

QUARTERLY

APRIL ▶ MAY ▶ JUNE ▶ 2007

Framing a Capital City Planning Washington's Future



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Framing a Capital City

Symposium Generates New Ideas for the Future of Washington

More than a dozen prominent scholars, urban designers, and policymakers gathered in Washington in April to participate in “Framing a Capital City,” a symposium organized by NCPIC, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the National Building Museum (Museum). Public sessions, held on April 11 at the Museum, attracted nearly 200 people to each of five lively panel discussions held throughout the day. All were moderated by Robert Ivy, editor in chief of *Architectural Record*.

“It’s exciting to see so many of the best urban planning minds in the country gathered here,” said Patricia Gallagher, executive director of NCPIC, during the welcoming remarks. “The ideas that come out of this symposium will shape our planning efforts for years to come.”

NCPIC and partners convened the symposium to provide direction to the National Capital Framework Plan, a joint NCPIC and CFA initiative that advances the ideas set out in NCPIC’s 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan and its 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*. These earlier plans envisioned recentering Washington around the U.S. Capitol, as L’Enfant intended, driving development into all

quadrants of the city, and relieving pressure on the National Mall by identifying alternative sites for museums

“Washington could become a national showcase for urbanity, not just governance.”

Alex Krieger, Professor, Urban Planning and Design
Harvard University

and memorials. The new Framework Plan is scheduled for release in late 2007.

“Planners in Washington have long faced the challenge of balancing the District’s dual role as a showcase for the nation and as a living city,” explained Thomas Luebke, secretary of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. “Framework will illustrate how federal and local aspirations can be aligned, celebrating the city as a whole.”

The April presentations and the open discussions following them centered on three broad topics: expanding the capital’s symbolism by adopting new models of urban living, negotiating the landscape of commemoration, and transforming planning visions into reality.

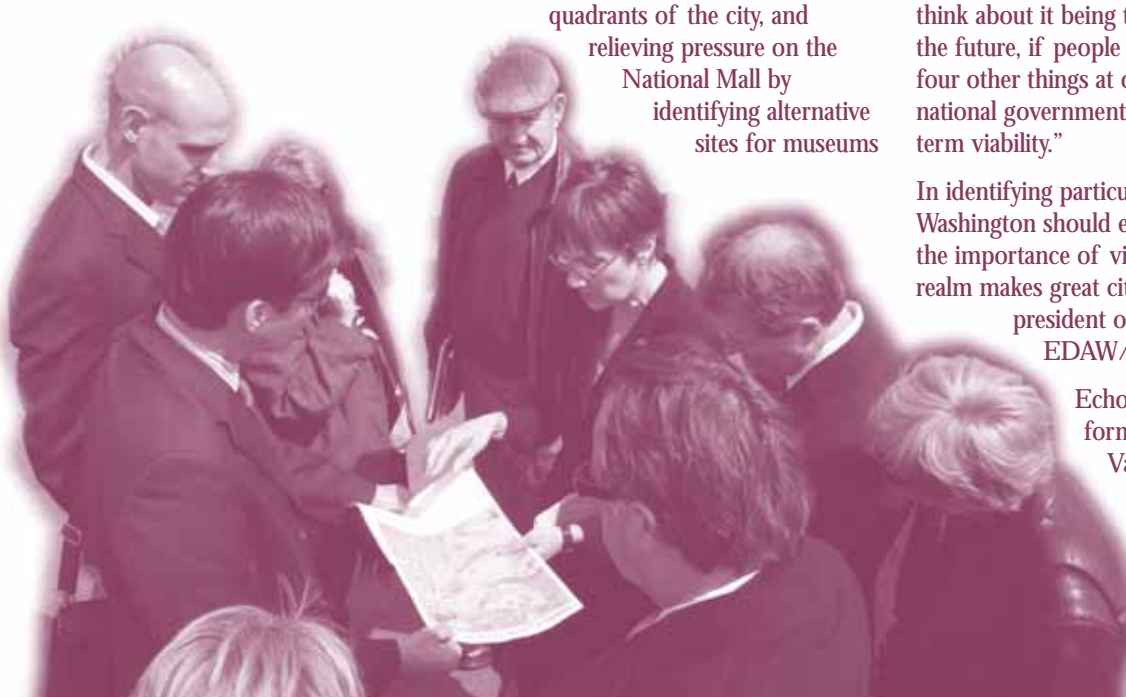
A near consensus emerged around the idea of embracing practices of smart growth, conservation, and livability that could be emulated around the world.

