

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Pentagon, Va (1)



National Zoological Park (2)



St. Elizabeths, West Campus (3)



National Postal Museum (5)



Ronald Reagan Building (6)

DELEGATED ACTIONS

During the past month, the Executive Director approved 12 projects under the Commission's delegated authority:

1. Preliminary and final site development plans for the construction of a permanent vehicular access control point at the intersection of North Rotary Road and Fern Street on the Pentagon Reservation, Arlington, Virginia. (6750)
2. Preliminary and final site development plans for improvements to the Beaver Valley pathway at the National Zoological Park, Northwest Washington, DC. (6897)
3. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the renovation of the 4,490 square-foot historic ice house (Building 52), St. Elizabeths West Campus, Southeast Washington, DC. (7089)
4. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Slip Inn Bar and Grill Addition (Building 2482), Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Southwest Washington, DC. (7206)
5. Preliminary and final building plans for exterior modifications at the Postal Square Building to accommodate gallery expansion of the National Postal Museum, Northeast Washington, DC. (7223)
6. Preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of five exterior banners at the Ronald Reagan Building, Northwest Washington, DC. (7232)
7. Preliminary site and building plans for the renovation of the 330,000 square-foot Cardozo Senior High School and construction of a new 24,000 square-foot gymnasium, Northwest Washington, DC. (7236)
8. Preliminary and final site and building plans for the construction of a 450 square-foot addition to the Hydraulics Laboratory at the Turner Building, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, McLean, Virginia. (7241)
9. Found that the proposed text for Subtitle J: Production, Distribution, and Repair Zones of the District of Columbia Zoning Regulation would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests. (Z.C. 08-06-06)
10. Found that the proposed green area ratio, which is a weighted, value-based system intended to set requirements for landscape and site designs that meet District goals for limiting stormwater runoff, air quality and urban heat island effect, would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests. (Z.C. 08-06-09)

11. Found that the proposed map amendment to Square 1050 and portions of Squares 1026, 1027, 1049, and 4509, and related text amendments to the Zoning Regulations of the District of Columbia, would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests. (Z.C. 10-19)
12. Found that the map amendment at Square 1282 (Lot 276) would not be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, nor would it adversely affect any other identified federal interests. (Z.C. 10-27)

PLANNING UPDATES

Southwest Ecodistrict

In April, staff presented information about the SW Ecodistrict Initiative at two Earth Day events. On April 20 staff exhibited the energy modeling work associated with the project at the DC Green Day at Freedom Plaza; and on April 21 staff exhibited the project at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Earth Day event at the DOE Headquarters Building in Southwest. This month the Southwest Ecodistrict project team made substantial progress on the market study, the decking feasibility assessment, identification of sustainability strategies, and the analysis framework for the study alternatives. Currently, the consultant teams are using this work to identify alternative development scenarios to be studied.

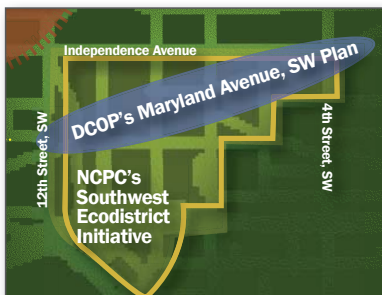
On May 6, the Task Force and Working Group members will meet to review the proposed Southwest Ecodistrict alternatives and provide early feedback to the project team. The District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP) has tentatively scheduled an Advisory Committee meeting for May 17 to share the results of the Ecodistrict area market study and their on-going work along the Maryland Avenue corridor. On May 19 the DCOP and NCPC are holding a public meeting to share this information along with an overview of the type of alternative urban design and sustainability scenarios to be studied. The next Task Force meeting is tentatively being planned for early to mid June.

Interagency Security Task Force

On May 3, the Interagency Security Task Force held a kick-off meeting to initiate their work on the President's Park South design competition and the Federal Triangle Security and Public Space Initiative.

As part of the President's Park South project, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Secret Service and the National Park Service, the Task Force will identify the designers who will participate in the design competition. The concept designs will be shared with the public in mid-June; and the Task Force will then identify a winner that will be announced at the July Commission meeting.

SOUTHWEST Ecodistrict





The General Services Administration, the Interagency Security Committee (ISC), and NCPC staff are also advancing joint efforts to comprehensively evaluate the physical security needs of the federal agencies located in the Federal Triangle. The first phase of this initiative began in September 2010 and identified existing security needs and building-specific security solutions in accordance with standard ISC procedures. Phase two builds off of this information through the development of campus-wide recommendations that will address the need for perimeter security while enhancing public space.



Commemoration

NCPC and NPS staffs have provided final comments on the commemorative works research project. NPS and NCPC are looking at next steps, which may include updates to NCPC's submission guidelines regarding commemorative works. Staff has also begun to develop supplemental information for sponsors regarding the NEPA process. This information is also intended to support all groups involved in site selection and reduce duplicative efforts at later stages of review.

Federal Triangle Stormwater



The Federal Triangle Stormwater Study Working Group met in April to discuss the draft report provided by the consultant Greely and Hansen. The Working Group requested the consultant amend the draft report by adding information about a 100-year frequency storm (with a 24-hour duration) to determine how the results would compare with the flood area shown in the current FEMA DC Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This information would allow the District of Columbia to determine if they should request that FEMA issue a map revision to the FIRM based on the findings of this study. The Working Group expects that the additional technical evaluation, along with a policy paper that will be prepared by the Working Group, will be available this fall.

