknowledge the fact
8	that the red line is abhorrent to landscape
9	architects, like myself, who recognize that
10	systems move in and out freely, both
11	sociologically, anthropologically, and
12	ecologically. So we tend to go beyond that, and
13	we've been having a good time extending and
14	pulling in aspects of adjacencies into this
15	project.
16	We've been in a data-gathering mode for
17	this and have had many project partner technical
18	meetings. These are meetings where staff from

this and have had many project partner technical meetings. These are meetings where staff from the associated agencies with oversight have been joining us to discuss the challenges of the site. Our topics are listed here. There are also many more, and these meetings are ongoing.

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They happen biweekly throughout our tenure on the project.

I also want to acknowledge once again that we have many stakeholders associated with the project that we are working in collaboration with, in particular, the National Gallery of Art, the Architect of the Capitol, and also the Military District of Washington, who are in charge of the inaugural parade which proceeds up Pennsylvania Avenue and has very specific requirements associated with that.

We are not starting from scratch. It's very important to understand that we have a lot of work that has taken place in advance, and it is a great starting point for us.

So you know many of these studies.

They have preceded us in our efforts. And, in addition to that, we have been building upon the work that was undertaken previously, the expert focus groups, the three-vision concepts, and the public comments, as well. I'll come back to the three-vision concepts in just a second.

In addition, we've had the great pleasure of working with adjacent properties, those who are affected by Pennsylvania Avenue and the north-south quarters associated with that. We are under a mandate from ourselves to do no harm to anybody who is adjacent. We want to respect their ownership of property. We want to acknowledge the infrastructure associated with making them successful, and we do not want to do anything that would be to the detriment of their own success. So we are really working with them, and I believe Monday we're actually having another meeting with adjacency owners.

In addition, we're coordinating with other public space projects associated with the downtown area. They're represented here. We are not working in isolation but in complement to all of these ongoing efforts for public space review.

There are a few baseline conditions that are associated with the project. We want to create an avenue that is welcoming and

available to all Americans and visitors. We want to retain the view quarters toward the U.S. Capitol. Those should be prioritized, and we are utilizing the adjacent arboriculture as framing devices associated with that.

We also want to acknowledge that this will be a multimodal transportation avenue that includes pedestrians, cyclists, share vehicles, private vehicles, that we will be working with loading and public and private buses but also the pickups and drop-offs associated with the avenue and the success of the retail and commercial establishments adjacent.

The avenue is host to many events. We want to respect that and actually increase the capacity of the avenue to relieve some of the stress that is on the National Mall for large events and to recognize that these events that we might host on the avenue are anything from intimate farmers' markets that might happen on a daily basis to significant events that take up the entirety of the avenue itself, and that is a

broad range. We're working hard to acknowledge that there will be infrastructure needs associated with that and that they would be in place to reduce operations and maintenance costs and the challenges associated with putting up a variety of events.

The avenue is also hooked to the inaugural parade that is overseen by the Military District of Washington, and they have very specific requirements for the success of that event that takes place every four years, and we are working diligently to ensure their success as well. And that the plan should integrate north-south connections. There are 35 million visitors that come to the National Mall every year, and there's an opportunity to stitch that experience into the downtown experience of Washington, D.C. so that they are complementary and that what is presently could be seen as an abyss in the breadth of the avenue could be made to be very much more humane and habitable while still being monumental, therefore, pulling

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1	people up to the downtown and also in reverse.
2	And that there are existing retail spaces along
3	the way and they should be prioritized, but the
4	avenue itself should comprise a retail component
5	that is in complement, not in competition, to
6	the downtown's economic efforts. So we are
7	working strategically with the downtown to
8	ensure that type of complementary relationship.
9	Indeed, we are pulling from past ideas.
10	We are testing the concepts and are pulling
11	forward the best ideas from each of the
12	iterations associated with previous studies.
13	They are extraordinary studies, and we are
14	building upon them, pulling from them the best
15	aspects of it.
16	So we have acknowledged several assets
17	that we think are important: that the street
18	itself should be multimodal but not a linear
19	park, per se, or a transit-only street; that we
20	should be prioritizing pedestrian promenade
21	experiences, though putting people at the center
22	of the avenue would be very challenging, so we

1	are trying to find other means by which to do
2	that; and that we are avoiding significant
3	circulation changes to the eastern end.
4	Previously, they were acknowledged as the tunnel
5	associated with Constitution and going
6	underneath the avenue or reverting Constitution
7	Avenue back to its original alignment, which in
8	its original format was causing significant
9	traffic challenges. So we are going to do no
10	harm there in the context of that.
11	In the current direction, and based on
12	the input from partners and senior leadership,
13	we are considering changes to the western end
14	with an aspiration to not only maintain the
15	First Amendment rights but also establish better
16	support for events, both large and small, and
17	those of daily use. We also want to celebrate
18	the framed Capitol View and shaded walk
19	associated with that but diversify prospectively
20	the canopy and the experiences associated with
21	that.
22	We also want to increase the

accessibility and amenities that make for a
successful avenue. Something wonderful
happening every walking minute is the definitio
of a great street, and we aspire that this
should be the great street. And that we want t
focus on the north-south connections, as I
stated, to stitch downtown to the mall so that
they are working in complement with each other.

I want to acknowledge that any ideas that we have are ideas still. They are in development. Nothing has been solidified. There is a lot of flexibility exploration that will continue to take place, but the work-todate has focused on the general design intent and testing for all of those elements that are listed here and many more. Those are part of our studies with the steering group. And that these ideas are tested across the breadth of the avenue, so starting from the western end, new ideas for that area, the potential for expanding the northern sidewalk, ideas for Market Square and Indiana Avenue, as well as new ideas for

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John Marshall Park.

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And, in addition to that, a capacity to change the breadth of the avenue. So we're considering opportunities to expand the northern sidewalk and exploring realignment of the cartways for cars and buses, the bike lanes, and the sidewalk areas to create an extraordinary experience along the length and breadth of the avenue.

In the context of the existing conditions, the breadth of the avenue is represented here in two extremes. These are the bookends associated with that, the largest section being represented on the left, the narrowest on the right.

In all cases, our goal is to give everyone the dramatic view towards the Capitol, not just cyclists who are presently at the center of the road, and also to do that safely so that everybody that wants to see the Capitol and experience that great and dramatic monumental view can do so without risk.

The components associated with the
corridor include views and alignment, as well as
accessibility and, as always, the recognition
that the inaugural parade and other events have
to be successful along the length of the avenue,
that the roadway is intended to be multimodal
transportation, which includes travel lanes,
cycle track, pedestrian spaces, bus stops,
pickups, and drop-offs. As well, the sidewalks
should be experiential along its length,
comprised of different tree species and their
placement and patterning, creating shade in the
context of a very warm climate during the
summer, particularly today. Sidewalk
programming opportunities, building access and
activation, events and support infrastructure,
as well as security and utilities. It is a very
complex street.