“Washington could become a national showcase for urbanity, not just governance,” said Alex Krieger, a professor of urban planning and design at Harvard University. “When we think about London, we don’t first think about it being the seat of the British government...in the future, if people think about Washington for three or four other things at once rather than just the seat of the national government, then that would be better for its long-term viability.”

In identifying particular models of urban life that Washington should embrace, many panelists emphasized the importance of vibrant public spaces. “A great public realm makes great cities,” said Joe Brown, CEO and president of the landscape architecture firm EDAA/AECOM.

Echoing this sentiment, Larry Beasley, former director of planning for Vancouver, British Columbia urged planners to adopt a more critical attitude toward security measures that deplete public spaces of their vitality.

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Floodwater Forum



Heavy rains in June 2006 left streets and federal buildings inundated with water

Federal Agencies Partner to Address Flooding Concerns

No one who lives or works in Washington will soon forget the deluge of June 2006 that flooded a number of buildings in the Federal Triangle area. More than 11 inches of water imposed significant property damage, closed several federal buildings and streets, and disrupted vital government services.

As a result, the National Capital Planning Commission, the General Services Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and the District of Columbia brought their collective expertise to a two-day June forum on flooding and stormwater risks. More than 100 participants from the federal and District governments met at the Ronald Reagan and International Trade Center to confront the periodic flooding problem.

“There is no way to guarantee another flood won’t occur,” said NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill, III, in opening the forum, “but the next time, we want to be better prepared.”

The talks focused on emergency response, stormwater management, and system-wide infrastructure improvements.

When facilitators reported their findings at the conclusion of the forum, communication and information sharing was the most urgent need expressed. “There is a clear need to improve communication among federal and local agencies, as well as with members of the public—not only during a crisis, but also before and after,” said Cogbill.

Ideas raised by participants ranged from establishing a clearinghouse to which all federal agencies would report to during a flood event, to identifying which agencies have portable generators that could be loaned to agencies that lose electricity during a flood. Another suggestion was to put an interim pumping station into place that could better protect federal buildings from flood waters.

Michelle Desiderio, a senior community planner at NCPC, prepared and circulated an extensive paper on flooding in February. The report, which describes the role of Washington’s geography, topography, and hydrology in the risk of flooding, is available online at www.ncpc.gov.

“Due to buried waterways, broad floodplains, and relatively flat elevations—much of the monumental core is highly vulnerable to periodic flooding,” said Desiderio. “Also, because downtown DC is served by a combined sewer—meaning that a single pipe carries both stormwater and sewage—stormwater capacity is limited. In a heavy rainstorm, there is simply nowhere for the water to go.”

Interagency teams will study the recommendations and hold additional meetings to share information. Reports will be made to NCPC which will serve as the repository for all information collected.

“Success will require the utmost level of cooperation among all responsible parties,” said Cogbill in closing the forum. “This is a great first step.”

NCPC senior planner Michelle Desiderio answers questions about flooding in Washington



DDOT & NCPC Release Freight Rail Realignment Study



In April, NCPC staff presented the Commission with the results of a nine-month study that looked at potential freight railroad realignments in the National Capital Region. The study, funded with a \$1 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation, focused on ways to reduce the threat of an attack on hazardous materials being transported via rail through the capital.

In its role as the federal government's central planning agency, NCPC partnered with DDOT to manage the study. Consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff, one of the world's leading engineering firms, conducted the analysis.

The current freight rail line through the District is a seven-mile stretch of tracks running from Alexandria, Virginia to Hyattsville, Maryland. The line transports hazardous cargo within four blocks of the United States Capitol and past an estimated 100-thousand federal employees.

Seven possible corridors were identified following an analysis of population and employment centers, topographical and environmental issues, potential Potomac River rail crossing locations, and redevelopment opportunities offered by new alignments and adjacent lands.

An initial benefit/cost analysis was performed on three of the seven alternative corridors. Various combinations of existing railroad right-of-way, government land, and private land were explored.