Streetcars



Staff attended an Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting on March 24 to review alternatives for the Anacostia Streetcar extension, Phase 2. At that meeting, the committee scored the alternatives using an alternatives screening and scoring spreadsheet. Staff also provided written comments recommending that decisions regarding these alternatives be informed by developing measurable objectives that could be evaluated as part of the NEPA process, and requested that NCPC be included as a Consulting Party in the NHPA Section 106 process.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE

Integrating Federal Facilities into Local Communities

On April 21, NCPC and ULI Washington co-hosted *Agents of Change*, a panel discussion at the GSA Headquarters to engage the public in a discussion regarding how the location, design, and activities of the federal workplace shape the region's growth and impact local neighborhoods. Panelists included Bob Peck, GSA Public Building Service; Jay Fiset, Arlington County Board; Lisa Swoboda, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development; and Doug Firstenberg, StonebridgeCarras LLC. The moderator was Cheryl Cort of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. Over 160 people attended the event, which is available by podcast through NCPC's website.

National American Planning Association Conference



Marcel Acosta participated in a panel presentation on commemoration on April 12 at APA's 2011 Planning conference in Boston. Mr. Acosta presented during a session on national commemoration: "The Memorial Question." The presentation focused on the process for establishing a commemorative work in Washington and alternative approaches for future acts of remembrance.

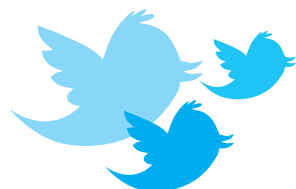
National Mayors Summit on City Design

Christine Saum attended the National Mayors Summit on City Design, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Over 300 mayors and design professionals attended the summit to develop recommendations for shaping the federal agenda on cities and city design for the next 18 months.

Commission Meeting Streaming Video

Following a successful test of web streaming the last Commission meeting, the May meeting will mark our first live web-streaming of the Commission meeting. Staff will be providing greater outreach about this feature to the public in coming months. The live video stream can be found at www.ncpc.gov/live.

NCPC on Twitter



NCPC has recently begun using Twitter to share information with the public. This rapidly growing social media platform, which utilizes short messages of 140 characters or less, is already being used by a number of government agencies to deliver news and information to citizens, often in real-time. NCPC's official Twitter presence will allow stakeholders to receive frequent updates direct from the agency, while also giving the agency a quick and cost-effective way to respond to questions and complaints. Follow us at NCPCgov.



PERSONNEL

Jennifer Hirsch, NCPC's new Preservation Officer, joined the staff in mid April and was most recently with FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation where she worked on NEPA compliance and Section 106 review for projects funded by the Grant Program Directorate. Prior to her work with FEMA, Jennifer was a preservation planner with the City of San Diego and staff to the city's Historical Resources Board. Jennifer has a B.A. from Brown University and a Master of City Planning and Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania.

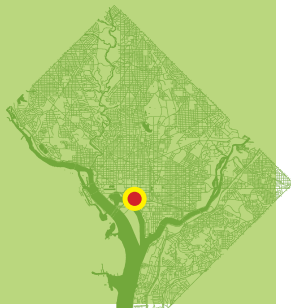
Stephanie Winnicki is a senior Landscape Architecture student at the University of Maryland, and will intern with NCPC's Physical Planning Division through the middle of May. She will work on several of the projects in the Physical Planning Division, with special attention on the Southwest Ecodistrict.

Christian Madera, NCPC's web and new media manager, was named as one of Planetizen's top 25 Leading Thinkers in Urban Planning and Technology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 19, 2011

6:30 - 8:30 PM



Southwest Ecodistrict and Maryland Avenue SW Plan Public Meeting

Location: Waterfront Station, 1100 4th Street, SW Washington DC

2nd Floor Meeting Room, Photo I.D. Required Metrorail: Waterfront-SEU (Green)

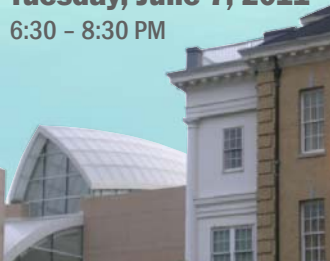
Thursday, May 19, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, NCPC and DCOP invite you to a joint public meeting on NCPC's Southwest Ecodistrict Initiative and DCOP's Maryland Avenue, SW Small Area Plan.

At the follow-up meeting you can: hear findings from the recently completed Market Study; provide input on preliminary revitalization opportunities along 10th Street, SW and Maryland Avenue, SW; and view ideas for how the combined SW study area can become a more sustainable and livable neighborhood.

Agenda to be released on May 14 online: www.ncpc.gov or www.planning.dc.gov.

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

6:30 - 8:30 PM



Contemporary Design, Historic City: The Balancing Act Between Preservation and Innovation

On Tuesday, June 7th, NCPC and the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects will co-host "Contemporary Design, Historic City: The Balancing Act Between Preservation and Innovation." This public panel discussion will explore how Washington can preserve its architectural heritage and welcome new innovative design into its urban fabric. The event will take place at the Catholic University School of Architecture and Planning. Details about the event are available at www.ncpc.gov.