

## Report to Members

July/August 2002



*...to safeguard and advance the fundamental planning, environmental and aesthetic values inherited from the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission that give Washington its historic distinction, natural beauty and overall livability.*

## Subcommittees' Work Critical

The subcommittees of the Committee of 100 are the engine of the organization. Standing subcommittees and taskforces monitor areas and issues critical to the Committee's mission and carry out policies established by the membership.

Subcommittee work involves research, attendance at meetings of boards and commissions, and recommendations to the Trustees and membership on policy, followed by advocacy and testimony at hearings on the adopted positions.

At the **FRIDAY, September 20th** membership meeting, the subcommittees and taskforces will report on

their activities, recommendations and work plans for the coming year. The presentations will both inform members and afford them a better idea of which subcommittee to join.

Below are summaries of recent reports of one subcommittee and one taskforce.

**The Parks & Environment Subcommittee, Chair Loretta Neumann**, defines its mission as advocacy and education on behalf of Washington parks and park programs, including local, regional, and national parks.

**Agenda, cont'd on page 3.**

## Committee Supports Challenge of Tax Assessment Process

The Committee acted to support a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of District homeowners adversely affected by recent 2002 and 2003 tax assessment increases and established a PIPA account for lawsuit funds.

The lawsuit, filed by life-time Committee member Dr. Peter S. Craig, challenges the current assessment system as unlawful and unconstitutional and seeks a decision from the D.C. Superior Court to restore equalization of

**TAX, cont'd on page 4**

## Committee Weighs in on Comprehensive Plan

The District's Comprehensive Plan should guide policies and actions, especially as to land use. However, the Plan's content, and the process for attaining it, are woefully inadequate. Concerns include:

- o The ad hoc nature of the multiple development projects overseen by the Office of Planning (OP), which leaves little time or staff to address its Comprehensive Plan responsibly.
- o The Mayor's failure to meet the statutory deadline for submission of revisions of the Comprehensive Plan to the Council and the reporting deadline on the current Plan's implementation.

- o The low status given the OP, which does not have an independent seat in the Mayor's cabinet.

Acknowledging the need for a fresh look at the Comprehensive Plan development process, the City Council established, through (PR14-604), a task force of 25 to 30 persons (yet to be appointed) to review the methods for securing the Plan, its general format, and its applications. The Council's resolution incorporated much of the Committee's recommendations for the taskforce's scope of work. However, these recommendations are not included in the Mayor's Order. (See the Committee's website for this letter.)

Other Committee actions include:

- o The Planning sub-committee initiated a study, which may lead to recommendations about a revised planning structure and the establishment of a planning commission.
- o A task force will be established to monitor the work of the city's Comprehensive Plan task force and to provide input to the multi-year development of a revised Comprehensive Plan and the possibility of a changed planning structure.

**Join a Subcommittee.  
See page 3.**

Trustee Meeting Notes	page 2
Sept. Membership Meeting	page 4

### ***From the Communication Subcommittee:***

Members stated in the Membership Survey that they wanted to receive the full text of the minutes of the Trustee Meetings. The subcommittee will continue to summarize the Trustees' actions in the Newsletter. We will mail out the full, approved minutes only if you do not have available email or fax. Please email the Committee's administrator at [TheComm100@aol.com](mailto:TheComm100@aol.com) with your current email address or call the Administrator at (202) 628-8030 to add your fax number or request that the minutes be mailed. The Committee saves money by reducing its mailing.

Check the Committee's website, <http://www.committeeof100.net>, for the text of letters that convey official Committee positions sent to boards, commissions, government agencies and other officials.

### **Action Items:**

#### **June 13, 2002 Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Donald AuCoin was introduced as the new Committee administrator; the selection process was explained.

#### **Trustees voted to:**

- \* Authorize the Zoning Subcommittee to write Congress discouraging the Congress from overturning the decisions of the DC Zoning Board.
- \* Establish a PIPA account for the class action suit regarding the DC Tax Assessment Process.

### **Action Items:**

#### **July 11, 2002 Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

#### **Trustees voted to:**

- \* Request the Parks and Conservation and Transportation subcommittees to present to the membership their recommendation to close Kingle Road and to invite advocates of road restoration to present their position at the same meeting.
- \* Keep development of park lands subject to present variance and special exception requirements and have the Zoning Commission

take a "planful" approach to all district parks and recreation spaces, including the relationship between parks and neighborhoods.

- \* Support the class action law suit filed by Dr. Peter Craig against the District Office of Tax Revenue (two abstentions).
- \* Explore the possibility of changing C100 trustee and membership meeting dates from the second and third Thursdays of the month

(respectively) to the second and third Fridays.

- \* Accept the final report of the Ad Hoc Governance Subcommittee.
- \* Accept revised criteria for membership in the Committee\*
- \* Agree on a unanimous consent procedure that would permit Trustees to take actions without meeting. Discussion and vote on these matters would be by email. This procedure is intended for use in cases where matters cannot wait upon the scheduled meetings of the Trustees.

#### **FORMER CRITERIA**

- ❖ Be knowledgeable and active in one of the Committee's major areas of interest: planning, zoning, parks, conservation, transportation, historic preservation, housing, economic development or water resources.
- ❖ Be distinguished, prominent or have a record of accomplishment (i.e., the candidate must have actually done something substantive).
- ❖ Be in or have been in an elected or leadership role at the local (Washington) or metropolitan level.