The identified options include:

- ① A tunnel under the Potomac River from Potomac Yard in Alexandria through the District to the Maryland border east of the Anacostia River;
- ② A new alignment running from the Indian Head area in Charles County, Maryland to Jessup, Maryland;
- ③ A new alignment east of the city running from the Dahlgren area of Virginia to Jessup, Maryland.

The DC Tunnel alignment would follow the existing line to South Arlington where it would enter an eight-mile secure tunnel beneath the District. It would emerge near the District/Maryland border and connect with the existing CSX route for south-northeast freight traffic.

The Indian Head and Dahlgren alignments would provide an eastern bypass around the District including a new Potomac River railroad bridge. Both would make use of the existing Pope's Creek Branch, paralleling U.S. Route 301.

Preliminary construction cost estimates are \$5.3 billion for the DC Tunnel alternative, \$4.3 billion for the Indian Head alternative, and \$4.7 billion for the Dahlgren alternative.

The Indian Head route would have the lowest capital cost and the best benefit/cost ratio. All three routes would reduce proximity of hazardous freight traffic to dense population and employment centers as well as some of the nation's most iconic buildings.

Further analysis will require a cooperative multi-jurisdictional approach that considers the complex issues each jurisdiction must face, including a determination of whether or not the public and private benefits offset projected costs. Next steps must also include finding adequate funding for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. Public input will be sought at each step in the process, should the study move forward. The complete study is available online at www.ncpc.gov.



Framing a Capital City

Continued from page 2

“Government buildings that require large setbacks and preclude mixed-use development limit sociability...and disrupt the traditional urban patterns that create the streetscapes and the energy we all want in our city,” said Beasley.

Some participants illustrated how tourism can provide a natural platform for modeling the best urban practices.

“For many of the millions of Americans who come here each year, Washington is actually the first place where they experience what it is like to ride transit to get around,” said Harriet Tregoning, director of the DC Office of Planning.

Timothy Beatley, the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities at the University of Virginia, built on this idea. “Might we imagine trying to harness all the visitation in Washington, and challenge people to think about their carbon footprint in getting here and going back to wherever they are from?”

There was also discussion on how to plan for future memorials and museums. Judy Scott Feldman, chair of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall, started the dialogue with a call for greater attention to the coherence of the narrative expressed by the museums and monuments in the nation’s capital. “On the Mall or off,” she said, “the American story told throughout the city is presented selectively, incompletely.”

Some participants, however, expressed skepticism about imposing a coherent narrative. “It is impossible to control the meaning that each individual chooses to ascribe to a piece of the built environment,” said Lawrence Vale, professor of urban studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “This has not stopped governments from trying to control meanings in their commemorative landscapes, but a capital is not always a source of shared meaning.”

Lucy Barber, author of *Marching on Washington: the Forging of an American Political Tradition*, agreed. “Marchers are in their own way urban planners. They look at this capital city...and they imagine how they will use it,” she explained. “There’s a dialogue that gets set up between the people who are using our public spaces for protest and those people in the city who need to regulate how they use those spaces.”

While Feldman called for an expanded Mall to house new memorials and museums, Professor Vale supported the placement of commemorative works with the larger planning goal of developing vibrant public spaces throughout the city. “We will do much better in thinking about how to disperse monuments and memorials if we think about the broader question of dispersing desirable public spaces that both local people and visitors will want to choose as a destination.”

Whether protests could be lured off the Mall was also subject to debate. “I’m doubtful about that,” said Barber, though she acknowledged that new spaces could emerge and evolve into meaningful sites for political events.



Symposium participants included Michael Wise, moderator Robert Ivy, Lawrence Vale, and Judy Scott Feldman (shown left to right)

“But I have to admit,” she added, jokingly, “I have more faith in the marchers and protesters figuring out where they want to go than all of you figuring out where they should go.”

To transform planning visions into reality, all the participants agreed that cooperation among planning authorities and public involvement was necessary, although the specific recommendations were varied.

“There has to be a level of buy-in by the people who are going to be affected by changes,” said Professor Vale, discussing the idea of dispersing memorials and museums throughout the city. “They need to take some ownership in the result and see the advantages in it for them.”