Beyond the cartways, our aspiration would be to create a pedestrian travel zone that includes views to the Capitol. This is pulling forward ideas from the concepts, integrating

that notion of a pedestrian-focused corridor but also accommodates multimodal transportation beyond the cars and trucks to include buses and bike travel, as well.

That then addresses or leaves the programmable sidewalk spaces on the north and south sides, as well as the need along the area of the Federal Triangle to recognize security and security buffers associated with that, which should be integrated in a manner that is capable without being fortified, so that it reads seamlessly in the context of the urban environment.

There are three significant rooms along the length of the avenue here represented by the western end, which is comprised of the World War I Memorial in Pershing Park, as well as Freedom Plaza; in the middle by Market Square, which holds the Navy Memorial and Indiana Avenue; and then at the eastern end, John Marshall Park and Constitution and the Fourth Street, which moves north-south from the Mall to the courthouse.

I want to call your attention to the
eastern end and the middle, as well, because
what's fascinating about this space of the U.S.
Navy Memorial and Market Square and its
adjacency with Indiana Avenue, the remnant of
that avenue, and John Marshall Park, is that
these can be considered of holistic interest,
that they should not be designed as two parts of
the avenue and its adjacency but actually
recognize that they can complement each other,
support each other, and offer opportunities to
scale up or scale down the experiences that
people have along the avenue.

In addition, particularly at Market
Square, this is where the city tends to engage
very specifically the federal construct of the
avenue. It's where we have the most number of
residents presently, although that is growing.
And so recognizing an opportunity to create a
room holistically in the Market Square area,
here outlined in black but also a recognition
that this is the gateway to downtown, that there

1	is an opportunity to extend our influence all
2	the way down to the Hirshhorn and beyond, and
3	north up to the Portrait Gallery, as well stitch
4	together John Marshall Park across C and D
5	Streets and Indiana Avenue to ensure that this
6	is truly a living, breathing, connective tissue
7	of the city.
8	Just to remind you, this is the
9	existing conditions of that particular area. At
10	the center of the focus here is John Marshall
11	Park, and these are the existing conditions of
12	the park. The image on the upper right, I'm

12 13 standing at Pennsylvania Avenue looking up 14 towards the courtyard. It's an extraordinary 15 facade, but you'll see also an extent of lawn 16 and mature trees. And at the lower right, you can see midway up to the courthouses that 17 expanse of lawn that leads down 4th Street 18 19 beyond the National Gallery.

We have an opportunity here to really create a living, thriving park. It is an opportunity to increase its programming, to

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utilize the mature trees, to insert daily life programming, but also recognize that it could be used in more heraldic events and greater civic events in the context of the expanded lawn and the north-south corridor. It's also an area of changing topography. It rises as you go north, so it makes it easier to either see somebody performing in the distance either way. Whether you're to the north or to the south where a stage might be set up, it increases the capacity for people to see.

One of our precedent studies of many is Bryant Park in New York City. If you know this park, it is a traditional Beaux Arts park. It has a formality not unlike John Marshall Park. It also has an expanse of lawn that's used for flexible programming, from movie nights and performances to just the daily life of urban living. And underneath the sycamore trees that surround the park, there are assorted program elements that are there on a daily basis, everything from a reading library to a carousel

to bocce courts. These are the things that enhance daily living in an urban context and have a great opportunity to show themselves in the context of John Marshall as well.

Now we're moving to Market Square.

These are the existing conditions associated with that. You can identify the globe that is the Navy Memorial. You'll see the Archives on the lower left along the length of 8th Street and Indiana Avenue, as well. And, again, I want to point out the relationship of this space in the context of Pennsylvania Avenue and its relationship to the east with John Marshall.

So Market Square also has varied assets associated with its existing conditions. The memorial is represented in the upper left drawing. You can see in the distance the Portrait Gallery, that wonderful facade. If I were to turn around in that photograph and look across the street, you see the facade of the Archives talking back to it, so it's one of those corridors that we really should be

thinking strategically about, both for its value as adjacency to Pennsylvania Avenue, but also its value to the downtown as an extraordinary street.

On the lower right, in addition to the memorial that you just heard earlier on with the Texas litigation, you can see Indiana Avenue and its expanse. Important here is the vision of the Washington Monument in the distance beyond the Federal Triangle buildings.

So this room that we're trying to construct that marks the area is really meant to be thought of comprehensively as one great space, though comprised of many different experiences. And it is, as I said, the overlap between this great monumental federal gesture and daily living associated with the downtown. That's where we see an opportunity to engage Indiana Avenue in its capacity to have flexible programming but, as well, the capacity of C Street to be extended physically by walking to John Marshall, as well as the connections north-

south where 7th and 8th become integral to the economic benefits of the downtown.

We're looking to precedence, this one being Franklin Park, also in Washington, D.C. It's a five-acre park with many different programming assets associated with it and a central fountain. But I also want to remind ourselves that this is called Market Square because there used to be this substantial market historically in this area. And so, again, this overlap between assets needed for living, such as food and market elements, and the capacity to engage the downtown and the residents associated with this really gives us an opportunity to create an environment that is both complex and enriching.

And then to the west end, the existing conditions seen here. You'll see Freedom Plaza here, as well as the World War I Memorial Pershing Park construct. Pennsylvania Avenue deflects here, and, in many respects, this becomes the terminus to the avenue.

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The existing conditions here are represented in photographs. You'll see Freedom Plaza in the upper left there, a significant open space with views to the Capitol. Also, on the lower right, the World War I Memorial and Pershing Park renovation that acts both as urban park and thoughtful memorial.

There are many opportunities here that we're exploring. In particular, how this space will support great events associated with First Amendment issues, but also events of various scales associated with the avenue. And, in addition, how the National Theater might be able to utilize this space more effectively, as well as the Wilson Building have its identity placed in this zone.

So there are many ways in which we're thinking about the alignments, in particular, the north-south connections that take advantage of using Wilson Plaza as a space that connects Pennsylvania Avenue back down to the National Mall and the Smithsonian Museums.

1	One of the precedents that we've been
2	looking at is of a comparable scale. It is in
3	Paris, the Place de la République. It is
4	almost, foot-to-foot, the same dimensions as
5	Freedom Plaza. It is a space that has a central
6	component in the form of a statue of the
7	Republic and also a significant shade associated
8	with the bosque of trees but enough paving to
9	allow for significant events to take place here.
10	It's where the French protest and express their
11	First Amendment rights, just as we might do at
12	Freedom Plaza.
13	It also has a pavilion and a skim
14	fountain associated with play. These are
15	images, both of gatherings in that space. You
16	can see how people are using that space. But on
17	a daily basis, it becomes this rich, urban,
18	urbane condition, dappled lights, extensive
19	paving, pavilions, and water.
20	So the next steps for us include
21	development of potential design alternatives in
22	collaboration with these project partners.

