



## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2016

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### **NCPC Approves Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Headquarters Modernization Plans** *Commission adopts Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements*

**Washington, DC**—At its monthly meeting on *Thursday, February 4, 2016* the National Capital Planning Commission approved final site and building plans submitted by the General Services Administration to modernize the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau headquarters. Located at 1700 G Street, NW, this 400,000 gross-square-foot building will provide space for consolidation of agency staff into one facility. The Max Urbahn-designed building was originally constructed in 1977 as the home of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

In its comments the Commission commended both the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the General Services Administration on the project, highlighting their efforts to maintain ground level retail in the facility and provide a publically accessible plaza.

Components of the modernization include renovation of the interior and upgrading of building systems, replacement of exterior windows and frames, redesign of the main lobby, and location of a children's play area near the building's child development center. Liberty Plaza, an open-air interior located between the building and the adjacent Winder Building, will be redesigned to feature a new fountain on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, an elevated tree planter with a line of shade trees and seating, and trees on the plaza's western side. In addition, historic elements from the Riggs Bank that used to occupy the site will be located in breezeways connecting to the plaza from exterior streets.

The Commission approved the final master plan for the Marine Corps Base Quantico, submitted by the U.S. Department of Defense. The plan will govern future development on the installation for the next 20 years. It includes both short-range (until 2018) and long-range (2019-2025) components. The facility, located 25 miles south of Washington, DC in Prince William County, Virginia, is divided by I-95 into two segments: the 50,000-acre West Side and the 8,000-acre Main Side with the majority of projects located on Main Side. The West Side is primarily used for training.

It is approval the Commission noted that the final submission has an addendum which includes a revision to the plan's Future Development-Long Range section. This updated chapter responds to previous NCPC comments regarding impervious surface removal, parking consolidation, urban design quality, and pedestrian/bicycle accessibility. NCPC will be part of the base's efforts to develop Area Development Plans, which will provide more details for development in different sectors of the base.

Next the Commission adopted the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*. Last updated in 2004, the Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements are the blueprint for the long-term development of the national capital and are the decision-making framework for Commission actions on plans and proposals submitted for its review. The update includes eight federal elements, including a new Urban Design Element.

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The new elements and policies will go into effect on April 5, 2016. The Parks & Open Space Element will be updated after the completion of the *Small Parks Management Study* being developed by NCPC and National Park Service staff. The 2004 Parks & Open Space policies will remain in effect until that time.

Before adjourning, Commissioners heard two information presentations. First, Commissioner Michael L. Rhodes provided an update on the parking component within the Pentagon Reservation Master Plan. NCPC approved the Pentagon Reservation Master Plan in May 2015 with the exception of the North Area (North Village and North Parking Area). The Commission recommended that parking be removed in this area to meet Comprehensive Plan parking ratios and address stormwater management requirements because part of the area is within a 500-year floodplain.

In the second presentation, Scott Kratz from Building Bridges Across the River @THEARC updated the Commission on plans for the proposed 11th Street Bridge Park. The Bridge Park would be constructed on the pylons that held the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. It would connect Capitol Hill with Anacostia and provide locations for recreation, arts, and environmental education. The Commission anticipates seeing concept designs in the fall of 2016. The Commission does not take action on information presentations.

This month's agenda also included one consent calendar item (no presentation will be given):

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for modernization of Lafayette Elementary School, 5701 Broad Branch Road, NW (7749)

In addition, the Executive Director approved seven items under authority delegated by the Commission. The final agenda, as well as project materials and staff recommendations for each project, are available on [NCPC's website](#).

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.*

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