Maurice Cox, professor at the University of Virginia School of Architecture and the former mayor of Charlottesville, agreed. Drawing upon his extensive experience implementing public space, transit, and housing projects, he emphasized that community involvement is time-consuming and requires a high tolerance for conflict. “It can be challenging for us as planners, because the gap between the ideal and the reality is sometimes so wide that it is frustrating to pace ourselves to the community.”

Citing his firm’s recent projects in China and England, Joe Brown of EDAW/AECOM emphasized the importance of cooperation among federal, local, and private entities. “Planning needs to be about partnerships,” Brown said.

“Plans with obsessive concerns for boundaries, or plans with obsessive concerns for no boundaries are still just plans. But a language of joint ventures, of joint initiatives, of tri-ventures, the kinds of things that are making projects work everywhere else in the world is what’s needed,” said Brown.

“We will do much better in thinking about how to disperse monuments and memorials if we think about the broader question of dispersing desirable public spaces that both local people and visitors will want to choose as a destination.”

Lawrence Vale, Professor of Urban Studies
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



“As you walk through the display, you will find a history that is sometimes amusing, sometimes serious, a little audacious, even outrageous, but never dull.”

Chairman John V. Cogbill, III

Worthy of the Nation

Exhibit Warmly Received by Visitors to Union Station

More than 90-thousand visitors pass through Washington's Union Station every day and for three weeks in April, many of them experienced NCPC's *Worthy of the Nation* exhibit in the West Hall.

The display, based on NCPC's second edition of *Worthy of the Nation: Washington, DC, from L'Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission*, proved to be popular with visitors interested in learning about Washington's colorful and fascinating history of planning and development.

A comment book provided visitors with an opportunity to record their impressions. “(The exhibit) gave me a very good appreciation for the value of the commission,” wrote one visitor. “A spectacular tour through Washington's past, present, and future,” added another.

Drawing from a collection of rare photographs and images contained in the *Worthy* book, the exhibit chronicled the evolution of Washington, from the development of the National Mall, to the challenges of redevelopment and revitalization, and efforts to protect and enhance the city's parks, waterways, and open spaces.

NCPC Chairman John V. Cogbill, III presided at the April 10 ribbon-cutting, assisted by Michael S. McGill, who serves as the primary representative to the National Capital Planning Commission on behalf of the Administrator of the General Services Administration.

“The exhibit tells the story of Washington's incredible development over 216 years, from its sleepy, small town past, to one of the world's most vibrant and diverse urban centers,” said Cogbill. “As you walk through the display, you will find a history that is sometimes amusing, sometimes serious, a little audacious, even outrageous, but never dull.”

Eighty-five rare images and maps displayed on mahogany panels recounted the steps taken by planners over the years to oversee the building of the national seat of government.

A 3-dimensional model of the city based on NCPC's 1997 *Extending the Legacy* plan served as the center piece for the exhibit. The *Legacy* model, usually on display in the reception area of the NCPC offices, reflects a vision of the city that continues to guide planners today. *Worthy of the Nation* is available in bookstores and from the Johns Hopkins University Press.



CapitalSpace

Solicits Public Input

On April 5, NCPC, the District of Columbia, and the National Park Service hosted the first public preview for CapitalSpace, an initiative to create a unified park system plan for the District of Columbia. The Martin Luther King Jr. Public Library, site of the preview, co-sponsored the event.

"This is the first effort in 30 years to create a comprehensive park system for the nation's capital," said Julia Koster, director of the Planning Research and Policy Division that is overseeing the project. "The District has 9,300 acres of parkland—more than any other city in the country—and it's important that it be used to its full potential."

The meeting, attended by almost 70 people, gave the public an opportunity to learn about the plan's highlights and offer input to representatives of the CapitalSpace initiative.

To date, CapitalSpace partners have created an inventory of all federal and local parks as well as open spaces. They also have developed six broad goals that can be achieved through the cooperation of the partnering agencies. These include initiatives to:

- Link the Fort Circle Parks
- Provide facilities that meet active recreation needs
- Develop a schools strategy
- Develop a Center City parks strategy
- Identify opportunities for small parks
- Identify opportunities to reserve or gain parks and connections due to new development

A lively question-and-answer session revealed enthusiasm for the direction of CapitalSpace and underscored the importance of focusing on environmental sustainability.