1	Again, I want to express my sincere thanks to
2	all of them. It has been an extraordinary
3	collaboration and continues to be such and also
4	our collaborations with HR&A and the
5	implementation aspects of this.
6	We'll be moving forward with the NEPA
7	Section 106 process anticipated for late 2025,
8	and we have a final plan documentation approval,
9	hopefully, by late '26 - '27.
10	So with that, I'd like to extend it
11	back to Karin.
12	MS. SCHIERHOLD: Great. Thank you,
13	David. And before we conclude, I want to share
14	that, in addition to this information
15	presentation, we are hosting two online public
16	briefings this month on June 12th and on June
17	24th. David and I will share the same
18	presentation as we did today. And registration
19	for these is on our website at ncpc.gov.
20	So, Madam Chair, that concludes our
21	presentation, and David and I are here for any
22	questions

1	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
2	Karin. And thank you, David. That was a
3	breathtaking presentation, and I will ask the
4	commission now online or in person if you have
5	any questions for the presenters today. Yes,
6	Commissioner. Yes, Commissioner Cozart.
7	MS. COZART: Thank you. So I'm curious
8	good to see you.
9	MR. RUBIN: Good to see you, too.
10	MS. COZART: I'm curious about the
11	example you were just talking about, the Place
12	de la République.
13	MR. RUBIN: Yes.
14	MS. COZART: If you could talk about
15	kind of the, all I can call them is security
16	measures, given that, you know, a lot of
17	pedestrians and it's in the middle of a busy
18	city. And then if you could kind of
19	characterize what you're hearing from nearby
20	property owners at a high level, that would be
21	great.
22	MR. RUBIN: Sure. Thank you for your

question. And, Karin, please step in if there's anything that I should miss.

What's fascinating about Place de la
République is that it has been established at
grade in the context of its adjacencies. So it
is a six-inch step-up curb height, and it has a
periphery of seating components and other assets
that act both for receiving the tush graciously,
but also for fortification. So the notion being
that people can inhabit the space, feel safe
about it, that there is visible fortification
without being overwhelming.

In addition to the north, and that's the image on the left, you can't quite see it there, but there's actually a one type of street, so it's accessible to the adjacent buildings. It expands the breadth of that particular precedent to engage the adjacent sidewalk. The paving pattern continues. It is elevated to be contiguous with the adjacent plaza, but it is confined by a bollarded condition so that slow cars will understand that

1 it's a pedestrian forward space.

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Owners. Okay. Sorry. I was trying to 3 remember the second question. We've actually 4 had one significant public meeting with them. Actually, my scratch is the red documentation. In this particular case, we called in folks 7 essentially by block so that we could work, they could meet their neighbors for one, that they would work with us independently, meaning that 10 each owner had an opportunity to speak with us 11 and express their concerns without their 12 neighbors being presence, but also then in 13 conjunction with their neighbors so that each 14 could hear the other, the goal being that active 15 listening on our part and with each other would 16 facilitate a commonality towards success.

We have been working with them strategically to ensure, as I said, that we would do no harm. The idea is either to leave things as they are or to improve them, but never to purposefully stymie them in their ownership.

> So that's a very high level. I would

1	say that we heard also from apartment renters
2	and apartment owners who, particularly around
3	the Navy Memorial, expressed their love of the
4	dynamism and relative cacophony of the city but
5	didn't want a lot of big events happening
6	immediately in front of them. So that has also
7	helped us frame what we think about John
8	Marshall Park versus what we think about the
9	Navy Memorial area.
10	So this is the nature of working in a
11	very diverse urban context. Active listening
12	becomes incredibly important and threading that
13	needle of design intent so that everybody sees
14	success.
15	MS. SCHIERHOLD: And I would just add
16	to that that we've been very grateful to the
17	Downtown DC BID for helping facilitate these
18	conversations with the property owners. Our
19	dialogue so far has really focused on
20	operational requirements, verifying where they
21	need to load and where they need access to
22	things like parking garages. And, of course, we

1	will continue to be in dialogue with them as
2	direct properties on the avenue and important
3	stakeholders; but also, during the public
4	process, they'll be invited to weigh in.
5	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much.
6	And thank you for the good question,
7	Commissioner Cozart. Are there any other
8	questions from commissioners online or in the
9	chamber?
10	Hearing none, we will move now on to
11	discussion of this project. I'm going to start
12	deliberations with Commissioner Stidham.
13	MS. STIDHAM: Thank you, and thank you
14	for all of the hard work. We have been
15	participating and really are quite proud of how
16	things are moving along and the amount of
17	consideration being made as part of the project.
18	And, you know, in thinking about improvements to
19	the city and the city becoming a more beautiful
20	space, you know, this really ties right into
21	that, improving this as the, you know, America's
22	main street as it's to be. You know, right now

1	it's a little underwhelming, I'd say. You know,
2	you hear all this hype about Pennsylvania Avenue
3	and then you show up and you're just like, wow,
4	okay, now where am I going? So this really
5	provides an opportunity to make this a great
6	space again. So thank you for your efforts.
7	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
8	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Argo.
9	MS. ARGO: Yes. I have no additional
10	questions. I think this is exciting and look
11	forward to the continued development. I
12	appreciate the attention that the team is paying
13	to a number of the aspects that they talked to
14	us about today and the consultation with
15	residents and neighbors, as well. Thank you.
16	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
17	Commissioner Argo. Vice Chair Hewlett.
18	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Thank you. And
19	thank you for the presentations. This is
20	tremendously exciting. I echo the comments of
21	my colleagues thus far. I think you're
22	balancing so many interests, so it's very

1	complicated; that's very, very clear. Yet,
2	you're doing it and I just hope to be around to
3	see it all come to fruition. Thank you so much.
4	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
5	Hewlett. And now we'll hear from Commissioner
6	Tunstall-Williams.
7	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes. Thank you
8	for the presentation. And many of my comments
9	are already reflected in here, so I'd like to
10	thank the staff and the design team, all the
11	consultants that have been a part of this, for
12	your openness to hearing feedback. We've had
13	very, very robust conversation with all the
14	different stakeholders and your willingness to
15	sort of respond to feedback when we push back
16	and say, hey, what are you thinking? Okay.
17	And, honestly, just your excitement and
18	engagement and the sense of awe, maybe is the
19	right word, that you bring to this. And I think
20	that, at the end of the day, we'll have a really
21	great project that I hope we can find some sort
22	of implementing agency to put it into. But the

L	work has l	been	tremendous,	and	I	look	forward	to
2	continuing	g the	e dialogue.					

CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,

Commissioner Tunstall-Williams. Commissioner

MR. CASH: Thanks so much. I did love seeing the idea of creating more of a sidewalk space in front of the FBI headquarters. I remember that being controversial a few years ago about how much sidewalk space we should really support versus how much more envelope we should have for the buildings there. So it was great seeing that.

I just want to say that I think the presentation here was great and it's really focused on the design work. But I think that we also have to remember that a big part of this initiative, as I remember, was supposed to be talking about the governance, and that's one of the big problems that we have here. So I know if anyone's been down, so I went to the Jimmy Carter funeral, the processional that was down

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Cash.

there. It was like you had to stand in line, go
through a security gate, you got onto the
street. And the whole point of a lot of these
big events that we do now, they put all the
security fencing up and the priority is keeping
all of those retail businesses open to the
people outside of the security perimeter. But
as soon as you're inside you're cut off because
of some of the security concerns we have, and it
seems like we always default to those security
concerns being let's put up the fences, let's
make you go through a checkpoint. So moving
forward with the governance, I think it's really
important to look at how we can make some of
these events kind of more open.

