

## **National Capital Framework Plan Meeting**

January 9, 2007

### **Presentation Overview**

The National Capital Framework Plan's goal is to preserve the National Mall, and to increase the perception of the nation's capital to as encompassing the entire city, instead of the current image, which is usually just of the Mall.

Their strategic objectives are the following:

1. Create places for new destinations, such as memorials, within the city
2. Improve the connections, visual and physical (e.g. Metro or bus routes) between the federal core (Mall) and other parts of D.C.
3. Create memorial spaces and places for future generations; as tourism is expected to double within the next 25 years, these new destinations should encourage the spread of tourism into the city.

Reconnection and the establishment of symbolic spaces outside the Mall is the NCPC's main strategy. Specifically, future plans and goals include:

- Unifying the city and the federal core
- Using museums, memorials and public buildings to stimulate the economy
- Integrating the waterfront into public life of the city
- Create new recreational public spaces
- Develop comprehensive and flexible connections
- Achieve environmental sustainability

Destinations and Connections: NCPC wants to create new destinations outside the Mall, including:

- Museums
- Memorials
- Recreation
- Civic space
- Public gathering and event spaces
- Mixed-use activity areas

They want to foster connections between these and other areas, including those in the federal core, by methods such as:

- Promenades
- Trails
- Boulevards and parkways
- Bridges
- Transit choices such as water taxi, metro, bike, bus, streetcars
- Symbolic and visual relationships

City planning and design strategies: in order to make downtown DC more appealing, the NCPC wants to relieve the problems that are currently associated with areas outside the Mall, including inadequate streetscapes and walkways, ugly and inaccessible security

barriers, a lack of visitor or passenger amenities, or inaccessible or isolated areas. They aim to encourage sponsorship of individual memorials/symbolic spaces, as well as more tourist/pedestrian areas, through the following strategies:

- Remove security barriers (could be of interest to landscape architects)
- Position 10<sup>th</sup> Street SW as an important axis from the national Mall for a new mixed-use cultural corridor
- Use Federal ground floor space for museums, retail, visitor amenities
- Reuse, redevelop or improve buildings and sites to create active street life
- Use air-rights or parking lots for infill development
- Consider local recreational needs
- Improve accessibility, waterfront linkages and connections between Georgetown—River's edges—national Mall—Downtown—Rfk
- Mix cultural attractions with commercial and government uses
- Improve pedestrian environment and amenities
- Increase transit choices and cluster destinations at transit nodes
- Improve the quality of the streets and urban landscape
- Incorporate sustainable and green planning, design, and construction strategies

## **Current Status**

The NCPD has detailed areas of opportunity that could house significant symbolic spaces, and has begun pinpointing areas to house potential memorials in the case of future sponsorship interest. They have also begun to map out key connections in each area. The areas are:

**Northwest Rectangle:** Remove security barriers, reinforce the importance of Kennedy Center cultural development plaza, improve connections (water and street) between Georgetown, downtown, National Mall, create new places for cultural destinations.

**East Potomac Park:** Improve public amenities, enhance civic space, improve connections to National Mall, Southwest Waterfront, and South Capitol Street. Create new spaces for recreation and memorials.

**Southwest Federal Center:** Reuse ground floor space for places of cultural interest, visitor services, retail. Improve buildings to promote street life. Improve security features. Improve spaces along National mall. Improve accessibility to waterfront via removing physical/visual barriers.

**Banneker Overlook:** Promote as important extension of National Mall. Mix cultural/government locations. Improve buildings and enhance sites. Improve streetscape and connections to downtown and the Waterfront.

**Federal Triangle and Pennsylvania Avenue:** Reuse ground floor space for museums and visitor centers. Provide access to courtyards. Improve buildings and enhance sites. Address and improve security design. Improve access to and from downtown and National Mall.

**Waterfront Areas:** Improve recreation areas, connectivity.

**Timeline/Future Plans:** Currently, all plans are still in the strategy/implementation stages. The NCPC is currently working with the National Mall Plan to encourage the image of the “nation’s capital” as DC as a whole.

The next steps are:

Develop a preliminary comprehensive framework plan

Tie recommended strategies to specific geographic locations.

Define the method of determining public memorials, keep abreast of development proposals.

Review preliminary framework plan with the Working Group, the Steering Committee, and the general public.

Refine the framework plan after review.

Prepare an actual, prioritized action plan

Begin concept plan development for East Potomac Park, Banneker Overlook and Maryland and Virginia Aves beginning in summer 2007.

### **Landscape Architect Component**

Because everything is currently in the planning stages, landscape architects do not currently play a role. However, as specific designs begin to be developed, the NCPC welcomes the input and assistance of landscape architects. They suggest us informing member firms of the upcoming plans and perhaps holding meetings in the future. I spoke to the Director of Public Affairs, Lisa N. MacSpadden, who would like to make contact sometime in the future. Her contact information:

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I gave her my business card as well as Scott’s name and email address. She plans to speak with us sometime in the future.