CapitalSpace will hold a follow-up gathering in the summer and conduct smaller sessions focused on each of the six goals. The unveiling of a draft plan is expected in fall 2007. The public is invited to provide feedback and to sign up to receive CapitalSpace correspondence online at CapitalSpace@ncpc.gov.

June

June 7, 2007



Final Plans for the United States Institute of Peace Approved

The Commission approved final site and building plans for the U.S. Institute of Peace Headquarters and Public Education Center. The Institute is located on the northwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, adjacent to the old Naval Observatory. The building will help fill in the Northwest Rectangle, an area NCPC is targeting for improvement in its National Capital Framework Plan.

The 250,000 square-foot, six-story building will contain office space for 250 employees, fellows, and researchers; a research library and archives; a conference center; and an interactive education center. The most distinctive feature is an undulating, translucent roof which evokes a dove in flight, providing a dramatic entry into the city along Constitution Avenue.

At night the roof will be illuminated from within. As a condition of the Commission's approval, the Institute will provide NCPC with a copy of the building manual specifying final luminance limits for the building as established by the Section 106 process Memorandum of Agreement. This will help ensure that the building's lighting will not dominate the Lincoln Memorial nor detract from other memorials on the National Mall.

The underground parking garage will have spaces for 230 vehicles, 90 for the Institute and 140 for the neighboring Old Naval Observatory. In granting approval, the Commission required the Institute to prepare an addendum to the facility's Transportation Management Plan in the event the Navy no longer needs the additional parking. This addendum will indicate how the excess parking will be managed to conform with the Commission's parking policies in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*.



Federal Capital Improvements Program, 2008-2013 Released for Review

The Commission authorized circulation of the proposed Federal Capital Improvements Program for the National Capital Region, Fiscal Years 2008-2013 (FCIP) for a 45-day public review period. During this time federal, state, and local authorities, as well as interested organizations and individuals, may provide feedback on the items listed in the document.

Each year NCPC reviews all federal capital improvement plans in the region and helps set the government's development priorities by recommending which projects should move forward. The 2008-2013 FCIP contains 234 proposed projects, 200 of which are recommended for funding at an estimated cost of \$8.7 billion over the six-year period.

The greatest number of projects submitted was 70 by the Department of Defense. The General Services Administration submitted 37. Although 82 projects—worth an estimated \$2.5 billion—are earmarked for the District of Columbia, the greatest expenditures would fall in Fairfax County, Virginia, with \$3.4 billion for 29 proposed projects.

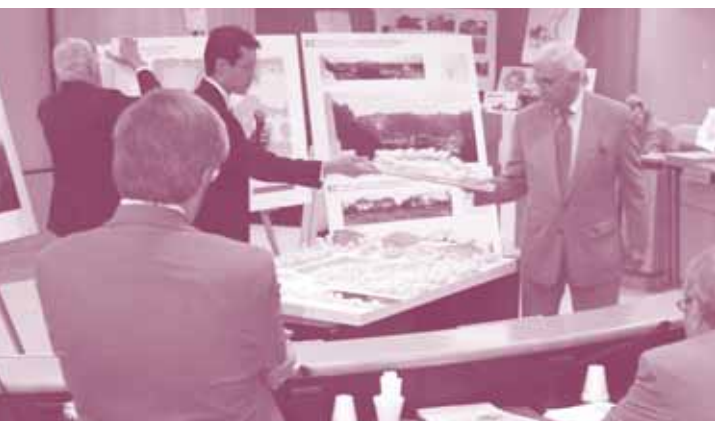
Adoption of the FCIP is tentatively scheduled for the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting.

Commission Updated on Status of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center

Staff members from the National Park Service and architects from Polshek Partnership Architects previewed a design concept for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center. The underground visitor center will be located on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial.

Guests will be greeted with a "Names Made Visible" wall featuring a changing array of faces and biographical information based on each veteran. An integral part of the visitor center will be a selection of artifacts left at the memorial by family, friends, and fellow veterans. Gently sloping ramps will lead visitors to displays of letters, pictures, military decorations, and personal effects along two-story, parallel glass walls. A timeline will provide a listing of key military actions from the war.

The Commission took no action following this informational presentation. NCPC anticipates reviewing a concept design in fall 2007.