And I think that your point about this being kind of an extension of what we can do on the Mall is a great thing, but it's also, I think, Pennsylvania Avenue is just fundamentally a different thing. So this weekend, for anyone that's going to be down here, there's going to be the World Pride events going on, which is

1	going to take up the whole Pennsylvania Avenue
2	from 3rd Street all the way up to 9th Street.
3	It's going to be mostly open, I think, but there
4	is some of the areas that are going to be
5	fenced, like I said, but it's just a good
6	demonstration of kind of like the more urban
7	D.C. centric what we can be doing on
8	Pennsylvania Avenue that just wouldn't make as
9	much sense on the Mall.
LO	So I think that looking at governance
L1	issues, looking at tying us into what already
L2	exists there so that it's not something that you
L3	have on the Mall, like the National Book
L4	Festival or something, but like something that's
L5	integrated into D.C., I think that's one of the
L6	really great things about this initiative.
L7	So thanks for the ongoing work you've
L8	done, and thanks for the presentation.
L9	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
20	Commissioner Cash. Commissioner McGowan online.
21	MS. MCGOWAN: I don't have any
22	comments, but thank you so much for the

1	presentation.
2	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
3	Commissioner McGowan. Commissioner Cozart.
4	MS. COZART: I really appreciate the
5	presentation and just NCPC's overall leadership
6	as it relates to this and want to associate
7	myself with Commissioner Cash's comments and
8	appreciate him for reminding us how important
9	that is and we really need to start thinking
LO	about that.
L1	I do think that what we have so far in
L2	terms of designs can kind of help inspire us for
L3	the harder things that we have to do around
L4	governance so appreciate that very much. And I
L5	also just want to appreciate the chair's very
L6	inspiring comments about how important this is
L7	of an initiative.
L8	That's all I've got.
L9	CHAIR GOODMANN: Well, thank you.
20	Thank you, Commissioner Cozart. And it is
21	inspiring work, and I do want to thank our
22	staff, Karin, and thank our partners. Thank you

very much, Mr. Rubin. This is the beginning of a long journey, as was just pointed out, because I do want to associate myself with Mr. Cash and Ms. Cozart's comments, as well, because you do forget about the hard work of integrating real events that occur in places like Washington, D.C., and the kinds of security measures that have taken place. And having attended some of those myself, I would agree that that's next. But, right now, I just want to congratulate you on the work and on the vision and the excitement.

I, too, think this integration is critically important. And while it is important to them all, I'm really glad you're working with BID and working with, you know, all the partners that are working in this project because, to be able to integrate that, I was just in town, I don't know, a couple weeks ago and again looked at that whole Market Square view myself and thought, gosh, what a great place to have a market, you know, and real active, an active

1 space and activated space. And there's so many 2 little places you can go that would incorporate more of downtown D.C. into that avenue. 3 4 So I'm excited about the whole damn 5 I think, you know, there's a lot of work ahead, but there's so much excitement. And, 6 7 now, you know, they say you have arrived, you're 8 there, you know, now I'm here. And it would be 9 great to be able to say that when you're on

Pennsylvania Avenue and not be in a cab, you know, or a car, to be able to say we're here and

feel that sense of arrival in that very special

13 | place.

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So I'm looking forward to the work ahead. And, again, I want to congratulate, you know, General Services Administration and the National Park Service, the District, Defense D.C., and BID, and all the partners that are working on this. And we'll find the money somehow, but thank you very much for your work.

And our last agenda item, we're going to have another information presentation. This

1	is a fun meeting on the changing federal
2	footprint. And so we have Melissa Lindsjo who's
3	presenting today on this changing federal
4	footprint. And this, too, is a very exciting
5	opportunity. These two projects are just so
6	inspiring, and it's really we're looking forward
7	to it.
8	So, Melissa, did you want to introduce
9	your team now or at the end of your part of your
LO	presentation?
L1	MS. LINDSJO: I'm going to do it at the
L2	beginning and then at the end actually.
L3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay. All right.
L4	Good. Let's proceed. Thank you.
L5	MS. LINDSJO: So good afternoon, Chair
L6	and commissioners. I'm happy to share an update
L7	on the Changing Federal Footprint project.
L8	Last summer, NCPC partnered with Public
L9	Buildings Reform Board, PBRB, to jointly study
20	the opportunities to consolidate, redevelop, and
21	dispose of federal properties adjacent to the
22	National Mall and understand the impacts of the

1	changing federal footprint in Washington, D.C.
2	as part of the Changing Federal Footprint
3	project. This is a preliminary map of
4	opportunity properties and areas that were
5	analyzed last year. PBRB is an independent
6	federal agency tasked to identify opportunities
7	for the federal government to significantly
8	reduce its inventory of civilian real property
9	and reduce costs.
LO	First, I'd like to introduce Paul
L1	Walden, PBRB's executive director, to say a few
L2	words before my presentation.
L3	MR. WALDEN: Thank you, Melissa, and
L4	good afternoon, commission. My honor to be
L5	here.
L6	Again, Paul Walden. I'm the executive director
L7	of the Public Buildings Reform Board. And we
L8	were, just so you understand, we were
L9	established by special legislation in 2016, and
20	we are tasked, as Melissa said, to identify
21	underutilized properties that can be sold or
22	consolidated to reduce the overall cost to the

1	American taxpayer. And, evidently, Congress is
2	very appreciative of our work because just
3	recently they extended us to another year and a
4	half. We were supposed to sunset last month,
5	but Congress has demonstrated their great faith
6	in us to do another round of recommendations.
7	And one thing I always like to make
8	clear, the board is an independent commission,
9	essentially. We are not involved in making
10	decisions on terminating any agency missions,
11	reductions of personnel, or moving agencies out
12	of D.C. We're an independent bipartisan board
13	of six people appointed by the president with a
14	very diverse background in congressional
15	leadership, agency administration, and private
16	sector real estate. And the recommendations
17	we've made to date, we have a strong financial
18	feasibility analysis supporting those decisions,
19	and they're also feasible in terms of agency
20	relocations.
21	Our last round of recommendations,
22	which were just approved by OMB two weeks ago,

identified 11 properties. Three of them are up there on the map. But, overall, they'll result in \$5.4 billion in savings to the taxpayer.

And, last year, when we started looking at the NCR portfolio in particular, we realized there's a perfect timing now with the real estate market conditions as they were and the fact that a lot of these buildings were vastly underutilized to actually look at repurposing some of these buildings, putting them back on the tax rolls, and reducing the overall government cost.

So the board, you know, we are not urban planners, but we look to the experts who are, NCPC, to sort of look at what we can do to sort of review the potential of some of these sites, and also through our partnership with HR&A to what sort of governance structure would continue our work once we do sunset in December of next year.

