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NCPC Updated on President's Park South Project and Kennedy Center Expansion Plans
Commission Approves Pentagon Reservation Final Master Plan with Exceptions

Washington, DC – At its monthly meeting today, May 7, 2015 the National Capital Planning Commission heard an information presentation on the President's Park South project. The National Park Service and the U.S. Secret Service are developing design proposals that will integrate security components and improve the visitor experience at the area located between the White House Grounds and Constitution Avenue, NW. NCPC anticipates reviewing a set of alternatives this fall. No action was taken on this information presentation.

In the second information presentation Kennedy Center staff provided an update on their plans to add performance and rehearsal space, classrooms, and new public areas south of the current building. The revised plans removed the pavilion that was proposed to float on the Potomac River. Instead, they propose three land pavilions and a new pedestrian bridge that will connect the Kennedy Center to the Potomac Riverfront. The new third land pavilion, to be located near the Potomac, will contain space that can accommodate a variety of performances and a café. Its large windows and a retractable wall will provide a visual connection to the water. No action was taken on this information presentation.

"The Commission was pleased with the revised design presented today by the Kennedy Center," said NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant, Jr. "The Kennedy Center should be commended for responding to community and Commission input that resulted in a stronger design. We anticipate seeing revised plans this summer and will continue working with everyone to ensure this fitting addition moves toward construction as quickly as possible."

NCPC approved the final master plan for the Pentagon Reservation—submitted by the United States Department of Defense's Washington Headquarters Service (WHS)—with two exceptions: the North Village and North Parking Lot, and the plan's proposed 1:3.2 long-term parking ratio (one parking space per 3.2 employees). The Commission recommended that WHS develop a plan to remove additional parking spaces in the North Parking lot, which is adjacent to the Pentagon Lagoon, so it better meets Comprehensive Plan parking ratios and also addresses stormwater management requirements for this area located in a 500-year floodplain. The Commission asked for an update on progress to address these concerns in six months.

The plan updates a draft master plan completed in 2005. It includes 22 proposals that over the next 20 years will improve security; further employee and visitor safety and quality of life; and enhance environmental sustainability. Projects include a new Pentagon Support Operations Support Center in the reservation's North Village; improvements to the South Parking Lot; and improved cyclist connections. The plan also includes long-term proposals to reduce parking by 1,295 spaces and incorporate best practice stormwater management techniques into existing surface parking areas.

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The Commission authorized release of the draft Federal Urban Design Element of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* for a 60-day public comment period. The new element will establish policies that guide federal agencies in developing and maintaining federal buildings and properties in a manner that enhances the public realm and better integrates federal facilities into their surrounding neighborhoods. The element also provides policies which support the federal government in maintaining and improving Washington, DC as the nation's capital and as an evolving, competitive 21st century city.

The element incorporates public feedback on a November 2012 draft, as well as information from the Height Master Plan and new technical studies on viewsheds, public realm, and image and form. The element and technical addendum are available at <http://www.ncpc.gov/urbandesign/>.

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

- Preliminary and final site development plans for temporary security improvements to vehicle access points on the Ellipse. (7653)
- Preliminary and final site development plans for temporary improvements to the perimeter fence at the White House Complex. (7668)
- Preliminary and final site and buildings plans for an above ground parking garage at the Naval Support Activity-Bethesda, Bethesda, Maryland. (7666)
- Transfer of jurisdiction of five parcels of land located within Shepherd Parkway South, adjacent to the St. Elizabeths West Campus from the National Park Service to the General Services Administration. (7663)

In addition, the Acting Executive Director approved ten items under authority delegated by the Commission. Additional information is available on [NCPC's website](#).

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