#### **CRITERIA APPROVED BY C100 TRUSTEES ON JULY 13, 2002 AND INSERTED INTO NEW MEMBERSHIP FORMS.)**

- ❖ ***Be knowledgeable and active*** in one of the Committee of 100's major areas of interest: planning, zoning, parks and the environment, transportation, historic preservation, housing, economic development, or ***natural*** resources.
- ❖ Sustained activity in a civic or citizens group, especially activity dealing with land use issues.
- ❖ A record of accomplishment, i.e., the candidate must have actually done something ***substantive***, including testifying before the DC Council, or Federal, regional, and local planning, legislative, and regulatory bodies.
- ❖ Knowledge and awareness about the legal, regulatory, political, and organizational environment that exists in ***Washington, DC and the metropolitan region***.
- ❖ Knowledge about the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans and their importance and application in ***Washington, DC***

*Agenda, cont'd from page 1.*

In April, the subcommittee recommended that the Committee support closing Klinge Road in Rock Creek Park to automobile traffic. (This issue will be taken to the full membership.)

In June, Ms. Neumann and Zoning Subcommittee Chair Barbara Zartman, testified before the DC Zoning Commission in opposition to proposed text changes to allow matter of right recreation facility development in DC public parks.

**The subcommittee will:**

- o Host park superintendent Adrienne Coleman to discuss the draft management plan and other issues relating to Rock Creek Park at the November 21st membership meeting.
- o Meet with the National Park Service, DC Department of Parks & Recreation, DC Office of Planning and the Prince Georges County Planning Office.

The subcommittee is also monitoring a tree bill to protect trees during development projects; the possible impact the possible Olympics could have on Anacostia waterfront; and developments on the Georgetown Waterfront Park. The subcommittee anticipates making recommendations on the District's parks and recreation plan now under development as well as capital budget priorities.

**The Tivoli Theatre Taskforce, Chair Bonnie Cain,** has focused on:

- o Participation in the DC Zoning Commission hearing regarding zoning changes on the Tivoli parcel; and
- o Participation in the 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to guide the redevelopment of the Tivoli and adjoining site.

# Subcommittees and Chairs for 2002

Call the Committee office, (202) 628-8030, for details.

## SUBCOMMITTEES for 2002

Policy Subcommittees	Chair	Vice chair
Historic Preservation	Don Hawkins	Sally Berk
Housing and Neighborhoods	Charles Cotten	Anita Morrison, Buck Clarke
Parks and Environment	Loretta Neumann	
— Street Tree management	— Sally Boasberg	
Transportation	Ellen Jones	Ik Pyo Hong
Zoning	Barbara Zartman	Laura Richards, Anne Loikow
Planning	Dorn McGrath	Kent Cooper
—Infrastructure	—Marilyn Groves	

### Organizational Subcommittees

Communications	Charles Cassell	Bonnie Cain
Development	Mary Parham Wolfe	
Finance and Administration	Ik Pyo Hong	Kateri Ellison
Membership	Diane Pecor	Kateri Ellison
Program	Dick Wolf	
Nominating	As necessary	

### Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Governance	Kateri Ellison
Strategic Planning	Judy Scott Feldman
Legislative	Jim Nathanson

### Policy Taskforces\*

Mt. Vernon Triangle/ NOMA taskforce	Joe Bender	
Security and Civic Life	Arthur Cotton Moore	Jeff Lee
Tivoli Theatre	Bonnie Cain	Eric Graye
WWII memorial	Judy Scott Feldman	
DC General	(to be appointed by Planning and Zoning chairs)	
Memorials and Monuments	Judy Scott Feldman	Kent Cooper

\*taskforces operate within a defined timeframe and coordinate with standing policy committees.

The taskforce helped to develop guidelines to ensure: (1) maintenance and rehabilitation of as much of the remaining Tivoli Building interior elements as possible; (2) improvement in the quality and capacity of the proposed performing arts space; and (3) mitigation of adverse impact on the historical character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The taskforce will monitor MOA compliance on behalf of the Committee and recommends expanding

the scope of its activities to include other redevelopment sites in the vicinity of the Columbia Heights Metro Station Area.

**See above for a complete list of subcommittees and taskforces and their chairs. Attend the September 20th membership meeting (see page four) for updates of all subcommittees.**

Visit <http://www.committeef100.net>

The Committee of 100 is now located at : 1317 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. New phone numbers are:  
phone: 202-628-8030  
fax: 202-628-8031



The Committee of 100 on the Federal City  
P.O. Box 57106  
Washington, DC 20017



**TAX, cont'd from page 1.**

assessments in all neighborhoods. The District's tax office is required to assess all residential real properties at full market value, which involves tracking sales to ensure that assessments are in line with such sales.

Dr. Craig states that:

- District's "market trends," are contrived because of assessment-sales ratio studies, which compare recent sales against former assessments for the same properties in each neighborhood, without any segregation of improved versus unimproved properties. The District then applies the median ratio to all properties in that neighborhood.
- These studies are statistically invalid and result in transfers of increased values of real property from renovated homes to those not renovated. Assessments of



**September Membership Meeting**

**Subcommittees and Taskforces Report Out**

**Date:** FRIDAY, September 20, 2002

**Time:** 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**NEW LOCATION:** New York Presbyterian Church  
1313 New York Ave., NW

**Call 202-628-8030 for lunch reservations (\$13).**

homes in neighborhoods throughout the city now range from less than 50% of market value to over 200%.

- Where this assessment system has been used, only about 17% are within 5% of market value, 38% are underassessed and 45% are overassessed.
- This discriminatory taxing system destabilizes District neighborhoods.

Funds are needed to support this class action suit. Mail your donation to:

**Tax Assessment Class Action (TACA) Committee of 100**  
P.O. Box 57106  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Call Peter S. Craig at 202-362-7192 and/or see the Committee's website for further information.

<http://www.committeef100.net>