So, as a result, NCPC brought in the Urban Land Institute to conduct a TAP study,

1	which the results were briefed just a couple of
2	weeks ago. And we received, I think, a very
3	resounding positive response from the media from
4	all the articles I've seen and all the phone
5	calls I've received.
6	So there's a lot of interest in what
7	we're doing. And, again, we looked at the
8	Forest Hall building as really being that
9	keystone to sort of re-energize that Southwest
10	area.
11	And, again, thanks to Mr. Acosta and
12	his staff for supporting us, and we look forward
13	to a continued partnership with NCPC. Thank
14	you.
15	MS. LINDSJO: Thank you, Paul. The
16	scale of dispositions in this area south of the
17	Mall that have been discussed over the last
18	eight months is unprecedented, as shown on the
19	map. It presents an enormous opportunity for
20	the nation's capital and Washington, D.C.
21	In 2024, PBRB and NCPC began meeting to
22	understand how both of our interests and goals

1	could come together. The partnership, as Paul
2	mentioned, began working with the Urban Land
3	Institute of Washington, ULI. ULI Washington
4	brings access to thought leadership and
5	impartial and market-driven feedback from the
6	private sector.
7	Together, we outlined the following:
8	Host a series of focus group discussions; a
9	technical assistance panel (TAP) and a public
10	forum around the topic Changing the Federal
11	Footprint. This all helped inform PBRB's second
12	round of submission, which did include the
13	Forrestal Building, as Paul mentioned, for a
14	disposition, and OMB has now accepted.
15	Let me share a little bit more on these
16	key events over the last year and how they
17	implement planning work that NCPC has done in
18	this area. ULI Washington, in partnership with
19	NCPC and PBRB, organized a series of four focus
20	groups in November of 2024 with key stakeholders
21	from the public, private, and non-profit
22	sectors. Each group focused on one of four

1	topics related to the changing federal footprint
2	in the National Capital Region: economic
3	development, identification of potential
4	opportunity sites and new catalysts, historic
5	preservation, open space infrastructure needs,
6	implementation strategies, and managing
7	organizational structure.
8	Four themes came from the discussions
9	over the two days listed here on the screen.
10	I'd like to emphasize the first one: There must
11	be a phased disposition schedule for federal
12	properties.
13	NCPC has advocated for dramatic changes
14	to this area south of the National Mall for
15	decades. One key example is NCPC's Southwest
16	Eco-District Plan from 2013, which guides
17	property disposal, reuse, redevelopment, and
18	infrastructure planning. A vision of south of
19	Independence Avenue is shown on the top left
20	image.
21	The linchpin to implementing this
22	vision is the James V. Forrestal Building, also

1	known as the U.S. Department of Energy DOE
2	Headquarters or the Forrestal Complex. PBRB and
3	NCPC made a very deliberate decision to focus
4	the TAP on the Forrestal Complex and sponsor
5	this TAP to connect ongoing planning studies in
6	Southwest Washington with efforts to identify
7	federal assets for disposal.
8	In February 2025, ULI assembled a TAP
9	to develop a roadmap for redevelopment of the
10	Forrestal Building, shown in the bottom left
11	image. The Forrestal Complex is a three-
12	building brutalistic structure constructed in
13	1969 at 1000 Independence Avenue S.W. It's
14	outlined in green on the map on the right side
15	of the screen. The Forrestal Complex has 1.8
16	million rentable square feet and sits on 11
17	acres. L'Enfant Plaza, or 10th Street S.W.,
18	bisects the study area terminating to the north
19	at Independence Avenue S.W. and the Smithsonian
20	Council and to the south at Banneker Park
21	overlooking the Southwest Waterfront.
22	During the first day, the panelists

received the assignment, took a tour of the building and surrounding area, had stakeholder group discussions, and then worked together to come up with a strategy, which they presented at the end of day two. The sponsor team presented the panel with a briefing book that gave them background information as well as the TAP goals and key questions to consider. The TAP goals, shown here, focused on making sure what they produced was financially viable, have a flexible timeline, identified key stakeholders, and made sure the redevelopment could unlock additional redevelopment within the monumental core.

To achieve the TAP goals, the panelists also had some questions to answer to help formulate their plan and strategy. The goals and questions came mostly from discussions that happened in the fall with the focus groups. We really wanted to make sure that everything analyzed was data-driven and helped achieve goals from all stakeholders. Speaking of stakeholders, this is a comprehensive list of

stakeholders that were engaged with during the TAP, again, wanting to get the full picture of what could happen with this site.

The panel, shown in the photo here, recognized that the study area presents a unique and timely opportunity to become a gateway between the Southwest Waterfront and the National Mall with realization of the opportunity hinging on the redevelopment of the Forrestal Building.

To guide its deliberations, the panel first created a roadmap of five major activities that would be required to fully maximize the redevelopment potential of the Forrestal Building and its surrounding submarket. You can see them listed on the screen, and now I'll walk through the five.

The panel discussed four options for the DOE headquarters. Option 1, status quo, keeping DOE in place, the panel rejected this option, as have PBRB and the White House in their recent approvals to sell the building.

1	Option 2, constructing a new headquarters, and
2	this was deemed too costly and not necessary,
3	given the amount of unused office space on the
4	market and also in the federal inventory.
5	Option 3 and Option 4, relocating to existing
6	federal space or leased space, were seen as
7	viable options. These have the potential to
8	provide long-term cost savings to taxpayers and
9	provide modern and efficient spaces for DOE
10	employees.
11	Next, the panel looked at the site
12	potential and making it a gateway to the
13	waterfront. The panel recommended a
14	coordinating entity to champion the
15	redevelopment of the Forrestal Complex and the
16	adjacent areas in Southwest with a key focus on
17	guiding the disposition and redevelopment
18	process of federal assets. This entity does not
19	necessarily have to be a new agency or
20	authority. The panel also recommends an MOU
21	with expectations and agreements for
22	development.

There are several issues to address in determining the site potential, as listed on the screen, including identifying desired cultural uses, infrastructure needs, Virginia Avenue question which I'll touch on later, and resolving inflated assessments. Also listed are the key stakeholders that would need to be involved in the process.

I wanted to share that, during the winter, NCPC had Perkins&Will work on renderings of a re-imagined area south of the National Mall. The renderings build on past planning efforts and will be updated as additional planning for the area takes place. As the previous slide discussed, there will be some topics that will need to be resolved during the MOU and entitlement process, one of them being infrastructure needs and expanding the right-of-way.

This rendering showcases public space along the extended C Street, S.W., right-of-way from 10th Street looking west from the Forrestal

1	Building currently where the cateteria sits.
2	The next stop on the roadmap is the
3	transaction and redevelopment. The panel
4	recognized that one possibility would be to
5	divest at least a portion of the site for public
6	benefit users, including cultural institutions
7	such as the Smithsonian, health care
8	organizations, universities, or nonprofits. The
9	panel recommended that the intended public
10	benefit user be identified during the
11	predisposition process.
12	Based on prior studies, the panel
13	proposed a redevelopment program for the
14	Forrestal Complex, totaling 3.7 million square
15	feet, with uses likely to succeed based on
16	current market factors. As you see on the
17	graphic, the redevelopment would consist of
18	residential, museum, cultural, hotel, office,
19	and retail.
20	The panel recognized there is a
21	possibility that redevelopment of the Forrestal
22	Complex into a 3.7 million square feet mixed-use

project is not financially viable on its own as a variety of factors, as listed on the screen, can escalate costs beyond the level that the project can work or be viable without public financing assistance. The redevelopment efforts could potentially be financed publicly with the District government or the federal government or with the use of creative financing tools or a combination of funding sources.

