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**NCPC Comments on Carnegie Library Rehabilitation Plans**  
*Commission Approves Final Master Plan for National Foreign Affairs Training Center*

**Washington, DC**—The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) commented on the concept design for the Carnegie Library rehabilitation at its monthly meeting held on Thursday, June 1, 2017. Plans submitted by Events DC call for modernization of the building to accommodate new retail (anticipated to be Apple) and additional educational uses. The current tenant, the Historical Society of Washington, will remain in the former library located at 801 K Street, NW on Mount Vernon Square. The proposed work includes restoration of the building exterior; rehabilitation of the building interior; and reconfiguration of the north entrance, stairs, and landing. The library, which opened in 1902, is listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

The Commission expressed its support for Events DC's vision to rehabilitate and modernize this historic building and noted that plans call for balancing historic preservation, planning, and design considerations, including exterior work that will maintain the building's original and historic character-defining features. In its comments they requested that Events DC explore opportunities for additional landscaping design and pedestrian amenities at Mount Vernon Square, and for additional information on proposed exterior lighting changes and signage. NCPC is the lead agency for compliance with federal environmental and historic preservation requirements, currently underway.

Next, the Commission approved the final master plan for the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center submitted by the General Services Administration on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. The 71-acre campus, located in Arlington, Virginia, is home to the Department of State Foreign Service Institute, which provides high-quality, cost-effective training for Foreign Service officers from across the federal government. The proposed master plan responds to changes in federal security requirements and seeks to increase training facility capacity and educational flexibility through one new and several expanded buildings. Other improvements expand childcare and visitor facilities and improve stormwater management. The master plan anticipates growing student and faculty populations (from the current 3,218 to a projection of 3,809 in 2025), but does not add to existing parking.

The Commission noted in its approval that the applicant addressed its concerns about the impact of the proposed building B on the site's historic gymnasium through refinements to the buildings' placement, massing, and height to preserve the gymnasium's strong spatial and visual relationship to the rest of the campus. Also noted was that while the campus does not meet the Comprehensive Plan's one parking space for every four employees ratio for facilities in this location, the lack of a walkable Metrorail station allowed for the applicant's request to extend to timeline to meet this goal to 20 years. However, NCPC requested that the State Department and the General Services Administration submit a transportation progress report in two years.

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At the last agenda item, the National Park Service (NPS) provided an information presentation on a recently completed study on small urban parks in Washington, DC conducted in cooperation with NCPC. The Small Parks Management Strategies report provides NPS with better information and more consistent strategies for managing small parks in the nation's capital. Washington's park system includes 292 NPS-managed small parks ranging from .0045 acres to almost seven acres that serve multiple functions including commemoration, playgrounds, traffic circles, street medians, and neighborhood parks. Inspiration for the study came from 2010's *CapitalSpace Plan* which listed included Transform Small Parks as one of its Six Big Ideas. The study will help inform NCPC's current update to the Comprehensive Plan's Parks & Open Space Element.

This month's agenda also included three consent calendar items (no presentations given):

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for rehabilitation of Arlington House at the Robert E. Lee Memorial, Arlington, Virginia. (7352)
- Preliminary and final site development plans to install one fire system safety antenna on the rooftop of the Robert C Weaver Building (HUD Headquarters), 451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW. (7881)
- Comments to the Council of the District of Columbia on the District of Columbia FY 2018 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan. (0348)

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

*The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in Washington, DC 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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