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Memorializing Martin Luther King Jr.

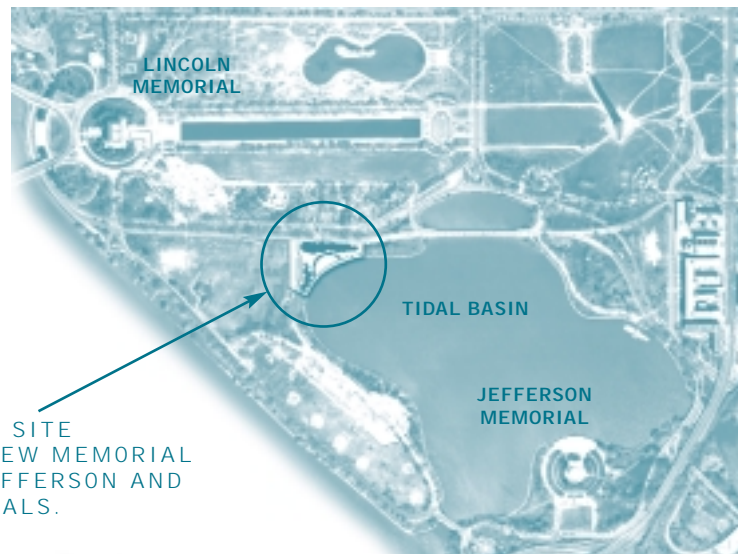
Congress authorized the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. in 1996 and, in 1998, granted special approval to build the memorial in the core area of the Nation's Capital that is reserved for commemorative works of "preeminent historical and lasting significance." In December 1999, the National Capital Planning Commission approved a four-acre site on the Tidal Basin for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Once the Tidal Basin site had been approved and parameters for that site were agreed upon, the memorial sponsor—Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—held a design competition that garnered over 900 memorial ideas from around the world. An international panel of renowned architects and planners then faced the difficult charge of selecting one entry among the many worthwhile designs. Members of the jury gathered at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. last year to review over 3,000 boards that sought to capture the memorial theme: "The Man, The Movement, The Message." Six finalists were chosen and, in September 2000, the memorial foundation unveiled the winning entry, submitted by ROMA Design Group of San Francisco, California.

THE WINNING DESIGN FEATURES A "STONE OF HOPE" WITH A SCULPTURE OF DR. KING AND AN INSCRIPTION OF HIS WORDS.

Although no design plans have been submitted to the Commission for formal review, the memorial sponsor felt that a detailed preview of the winning design might draw input from the Commissioners and shed some early light on possible design issues. The hope is that such a proactive approach might help to produce the best possible memorial design. In its public meeting on May 3, 2001, the Commission heard an information presentation about the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial design.

The memorial to Dr. King is envisioned as a powerful landscape experience with connections to nearby monuments and natural elements. The memorial site will actually be created by the relocation of West Basin Drive to the west. The arc-shaped memorial space will bring the Tidal Basin and the cherry trees, which bloom around the anniversary of Dr. King's death, into its context, but the memorial will still be a part of the Mall landscape. Through its placement, near the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial will reside on axis with fellow advocates of democratic ideals. Upon entering the memorial through its primary opening, the visitor should be able to see the Jefferson Memorial beyond. The image of Dr. King will appear out of the edge of a stone, facing the Jefferson Memorial and pointing towards a future that will see his dream fulfilled.



THE TIDAL BASIN SITE POSITIONS THE NEW MEMORIAL BETWEEN THE JEFFERSON AND LINCOLN MEMORIALS.

The design's primary natural elements of stone, water, and trees will serve as representations of democracy, justice, and hope. Through contrasts in texture and light—the use of smooth and rough water; soft areas and hard areas; and light and shade—the design attempts to heighten the visitor's ability to experience the words inscribed within the memorial. One of the design's key elements is the Mountain of Despair and, cut out of that mountain, the Stone of Hope. The movement of the stone, away from the larger rock, symbolizes the progress made during the Civil Rights Movement and its association with Dr. King. One side of the stone will be inscribed with the Promissory Note: "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable Rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." King's words and the entire memorial experience should teach visitors about Dr. King's Legacy; it should allow individuals to reflect; and, ultimately, it should inspire.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial will reside on axis with fellow advocates of democratic ideals.