The panel also looked at new versus conversions, as well, and determined that the existing building does not fully occupy the site and the current layout of the building does not work well for residential, so conversion is not viable. The panel also looked at the northwest corner of the site as basis for much of their analysis.

The last stop on the roadmap answered the question, what will be the catalytic impact? Based on the panel's proposed redevelopment program, it projected the Forrestal Complex would contribute \$45.3 million in annual tax

1	revenue at full build-out. The panel compared
2	the site and study area to the Capitol
3	Riverfront BID, as it presents many similarities
4	and they had access to the data around that.
5	Once the Forrestal Complex is
6	redeveloped, the panel anticipated an impact on
7	development in Southwest, including the
8	disposition and redevelopment of other federal
9	assets resulting in a net increase of 1.9
LO	million square feet and \$150.9 million in new
L1	tax revenue.
L2	On May 22nd, ULI Washington with NCPC
L3	and PBRB hosted a public forum for over 200
L4	people who gathered on top of the Spy Museum
L5	with views of the Forrestal Building. Norman
L6	Dong moderated the event where three of the
L7	panelists presented the findings of the TAP and
L8	then had a catalytic impact discussion with
L9	NCPC's Diane Sullivan, Steve Moore with the
20	Southwest BID, and consultant Andrew Trueblood,
21	former D.C. planning director.
22	The TAP report was also released that

day, and you can find the full report on our website at ncpc.gov.

One of the main discussion points at the public forum was the uncertainty regarding which streets need to be reintroduced, and this impacts the overall value of development. example, the panel debated whether the value of reintroducing Virginia Avenue as shown on the plans on the left side of the slide, and then, ultimately, the panel thought the impact of development by square footage was too great and supported a plan similar on the right side without Virginia Avenue. This issue and questions regarding historic preservation will need to be addressed for all of the sites the federal government is planning on selling.

This is a rendering showing the potential if Virginia Avenue were to be introduced and what the gateway and viewshed would look like. Washington is extremely fortunate to having such incredible viewsheds from the L'Enfant plan, but we also need to have

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discussions about what is feasible. Lastly, the panel recommended developing an updated vision plan for the Southwest planning area that builds upon the NCPC's Southwest Ecodistrict Plan.

In terms of next steps, NCPC is excited to move quickly with local and federal partners to better determine property entitlements for land and buildings that the federal government wants to dispose of in Southwest D.C., creating certainty and maximizing value for the federal government and also ensuring that the private redevelopment of federally-disposed land south of the National Mall and directly across the street from the National Mall is of the highest quality and respectful of its location in the heart of the nation's capital.

This rendering is showing how the 10th Street transformation could really connect the waterfront to the Mall. As I said at the beginning of my presentation, NCPC has advocated for dramatic changes to the area south of the National Mall for decades, and we're excited to

1	be working with our federal partners in the
2	District to make this area a place where people
3	want to visit and live.
4	This partnership with PBRB and ULI
5	Washington was very successful, and I'd be
6	remiss if I didn't thank Gail Fisher from PBRB,
7	Mark Gazda with ULI Washington, and Will Rich
8	from Calvary Real Estate Advisors, as well as
9	the NCPC team. Thank you.
10	And, with that, I would like to invite
11	Norman Dong, the panel chair, to say a few
12	words. Norman has experience not only in the
13	private-sector real estate but also served as
14	commissioner for GSA's Public Building Service
15	and an OMB as a controller. Norman also serves
16	as the chair of the Federal Real Property
17	Association.
18	Thank you, Norm.
19	MR. DONG: Good afternoon, everyone,
20	Madam Chair, members of the commission. I am
21	thrilled to be here. First, I wanted to start
22	just by expressing my gratitude and appreciation

to NCPC and the PBRB for sponsoring the ULI TAP
on the Forrestal Building. As you saw, and for
those of you who were with us at the public
forum, we had a great group of panelists,
including Katie Crystal and Josh Olson and Vicki
Davis. And for anybody who knows those folks,
you know that they bring a significant amount of
energy and enthusiasm, as well as subject matter
expertise, to the conversation. And as Melissa
was saying, our charge was to consider the
redevelopment potential of the Forrestal site.

Where we are today, you've got to step back and think about kind of this moment in time because we've been having this conversation about what to do with the Forrestal Building for a while now, right? I think it began with the Southwest Ecodistrict Plan back in 2013. And even as recently as last year, Diane and I were on a panel over at the arena stage, and I am thinking about, all right, why are we not moving forward on issues like the Forrestal Building? What can we do to get the federal government to

be more proactive in disposing of some of these underutilized federal assets? And here we are today and the world has changed dramatically over the past 12 months.

There's been a lot of conversation, a lot in the news about how this administration has got a little bit more spring in their step in terms on this issue of underutilized federal buildings, and you're seeing examples of GSA moving far more assertively on this question to dispose of underutilized assets.

So the panel was charged with not just looking at the Forrestal site and the redevelopment potential of those 11 acres, but really considering the question of how Forrestal can serve as a proof of concept for redeveloping other underutilized properties, particularly in Southwest D.C. And for us and for all of us, it really is thinking about, okay, how do we maximize the redevelopment potential of Forrestal, but also how do we capitalize on this opportunity to have much more of a neighborhood

transformation impact?

So as we think about the two days that
we spent together as a panel, job one for us was
to think about what you do with the Department
of Energy headquarters. And I think, as you
look back at the conversations that we've been
having for more than a decade on redeveloping
the Forrestal site, the conversation has largely
gone nowhere because we could never figure out
what to do with the Department of Energy. And
the conversation would often go to, well, you
need to get Congress to appropriate a lot of
money to build a new Department of Energy
headquarters. And when you think about what
that would cost, anywhere between \$750 million
to a \$1 billion, that becomes a showstopper.
And you think about how difficult it is for the
federal government to get capital funds to
renovate and modernize any of the buildings that
we see here in the National Capital Region. And
then when you talk about the FBI Headquarters
and what that costs, then you talk about, okay,

1	we need another billion dollars for the
2	Department of Energy. We don't live in that
3	world where Congress is appropriating billions
4	of dollars for new federal buildings or to
5	modernize and upgrade existing federal
6	buildings.
7	So we had to take much more of a
8	practical approach to say, all right, if you've
9	got to live within your existing budget, what do
10	you do to solve this problem? So, as Melissa
11	talked about, we looked at four different
12	options. Status quo was not an option.
13	Constructing a new smaller facility we looked
14	at; but, again, that comes with a big price tag,
15	as well.
16	So then we looked at two other options.
17	One was relocating to existing federally-owned
18	buildings, and there's been a lot of
19	conversation about how these federally-owned
20	buildings are significantly underutilized. And
21	then we also talked about potentially moving to
22	a lease. And I think the Department of