Commission members view an informational presentation for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center

May

May 3, 2007

Commission Comments on Proposed Buildings for Square 54

The Commission recommended that the D.C. Zoning Commission approve a consolidated planned unit development for Square 54, the site of the old George Washington University Hospital and just south of Washington Circle. The university proposes to build an office building on the property's north side and a residential building on the south side. The site, located between 22nd and 23rd Streets, NW, has been vacant since the construction of a new hospital in 2004.

The Commission determined that the buildings' height would not conflict with the Height of Buildings Act of 1910, nor would the project be inconsistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital or adversely impact other federal interests.

The entire development would include 842,552 square feet of space including affordable housing, a grocery store, other retail, a public courtyard, and parking.

New Downtown Park Planned for Old Convention Center Site Development

The Commission commented favorably on concept designs for a park proposed for Reservation 174 in Northwest Washington. The triangular site, located on the property's northwest corner, borders New York Avenue, I, 10th, and 11th Streets, NW.

The Commissioners commended the high-quality, durable, and environmentally sustainable design for respecting historic L'Enfant streets and reservations in the District.

Development for the Old Convention Center Site will feature a new downtown park



The features include large- and small-scale fountains, landscaping, fixed and portable seating, and reserved vendor spaces. The proposed park is one element of the large-scale, mixed-use development proposed for the Old Convention Center site.

The Commission recommended that the 10th and I Streets, NW rights-of-way be re-established through the site using street, sidewalk, and curb lines indicated in the 1965 Baist map. The Commission also directed the applicant to develop a final design that reflects the site's historic location, relates it to three other "bow-tie" shaped sites near Mount Vernon Square, and enhances the views along New York Avenue towards Mount Vernon Square and the White House.

NCPC Briefed on St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Master Plan

Commissioners received an update on the master planning process to convert the West Campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital into a secure site for the Department of Homeland Security's consolidated headquarters.

Representatives of the General Services Administration (GSA) presented five different development alternatives, two with approximately 4.4 million square feet and three with approximately 6.4 million square feet of space, including parking. GSA is communicating with dozens of local and federal stakeholder groups while completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the site. NCPC anticipates reviewing the EIS and Master Plan later this year.

The St. Elizabeths West Campus includes more than 70 historic buildings with approximately 1.1 million square feet of space, 750,000 square feet of which is usable. The Commission does not act on informational presentations, but will take action when the EIS and Master Plan are submitted for formal review.



April
April 5, 2007

Revised National Law Enforcement Museum Entrance Pavilions and Plaza Presented to Commission

The Commission commented favorably on a revised concept design for a plaza and two entrance pavilions for the National Law Enforcement Museum. The Commission had previously approved the original concept design for the pavilions in December 2004.

The majority of the museum will be constructed underground in front of the District of Columbia Courts complex across E Street, NW. Two entrance pavilions will be located at street level, as will perimeter security elements, retaining walls, and landscaping. The Commission found that the new design resolved several functional issues and responded to the objectives of the Judiciary Square Master Plan and to the security needs of the D.C. Courts.

The new concept lowered the cornice heights of the pavilions, improved their alignment, reduced their overall bulk, and improved their integration into the surrounding court buildings. The plan modified the proposed plaza skylights making them flush with the pavement and increased the width of the access to the central plaza. The plan also proposed perimeter security elements including bollards and retaining walls.

The Commission recommended that the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund continue communicating with the D.C. Courts in accordance with Public Law 106-942.

Patent Office Building Security Proposed

The Commission reviewed several elements of the Patent Office Building, now home to the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery. Located in the Penn Quarter neighborhood between 7th and 9th, and F and G Streets, NW, the building is a National Historic Landmark. The museums reopened to the public in July 2006 following an extensive renovation.

April 5, 2007 continued

The Smithsonian Institution submitted a revised concept design for perimeter security in conjunction with the landscape plan and F Street staircase reconstruction that was reviewed by the Commission as a revised concept design in April 2006. A new element of the concept proposal is a temporary, removable metal egress stair on the building's south façade. This stair provides an emergency exit for Portico Café patrons and can be removed when the café is closed for the season.

The Commission commented favorably on installation of the Portico Café's removable egress stair facing 8th street for the 2007 warm-weather season only, and also reaffirmed its favorable comments on the landscape design and F Street staircase reconstruction. It required the Smithsonian to submit all exterior signs for review and approval.