The Commission commended the designers for their exceptional work in integrating the memorial with the Tidal Basin and the cherry trees. Although the Commission recognizes that many design issues are yet to be worked out, it seized this early opportunity to express its concerns over some design issues, including the expansiveness of the niches; pedestrian access to the memorial from the Tidal Basin; the location for a park ranger kiosk; the potential obstruction of views to the Jefferson Memorial; and the potential obstruction of views from Independence Avenue and West Basin Drive. Being aware of these concerns before preparing the preliminary design submission can only benefit the designers and, ultimately, the memorial.

World War II Memorial Moves Ahead

On May 28, 2001—Memorial Day—President Bush signed legislation clearing legal roadblocks and permitting construction of the World War II Memorial on a prominent Mall site to go forward. The President's action concluded the most recent chapter in the development of a project that in recent months has captured newspaper headlines and fueled radio call-in shows around the country.

The legislation, proposed in response to legal challenges and procedural delays, validates the Commission's past approvals of the memorial and ensures the ongoing review role of NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts under the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act. The commissions will continue to provide oversight of remaining elements of the project that have not yet been reviewed, such as the lighting scheme, inscriptions, sculptural elements, and stonework. The memorial sponsor, the American Battle Monuments Commission, expects to complete the memorial in 2004.



COMPUTER RENDERING OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ARCH AND PLAZA

This issue of the Quarterly summarizes actions taken at the Commission meetings on April 5, May 3, and June 7, 2001. Additional information on individual projects may be obtained by contacting the National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20576 or by calling 202-482-7200. Visit www.ncpc.gov for more news about Commission activities.

THE PROPOSED ATF HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF NEW YORK AND FLORIDA AVENUES



Closing a Portion of 2nd Street, N Street, and a Public Alley

Washington D.C. June 7, 2001

The District of Columbia government proposed closing one block of 2nd Street between Florida Avenue and N Street, NE and one block of N Street between 1st and 2nd Streets, NE. The closure of these streets—along with the closure of a public alley in Square 710—is intended to help accommodate a new headquarters building for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) on Square 710. While the Commission favored the closure of the public alley within Square 710, it found that the proposal to close portions of 2nd and N Streets would have a negative impact on federal interests that call for the protection of L’Enfant Streets.

The pertinent blocks of N and 2nd Streets were first platted in 1796, following Pierre L’Enfant’s plan for the City of Washington. The system of streets laid out in the L’Enfant Plan provides a framework for development in the original city, and affords visual and physical connections through the creation of views and civic open space along the rights-of-way. As the Commission takes responsibility for protecting and enhancing this historic street plan, it must discourage the closure of any L’Enfant Plan street, as stated in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*.

Absent a development plan for the new ATF building, the Commission found the proposal for street closures premature; however, the Commission recognizes the public benefits that are anticipated from the planned location of the ATF headquarters at New York and Florida Avenues, NE and looks forward to reviewing that project.

Canal Road Entrance to Georgetown University

Washington, D.C. May 3, 2001

In its latest review of improvements to the Canal Road entrance at Georgetown University, the Commission approved final design plans. As part of its approval, the Commission is requiring that all mitigation measures it has identified, along with all measures identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for this project, must be implemented prior to activating new traffic signals at Canal Road. NCPC’s mitigation requirements are summarized below:

- The Prospect Street entrance to Georgetown University will remain open.
- A two-lane road will be constructed from and adjacent to Canal Road and will connect with the existing entrance road.
- A deceleration lane will be constructed on westbound Canal Road for traffic entering the university.
- A new right-turn-only lane will be constructed on eastbound Canal Road at the Canal Road/Whitehurst Freeway intersection; and a portion of the existing upper Canal Road retaining wall will be relocated south to accommodate the new lane.
- New traffic signals, which will be installed at the new entrance to allow left turns onto eastbound Canal Road, will be designed to prohibit left turns exiting the campus during the morning rush hour.
- New traffic signals and controls will be fully capable of sensing demand for through traffic along Canal Road in both directions and for traffic exiting from and entering the university with movements that cross Canal Road.
- All construction for the Canal Road project that requires a restriction on the number of travel lanes along Canal Road in either direction shall be performed before and after peak period traffic.