1	Transportation, the Security and Exchange
2	Commission, those are examples of cabinet
3	entities or independent agencies that are in not
4	own space but lease space.
5	So I think the precedent has been set
6	where not every agency has to be in a federally
7	owned building. So we thought, wait, maybe we
8	could do that, as well. And, granted, when you
9	look at the existing lease inventory in
10	Washington, D.C., you don't have a single large
11	block of space that could handle the entire
12	Department of Energy requirement, but you could
13	split it up. And I think we've seen examples
14	with the Department of Justice, for example,
15	where you don't have to put everybody in one
16	building. You can spread them, different
17	functions in different buildings, and it makes
18	it an easier space problem to resolve.
19	So I think the headline for us is, if
20	you have to live within existing budget
21	constraints, there are ways to solve for this

headquarters requirement that we may not have

1	fully recognized in the past. And if we're
2	serious about redeveloping the Forrestal site,
3	then we're going to take a closer look and give
4	more serious consideration to those other
5	options.

Okay. So, as I said, it's not just about redeveloping the Forrestal site. really is achieving the full potential of what Southwest D.C. can and should be. And as we look at the properties that are slated for disposition in Southwest D.C., you've got the HUD Headquarters, you've got the Liberty Loan Building, you've got the Wilbur Cohen Building, you've got the former regional headquarters for GSA at 301 7th Street, S.W. You've got like five different buildings that have already been slated for disposal. How do we avoid a situation where GSA is just really just dumping these properties on the market, and I think there was consensus among us that we want a thoughtful redevelopment plan that sequences the redevelopment of these sites over

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time. And we kind of look back to the past, and we saw Southeast Federal Center as being kind of a model for what we might want to do here.

So as we think about kind of the path forward, A, there's some planning activities, and Melissa talked about kind of the planning work between NCPC and the D.C. Office of Planning that has already begun here. But I think there's also a conversation with GSA that needs to take place where you're looking at the proposed vision and the proposed reuse of these sites, and you're thinking about potential transaction structures that might make sense here that would allow for a thoughtful development sequence over time.

There's been a lot of conversation about disposition and focus on selling the property. Well, maybe we could do that, but maybe there are other transaction structures like a ground lease, for example. There are examples where the federal government didn't sell a property but did a ground lease instead

or some other transfer of administrative control that may allow for a more thoughtful, holistic approach to sequence the redevelopment of these properties over time and to maximize the neighborhood transformation potential and impact as we saw on the Capitol Riverfront with the Southeast Federal Center.

So I think we've got a clear path forward on the planning side and on the federal engagement side. And, again, think about where we are today. I think it really is, if you take a moment to celebrate the progress that has been made. Some of us were a little bit doubtful of whether we'd ever get here in our lifetime, but I think I'm feeling energized and inspired in terms of where we are today and where this could go. So thank you very much.

CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you. Thank you very much, Norm, and appreciate your input.

And, also, thank you, Paul, and thank you, as well. We really appreciate everything that you've done, Melissa, on this project and all

1	the work that's gone into it with our partners.
2	So, with that, I'm going to ask are
3	there any questions for our speakers now from
4	the commissioners online or in person? Any
5	questions?
6	Hearing none, we're going to move on
7	then with deliberations, and I'm going to begin
8	with Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.
9	MS. TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Okay. Well,
LO	I've had sort of a front-row seat for all of
L1	this for many, many years and agree with Norm
L2	that there's been a lot of conversation and
L3	everyone's focused on this Forrestal site. And
L4	I will say, when we started this back in the
L5	fall, I don't think any of us could have
L6	imagined the momentum that this would take on
L7	with the current administration. And so I think
L8	that that is great and to PBRB's great credit to
L9	continuing to push it.
20	I still have great concern that the
21	complexity of getting particularly the
22	Department of Energy out of that site in a

1	timely manner to allow the momentum to keep
2	going. I think I'm very concerned about that.
3	I'm also concerned about the huge infrastructure
4	cost that it will take to remove the building
5	and prepare those parcels for development.
6	So I think, to the extent that PBRB can
7	continue to push and NCPC to build those
8	connections, the District, this is going to take
9	everyone to make this happen. And I think,
10	right now, we are at this critical point that
11	the momentum is there and I don't want to lose
12	it. So what all of us, how we can partner to
13	move that forward, is good.
14	I do also have concern, as Norm said, a
15	lot of the other buildings that we're talking
16	about are moving faster than this one. And I
17	worry that, if they get too far ahead, there
18	could be a glut and then the interest in the
19	Forrestal site might diminish. So I think the
20	phasing is very important, and so the advocacy
21	that you can do with GSA leadership, certainly

way above me, is important because I think the

1	long-term impacts on the District and the
2	partnership that GSA can bring shouldn't be
3	detrimental if we get too far ahead. So looking
4	to everyone to kind of support those efforts.
5	But, otherwise, I think it's a great
6	project. I look forward to, fingers crossed,
7	something actually happening.
8	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
9	Commissioner Tunstall-Williams. Commissioner
10	Cash, please.
11	MR. CASH: Great. Thanks. So one of
12	the things I think we forget about sometimes is,
13	whenever the Smithsonian comes here to talk to
14	us about a new museum site, we bang our heads
15	against this dais for days and days and days
16	saying why do you want to take this piece of
17	land? We will give them empty land for free.
18	But when it comes to something like one of these
19	buildings, they have to pay for it and all this
20	stuff.
21	So if there's any way we can come up
22	with some new regime where anything north of C

Street, it's just an automatic we're going to give it to the Smithsonian. If we're going to extend the Mall, we're going to modify the Ecodistrict to bring them all down there and get them all the space they will ever need.

So I think the economics, especially what's going on in D.C. right now, I mean, we're not going to build another wharf. We're not going to build another Capitol Riverfront down there. We don't have enough, like, commercial office space right now to support what we need here.