While responding favorably to the overall perimeter security concept for the project, the Commission commented unfavorably on the proposal to put bollards in front of the G Street staircase and around the Metro station entrance near the building's northwest corner. They requested that the Smithsonian reexamine the need for perimeter security around the entire museum before submitting preliminary site and building plans for the landscape and F Street staircase. If the Smithsonian determines that perimeter security is absolutely necessary they should examine solutions consistent with NCPC's *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan*.

Commission Sees Old Convention Center Site Master Plan

In addition to presentations on the Railroad Realignment Feasibility Study and CapitalSpace, initiatives outlined elsewhere in this issue, the Commission received an information presentation on the draft master plan for redevelopment of the old Convention Center site. The Hines Development proposal includes 400,000 square feet of office space, 220 condominiums, 460 rental units, and 280,000 square feet of street-level retail space. The plan also calls for a public park with greenspace, seating, and a water feature. The land for the park will be transferred from the federal government to the District later this year. For details on the Commission's review of concept designs for the park, see page 8.

Local Students Envision New Museums for the Nation's Capital

NCPC wrapped up its second semester of participation in the National Building Museum's CityVision program as local middle-school students presented their designs for new museums on June 1. CityVision is the Museum's award-winning outreach program, which assembles educators and design professionals to help youth develop a better understanding of the built environment.

"We're very impressed by the creativity of the students," said Stefanie Brown, NCPC's coordinator for the project. "In a short period of time, they mastered the basics of the design process and developed important problem-solving and teamwork skills along the way."

Ms. Brown and NCPC planner Kenneth T. Walton met with the students throughout the spring to teach basic principles of design, encourage creative thinking, and develop competency in communication and leadership.

Standing in front of an excited audience of families and teachers, 31 students from Thurgood Marshall Educational Center and Stuart-Hobson Middle School presented their concepts and building designs for museums at three NCPC-selected sites: Banneker Overlook, New York/Florida Avenue, and RFK Stadium. A panel of professionals, including retired NCPC architect David Hamilton, provided evaluation and feedback.

For Banneker Overlook, one group of students developed a design for the Celebration of Culture Museum. The museum features interactive exhibits exploring the variety and history of cultures around the world. As envisioned, the facility would be arranged into seven spaces, organized by continent, and would also include outdoor exhibits and a large restaurant style food court. A second group of students created a Regional Food Museum for the RFK Stadium site. Shaped like a hexagon, the museum highlights food from six areas of the United States and the Caribbean. The third group designed an Entertainment and Technology Museum for the gateway intersection of New York and Florida Avenues. This museum would be located within a mixed-use complex featuring a retail storefront, interior courtyard, three buildings for the museum, and an underground parking complex.

"The students' museum designs show how they are not only aware of the current needs of local neighborhoods, but also that they appreciate the history, context, and future needs of their city," said Chase Rynd, executive director of the National Building Museum. "This is a critical step toward personal growth and empowerment."

All three sites are included in the studies currently underway for the National Capital Framework Plan, which will suggest locations for new museums throughout the city to help relieve pressure on the National Mall and enhance other parts of the capital. The plan, scheduled for release in fall 2007, is a joint effort of NCPC and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

This is the second time NCPC staff participated in the CityVision program. During the fall, eight staff members helped students develop proposals for future memorials on Framework Plan sites.

NCPC community planner Ken Walton poses with students from Stuart-Hobson Middle School



CommissionNotes

COMMISSION MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

DC Office of Planning Director **Harriet Tregoning** will serve as Mayor Adrian Fenty's first alternate on the Commission and **Robert E. Miller, Esq.** will serve as first alternate for City Council Chairman Vincent Gray. Miller, who previously held the position for Council Chairman Linda Cropp was unanimously elected vice chair of NCPC in April.

Mayor Fenty also reappointed **Arrington Dixon**, and named **Stacie S. Turner** to a four-year term. Ms. Turner is a partner agent with Mahshie & Turner Group. She replaces Patricia Elwood, who served on the Commission for nearly 20 years. Elwood was recognized for her service at the March meeting.

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, announced that **Deborah Parkinson** will serve as his first alternate and Representative Henry A. Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, announced that **Mark Stephenson** will serve as his first designee.