In its latest action, the Commission also approved the exchange of federal parkland for scenic easements between the National Park Service and Georgetown University; and, for road construction purposes, the Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction between the National Park Service and the D.C. Department of Public Works.

The purpose of this project is to provide full turning movements from Canal Road to Georgetown University and to limit university-related traffic on nearby neighborhood streets. One year after the project’s completion, the Federal Highway Administration will evaluate the effectiveness of the improvements and submit their evaluation to the Commission. If necessary, the Commission may find the need to require further mitigating measures.

OTHER COMMISSION ACTIONS

DISTRICT FY2002-2007 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN AND FY2002 CAPITAL BUDGET

The Commission commented to the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia that the proposed capital budget for FY2002 did not appear to have any adverse impacts on federal interests. The Commission advised that several projects seem to require coordination with NCPC and with other federal departments and agencies. (4/5/01)

LAFAYETTE BUILDING, 811 VERMONT AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission approved preliminary and final building plans for the installation of nine relocated Nextel antennas and three new Nextel antennas on the penthouse walls and upper building walls of the Lafayette Building. Effective upon the completion of the Commission's requests for relocating three Cingular antennas and for clearly marking all areas of the penthouse roof that exceed maximum permissible occupational exposure levels, the Commission approved preliminary and final building plans for the installation of 12 Teligent antennas on the penthouse rooftop of the Lafayette Building. These approvals are good for a period of five years. (4/5/01)

MINER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 601 15TH STREET, NE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission approved preliminary and final site and building plans for the construction of a new Miner Elementary School. The two-story brick structure will house up to 500 students and 70 teachers and staff members. The historic school building, designed by architect Glenn Brown and completed in 1901, will be retained on school property. (5/3/01)

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, BETHESDA CAMPUS, MD

The Commission approved, for a five-year period, preliminary and final site plans for the erection of a unipole antenna at the NIH Bethesda campus. This project supports Montgomery County's Public Safety 2000 Initiative to develop an emergency radio communication system that will support Metrorail's red line, the D.C. Fire Department, and Montgomery County. (5/3/01)

RANDLE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1650 30TH STREET, SE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission approved conceptual design plans for the rehabilitation of the historic school and a gymnasium addition to Randle Highlands Elementary School. The Commission also approved preliminary site and building plans for the construction of a classroom addition, a four-story structure that will be connected to the historic school via an enclosed walkway. Once the school complex is complete, it will house up to 620 students and 70 teachers and staff. (5/3/01)

SHAW SCHOOL URBAN RENEWAL AREA, DISPOSITION LOTS 16, 36, AND 37, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission adopted a resolution to modify the Urban Renewal Plan for the Shaw School Urban Renewal Area. The modification, which would change the land use designation on Lot 16 (bounded by S, T, 8th, and 9th Streets, NW) and Lots 36 and 37 (bounded by R, S, 9th, and 10th Streets, NW) from Public/Community to Low Density Residential, is not inconsistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* and was determined to have no adverse effect on the Greater U Street Historic District. (6/7/01)

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION CONSOLIDATION, CDER LABORATORY BUILDING, WHITE OAK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The Commission approved final site and building plans for the CDER laboratory at the FDA Consolidation site in White Oak, Maryland. The proposed laboratory—the first building to be located at the consolidated campus—will house lab and office space for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. (4/5/01)

U.S. RESERVATION 267, BOUNDED BY TENNESSEE AVENUE, NE & 13TH STREET, NE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission approved the transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of U.S. Reservation 267 from the District of Columbia to the National Park Service. The 5,640-square-foot reservation had been transferred to the District in 1972 for transportation improvements. The portion of that reservation that is not needed for those improvements is being returned to the National Park Service for park purposes. (6/7/01)

DELEGATED ACTIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVED:

Preliminary and final building plans for a second-story addition to Building 30, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD. (4/3/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for the new pedestrian entrance to the Eccles Building for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. (4/3/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for a Cogeneration Plant Addition to Building 11A at the National Institutes of Health Bethesda Campus, Montgomery County, MD. (4/3/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for a new Barnard Elementary School at 430 Decatur Street, NW, Washington, D.C. (4/26/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for the Family Housing Welcome Center Addition at the Washington Navy Yard, Anacostia Annex, Washington, D.C. (4/26/01)

Preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of two parking ramp safety railings and an interim landscape treatment at the Department of Education Building at 4th and C Streets, SW, Washington, D.C. (4/26/01)

Final site and building plans for construction of a new Fairfax Main Post Office, 10660 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA. (5/31/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for a second-story garage addition to Building 15K, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda Campus, Montgomery County, MD. (5/31/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for a partially below grade addition to Building 30, National Institute of Dental Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda Campus, Montgomery County, MD. (5/31/01)

Preliminary and final site and building plans for the addition to the Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Prince George's County, MD. (5/31/01)

Final site and building plans for construction of a new accessible exterior entrance walk and tunnel to provide a basement entry to the Ballistic Research Facility, Building No. 231, at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, MD. (5/31/01)

THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONCLUDED THAT:

The proposed Consolidated Planned Unit Development for Square 346, Lot 805 (1025 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.) would not adversely affect the federal establishment or other federal interests, or be inconsistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. (4/3/01)

The proposed map amendment to change the zoning of Square 484, Lot 25 (Massachusetts Avenue, I, 5th, and 6th Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.) from HR/SP-2 to DD/C-2-C would not affect federal interests, nor be inconsistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. (5/31/01)



ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENT

The Commission adopted the revised Federal Environment Element of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. The updated element incorporates NCPC's planning initiative—the Legacy Plan—and the regional environmental protection goals and objectives of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Program. It also incorporates key environmental laws and Executive Orders and recommends new policies affecting hazardous waste management, radiofrequency electromagnetic field emissions from antennas, and environmental justice. During a 60-day public comment period, the Commission held a public meeting on the draft element and received numerous written comments. The final element was adopted on May 3, 2001 and can be viewed on NCPC's web site at http://www.ncpc.gov/planning_init/comprehensive.html.

PRESIDENT BUSH NAMES NEW CHAIRMAN

The Commission welcomes John V. Cogbill, III, appointed to the Commission by President Bush and designated Chairman in June. A resident of Virginia, Mr. Cogbill occupies that state's seat as a Presidential appointee. Mr. Cogbill is a real estate and land use attorney and has been with McGuire Woods LLP in Richmond, Virginia for more than 20 years. He is the Managing Partner of the Richmond office and of the Richmond Real Estate Group. A Richmond magazine named Mr. Cogbill one of the Region's 100 "Power Players" and also a "Top Lawyer" in Richmond in the areas of Land Use and Real Estate. Mr. Cogbill has been a member of many civic boards and committees, including the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Richmond Metropolitan Authority. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Mr. Cogbill served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1976. He earned his J.D. from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.



NCPC CHAIRMAN
JOHN V. COGBILL, III

Former Chairman Richard Friedman continues to serve as a Commission member. In her remarks at the June Commission meeting, Vice Chair Patricia Elwood thanked Mr. Friedman for the zeal and sincerity of purpose that he brought to his duties as Chairman and noted in particular his continuing leadership role on the task force examining security and urban design issues.

COMMISSION NOTES



SENATOR
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN

NCPC welcomes two new Commission Members: Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and Stephen A. Perry, Administrator of General Services. The Commission also welcomes the following Alternates: Cynthia Gooen, Counsel, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, Alternate to Senator Lieberman; and Michael S. McGill, Senior Project Manager, Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region, General Services Administration, Alternate to Administrator Perry.



ADMINISTRATOR
STEPHEN A. PERRY

NCPC is revising its Guidelines and Submission Requirements for Antennas on Federal Property in the National Capital Region. During a 60-day public comment period, which began in May, the Commission posted a draft of the revised guidelines and requirements on its web site and held a public meeting to hear comments about the document. Once NCPC staff has had the opportunity to review comments from members of the public, private businesses, and federal, city, and local government agencies, it will produce a final document for Commission approval.

In April, NCPC hosted a group of students from Sudley Elementary School of Manassas, Virginia. During their day at NCPC, the students—most of whom were visiting Washington, D.C. for the first time—learned about commemorative works and sketched their own versions of potential memorials. It was an enjoyable visit for the students and their parents, the class teacher, Ms. Lynn Ross, the school principal, Ms. Pam Moody, and for NCPC staff.



LOCAL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
AND TEACHERS EXAMINE THE MODEL
OF THE LEGACY PLAN

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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.

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The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Stephen A. Perry
Administrator of General Services

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

The Honorable Dan Burton
Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

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