So I think, in light of a lot of what's gone on in the last year and in light of the Smithsonian coming to us every couple of years for a new museum and us just going crazy, I think that there's a tremendous opportunity. We can talk about agriculture, especially right there on the Mall. But, I mean, extending that Mall down, I think that there's a tremendous opportunity if we can get out of the mind set of we're selling this building like a commercial

1	development project. This is already federal
2	land. We have a lot of uses for it down there,
3	so I think that changing the paradigm down there
4	and really I know you're partnering with
5	Smithsonian, but see if we can do it to even
6	more of an extent and solve their problems for
7	the next hundred years. I think that that's a
8	tremendous opportunity that we couldn't miss if
9	we think about this and too much of a market-
10	driven economics.
11	So that's my two cents. But I really
12	thank the team for all the work that's been
13	going on this. I think it's really exciting
14	regardless to re-imagine these large swaths of
15	D.C. land and what can become of it if we kind
16	of taper it down to the federal interest. So
17	thanks.
18	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
19	Commissioner Cash. Commissioner McGowan.
20	MS. MCGOWAN: I have no questions.
21	Thank you for the presentation.
22	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,

1	Commissioner McGowan. Commissioner Cozart.
2	MS. COZART: Thanks for the
3	presentation. I really thank the NCPC team
4	because this has been you all have had to
5	shift very much like a conversation about the
6	federal footprint, you know, 18 months ago was
7	completely different and the things that we were
8	looking at were completely different. So
9	appreciate how entrepreneurial you all have been
10	and kind of building partnerships and both
11	entrepreneurial and also strategic. So
12	appreciate that.
13	And I, too, am hopeful that what came
14	out of the TAP can be a blueprint and really
15	appreciate the support for the kind of phased
16	disposition approach and strategy that is
17	really, really important to the District. And
18	so appreciate alignment and consensus around
19	that.
20	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
21	Commissioner Cozart. Commissioner Stidham.
22	MS. STIDHAM: I cannot agree with

1	Commissioner Cash more. Every memorial sponsor
2	that I work with I pitch this area. No one will
3	bite. They can't see a vision. They can't be
4	the first ones to take that leap. So having
5	this study that shows the potential and the
6	potential for the building to change or move and
7	open up the extension of the Mall with the
8	Commemorative Works Act and the reserve being
9	complete, we need to extend the mall. And this
10	is an opportunity and it's a space for
11	Smithsonian, it's a space for memorial sponsors,
12	it can be a great connection. We just need
13	someone to see that vision and take the chance.
14	And I know any memorial sponsor that is
15	listening is, like, tired of hearing me say
16	this, but it is a huge opportunity and it's a
17	great space. So really appreciate this work and
18	showing a vision and the potential. I think it
19	goes a long way; and, hopefully, we'll continue
20	that momentum. So thank you.
21	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you,
22	Commissioner Stidham. Commissioner Argo, are

1	you still online?
2	MS. ARGO: I'm coming. Here I am.
3	CHAIR GOODMANN: Okay. We're here.
4	MS. ARGO: I appreciate very much the
5	presentation. I love Commissioner Stidham's
6	comments and would align myself with them. And
7	it's not just a matter of vision. It's a matter
8	of resources and logistics. And I just hope we,
9	you know, I don't know how much we can be a part
10	of it, but I hope, you know, we can move the
11	forces together to make some of the things
12	happen that we were provided with today, you
13	know, the vision and the opportunity. Thank
14	you.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you very much,
16	Commissioner Argo. Vice Chair Hewlett.
17	VICE CHAIR HEWLETT: Yes. Thank you so
18	very much for the presentation, Ms. Lindsjo and
19	Mr. Dong and Mr. Walden. Appreciate it and for
20	our NCPC team for working so very hard on this.
21	I, too, would like to associate myself
22	with the comments of Commissioner Cash and

1	Commissioner Stidham about the museums, the
2	Smithsonian Museums. And it's referenced in the
3	report from the February, the TAP report from
4	February of 2025. I understand that they're
5	made, the concern was the market value, the
6	market value to some extent. But that can be
7	waived, perhaps. But it just makes sense. It
8	just makes sense. You're so right that the
9	Smithsonian comes to us on a regular basis.
10	There's a new museum proposed, a new museum
11	proposed, and they're all worthwhile. But we're
12	so limited on the space and this is opportunity
13	knocking, and I think we should find a way to
14	seize it. Thank you.
15	CHAIR GOODMANN: Thank you, Vice Chair
16	Hewlett. And I just want to thank, again, NCPC
17	staff. Thank you very much. Melissa and Paul,
18	thank you for bringing your partnership. And,
19	Norm, thank you for bringing your expertise, I
20	mean, for continuing to contribute to this place
21	we call the Capitol, and it's a big job.
22	I also want to recognize Marcel because

1	it was months and months ago when Marcel first
2	suggested to me your leadership is and you're
3	just invaluable. I just want to say that,
4	Marcel. We don't ever thank you for a hell of a
5	great job you do. But you said look at this
6	building, and I said, oh, I know this building
7	because we come and visit Department of Energy
8	every year and it's kind of a nightmare building
9	of all the buildings. It's one of a few, I will
LO	say.
L1	In terms of the interface that the
L2	person coming to the building has, you know,
L3	their top secret floor is on the top and you're
L4	running around in these hallways that look like
L5	a labyrinth out of The Matrix, you know. And it
L6	really is, it's time to go. And the space and
L7	the real estate is so powerfully located and
L8	situated for other purposes.
L9	So I guess, with every new
20	administration, there are new blessings and new
21	challenges. And this one, this new

administration is not without those. And,

1	certainly, the opportunity is there, I think.
2	You know, we have to find those opportunities,
3	you know, to see a path forward to reuse this
4	space and to perhaps do something different in
5	that location. And it finds its similarity,
6	this plan, I think, to the Pennsylvania Avenue
7	plan in that it's trying to bring this all
8	together to incorporate downtown into
9	Pennsylvania Avenue and all these other nodes
10	and opportunities.
11	But the same for the beautiful, that
12	beautiful visual we have of a viewshed that
13	could be, you know, what the Forrestal Building
14	blocks right now into, you know, into the Wharf,
15	but also to the Smithsonian Capitol. That is
16	just, that's another powerful node that I think
17	can be redeveloped.
18	Now, I have to say that Commissioner
19	Stidham, or, yes, Commissioner Tunstall-Williams
20	brings me right down to reality. And I think
21	that's, you know, so no, no, but, you know, you

work with it every day. It's like you're living

1	and breathing it. So, you know, I don't know
2	what the answers are, but I hope, as we talked
3	about, again, many times in our strategic
4	planning as a commission, that NCPC with its
5	partners, not alone, but with our partners could
6	be thought leaders in some of these areas. And
7	there's no better time than now in America to be
8	thought leaders, and I think, you know, it's a
9	possibility now, perhaps, but, at the same time,
10	it's not going to come without hard work. So we
11	should try, is my opinion.
12	So I just, again, want to thank all of
13	those who participated and look at this as an
14	opportunity for a generational re-evaluation,
15	re-envisioning of the capital city. And so I'm
16	just grateful to all those who took part in
17	this. I'm grateful, especially, Marcel, for
18	your leadership because I know that you've been
19	looking at this and imagining things for some
20	time.
21	So, with that, are there any further
22	comments or questions?

1	Hearing none, this concludes our open
2	session for June. And our next regular
3	commission meeting will be July, I'm sorry, will
4	be Thursday, July 10th, so not on the 4th
5	weekend, the week of the 4th. It is going to be
6	on July 10th at 1 p.m.
7	And August is our month off, so we have
8	a big meeting, I'm sure, that was planned for
9	us, Diane, next month, but we'll be ready.
LO	So thank you all. And if there's no
L1	further business, this meeting stands adjourned.
L2	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
L3	went off the record at 3:08 p.m.)
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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 matter was taken;
9	and further that I am not a relative nor an
10	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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19	near Rous 8
20	Lauren Fridley
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