PLANNING EDITOR VISITS NCPC ON CROSS COUNTRY TOUR

On Friday, June 1, NCPC hosted **Wayne Senville**, editor of *Planning Commissioners Journal*. The Journal is the principal newsletter for members of city and county planning boards across the country. Mr. Senville is traveling along U.S. Route 50 visiting cities large and small to learn about local planning issues. While at NCPC, he discussed commemoration, the agency's National Capital Framework Plan, and the security issues that challenge Washington planners. Readers interested in learning about Mr. Senville's odyssey may visit www.rte50.com.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design named **Christine Saum**, Urban Design and Plan Review Division director, a Loeb Fellow for the class of 2008. Ms. Saum joins Executive Director Patricia Gallagher and Deputy Executive Director Marcel Acosta in receiving this distinguished recognition. The program will run nine months beginning in September 2007. Congratulations, Christine!

Congratulations also to Plan and Project Implementation Division community planner **David Zaidain**, who received his Master of Science in Real Estate, with a concentration in development from the Carey Business School of Johns Hopkins University. **Kael Anderson**, Planning Research and Policy Division community planner, earned a Master in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech Urban Affairs and Planning—Alexandria Center.

NCPC recently said goodbye to several employees. **Jonathan McIntyre**, an architect and urban planner accepted a position in the Office of the Chief Architect at GSA's Center for Federal Buildings and Modernization. Mr. McIntyre shepherded several major projects while at NCPC, including perimeter security for Smithsonian museums on the Mall, the Washington Nationals stadium, and building enhancements for the Herbert Hoover Building.

Jeanine Herbst, a project liaison specialist, accepted a special assignment with the Voice of America. During her tenure with NCPC, Ms. Herbst worked on the National Capital Framework Plan after previously serving as a public relations specialist in the Office of Public Affairs.

Stephen Miller recently completed his internship with the Plan and Project Implementation Division. A student at Cornell University, Mr. Miller worked on the North Capitol Street urban design study. **Joshua Hoffman**, a student at the University of Pennsylvania, joined NCPC as a summer intern. He will work in the Policy Research and Planning Division. NCPC extends best wishes and thanks to Jonathan, Jeanine, and Stephen for their efforts on the agency's behalf.

Maxim Gorokhov joined NCPC in April as a full-time contractor providing technical support. Mr. Gorokhov has more than ten years of IT experience. He replaces **Alexander Nazarenko**, who served in the same position from July 2006 to March 2007.

NCPC EMAIL LIST

To receive a monthly email listing of NCPC's Tentative Agenda Items and upcoming events, please email info@ncpc.gov.

NCPC WINS TWO COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

The National Association of Government Communicators recognized NCPC's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) with two 2007 Blue Pencil Awards in April. First

Place in the Annual Report category went to NCPC's 2005 Annual Report—Shaping a City for the 21st Century. Taking second place in the Display category were NCPC's colorful and dynamic lobby display panels—Planning America's Capital: Past, Present, and Future. The panels highlight the agency's initiatives during the past decade. OPA Director Lisa MacSpadden and Graphic

Artist Paul Jutton (pictured left to right) accepted the awards on the agency's behalf.



AGENCY HOSTS AUSTRALIAN PLANNER

David Headon, cultural adviser to the National Capital Authority in Canberra, Australia visited NCPC on April 18 to give a public lecture. "Magic to Stir Men's Blood: Big Plans and Planners in Washington and Canberra," provided a brief history of Canberra and drew parallels between the development of Canberra and Washington.



QUARTERLY

Floodwater Forum

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Coming Soon

A New Website for the National Capital Planning Commission

The Office of Public Affairs will unveil a new look for the agency's website this summer. The redesigned site will feature more visuals, improved content, and the addition of user-friendly tools such as a search engine and links to public laws and partnering agencies.

Constituents also will be able to easily access a variety of agency documents, including published reports, brochures, and Commission actions. NCPC looks forward to hearing your feedback once the new site is launched.



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

Commission Members

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman, Presidential Appointee

Herbert F. Ames, Presidential Appointee

José L. Galvez, III, Presidential Appointee

Arrington Dixon, Mayoral Appointee

Stacie S. Turner, Mayoral Appointee

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Lurita Alexis Doan
Administrator of General Services

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

Executive Director
Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP