

For Immediate Release
November 5, 2009

Lisa MacSpadden
202-482-7263 or lisa@ncpc.gov
Stephen Staudigl
202-482-7279 or stephen@ncpc.gov

NCPC Approves National Mall Wayfinding Pylons Color Scheme
Commission Recognizes Former Chairman with Resolution of Appreciation

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today the National Capital Planning Commission approved the National Park Service’s proposed monochromatic (gray) color scheme for pedestrian guide wayfinding pylons for the National Mall and East Potomac Park.

The new signs are part of a comprehensive plan to better communicate information to a variety of audiences visiting the Mall and East Potomac Park. Two sizes of pylons will be installed: 9’2” pylons at major path and road intersections and 5’6” pylons at minor path intersections, in open areas near memorials, and at other locations in need of wayfinding signage.

The Commission had approved final site development plans for the fabrication and installation of the pylons and map kiosks at its July meeting, but deferred final approval of the pylon panel colors pending further study and consultation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Commission Fine Arts.

“I thank NCPC staff for their hard work during this process,” said Commission Alternate Peter May, who represents the Secretary of the Interior at Commission meetings and who serves as the National Park Service’s Associate Regional Director for the National Capital Region. “After further study and consultation, the Park Service became convinced that the gray color scheme is superior and will allow for much greater contrast and clarity.”

The pedestrian guide wayfinding pylons and map kiosks are one of three parts of the Park Service’s comprehensive wayfinding and sign program. In May of this year the Commission approved preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a UniGuide sign system for NPS facility identification signs, and rules and regulation signs. A third component, monument identification signs, has not yet been submitted for review.

The Commission also approved six consent calendar items (no presentation given):

- Preliminary and final building plans for three telecommunications antennas, one GPS Antenna, and an equipment cabinet on the roof of the Wilbur Wright Building (FOB 10B) located at 600 Independence Avenue, SW in Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final building plans for three telecommunications antennas, one GPS Antenna, and an equipment cabinet on the roof of the West Heating Plant located at 1055 29th Street, NW, Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final building plans for three telecommunications antennas, one GPS Antenna, and an equipment cabinet on the roof of the General Services Administration Building located at 633 3rd Street, NW, Washington, DC;
- Preliminary and final building plans for three telecommunications antennas, one GPS Antenna, and an equipment cabinet on the roof of the Frances Perkins Building located at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC;

- Preliminary and final site and building plans for three Fisher Houses located at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; and
- Preliminary and final site and building plans for a munitions storage and maintenance complex at the Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility Washington in Camp Springs, Maryland.

Also at today's meeting, members of the Commission and staff honored former Chairman John V. Cogbill, III with a Resolution of Appreciation in recognition of his eight years of distinguished service. Members praised Mr. Cogbill for his valuable contributions during his tenure, which included overseeing key planning initiatives such as the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* and the award-winning *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*. Mr. Cogbill also chaired the Commission's review of hundreds of development projects including the redesign of the Washington Monument grounds and Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central 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 projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.

###