

Report to Members

April 2003



...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.



Vision Awards Applaud Planning and Design Projects

Recognize Lifetime Achievement

The historic Brooks Mansion will be the scene on April 25 of the Committee of 100's annual celebration of excellence in urban and architectural design, and community planning in the District of Columbia during the past year. Awards will be given to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and businesses for projects that contribute to the city's livability while respecting the environmental and aesthetic values of the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission. Each project is a wonderful addition to our community, brightening its neighborhood and the entire city.

2003 Honorees

For Lifetime Achievement

- o **Dorn C. McGrath, Jr.**, for applying his intellect and energy for 35 years to improving the historical, geographical, and functional aspects of how the Washington metropolitan region looks and works.
- o **Charles H. Atherton**, for nearly 40 years of service to the preservation and beautification of our Federal City, as Secretary to the US Commission of Fine Arts.

For Vision:

- o **Sarah Boasberg** for her comprehensive and persuasive study, "Re-Greening Washington: Managing the Street Tree Crisis in Our Nation's Capital."
- o **Bolling Air Force Base** and the architectural firm, **The Smith Group**, for creative approaches to security at a major new military building.
- o **Theresa Brown** for her leadership and tireless efforts to create and support the LeDroit Park Historic District.

Vision Awards, cont'd on page 2.

Subcommittee Updates

Membership

The membership subcommittee processes nominations year round. As applications are completed they are submitted to the Board for approval at the next scheduled meeting. Our current membership of just under 200 activists, planners, architects, engineers, writers, historians, and many others, includes representatives from throughout the city and the region. All members are encouraged to identify and bring on potential new members.

The primary sponsor should stay in touch with the subcommittee, the co-sponsor, and the applicant to ensure that the process is completed in a timely and successful manner. A lingering application can be off-putting.

For more information and time of next meeting, contact Chair Buck Clarke at 202-610-2645-o; 202-333-5033-h; buckclarke@aol.com.

Planning

The creation of a District of Columbia Planning Commission is the main focus of the subcommittee this year. The subcommittee's position paper has been presented to the Council. Covington & Burling has prepared an opinion stating that

Updates, cont'd on page 3.



Board of Trustees

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Committee of 100 on the Federal City

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Vision Awards, cont'd from page 1.

- o **The Josephine Butler Parks Center** for the important rehabilitation of the 40-room Renaissance revival mansion adjacent to Meridian Hill Park, which formerly housed the Embassies of Brazil and Hungary.
- o **DC Public Schools Facilities Program** for bringing design integrity to the construction of new schools and school additions in the District of Columbia.
- o **Friends of Garfield Park** for the collaboration of neighborhood organizations and individuals, city and Federal agencies that developed a master plan for a forgotten space just north of the Southeast-Southwest Freeway. And then they made it happen.
- o **Howard University Sponsored LeDroit Park Historic District Revitalization Initiative** for a remarkable collaboration that transformed 28 deserted buildings and 17 vacant lots.
- o **The Georgetown Partnership** for leadership in creating the Metro Connection Bus Program linking Georgetown with the Rosslyn, Foggy Bottom, and DuPont Circle Metro stations via the Little Blue Buses.
- o **Walter E. Washington Estates**, on the site of the former Ridgecrest Apartments in Southeast, for

development of a 141-townhouse community for moderate and middle income families.

- o **Westminster Neighborhood Association** in Cardozo-Shaw for creating a vest-pocket park out of a once-blighted area through an unusually high degree of community involvement in outreach, planning, construction, and pursuit of philanthropic donors over years of joint effort.

Board of Trustees Actions

At their scheduled meeting on March 14, the Board of Trustees:

- Established a policy allocating regular dues payments to annual operations and lifetime memberships to the capital account.
- Accepted the resignation of Trustee Beth Solomon.
- Named Mr. Francis M. (Buck) Clarke, III to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Beth Solomon.

A Reminder about Finances

The Mayor isn't the only one worried about deficits.

Our dues pay for the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter, the copies of minutes and reports available at meetings, and office and meeting space. If you haven't yet paid your 2003 dues, please do so today.

If you've paid your dues, consider an extra donation--or a contribution to the Endowment Campaign. Call Con Hitchcock or Ann Hargrove if you have questions on how, or just mark your check for the Endowment when you send it in.

May 2 Reception for McGrath

The George Washington University Department of Geography and the Middle Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers invite Committee members to honor Dorn McGrath at a reception on Friday, May 2. The celebration will be at the George Washington University Club, 1918 F Street NW, from 5-8 pm. Reservations should be made with GWU by April 25 to Melanie Owens by phone (202-994-6185) or e-mail, melstero@gwu.edu.

Updates, cont'd from page 1

the Mayor has the legal right to create such a body and has prepared possible draft language.

Meetings are held at the call of the Chair. Contact Chair Dorn McGrath 202-9669559-h; 202-994-5844-o; dornmcg@gwu.edu or vice chair Kent Cooper at 202-338-3442-h; 202-333-6210-o; kentcooper@mindspring.com

Parks and Environment

The subcommittee's goals are to support environmental enhancement, and park planning and enhancement; encourage public participation; and assure sufficient professional staff and funding for parks and park programs.

In coming months, the subcommittee will review a comprehensive plan for the city's parks being prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department; the draft management plan for Rock Creek Park; and Anacostia-related park issues.

Over the past year the subcommittee opposed new zoning regulations for construction of facilities in District parks and recreation areas, and supported the Mayor's decision to close Klinge Road to automobile traffic. Responding to the Casey Foundation's proposal that federal park land be swapped to accommodate the construction of a road to the proposed Mayoral home on Foxhall Road, the subcommittee put forth the Committee's position that any parkland should be developed only as a last resort.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday, preceding the Friday meeting of the Trustees, at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street. Contact Chair Loretta Neumann at 202-882-9274; lneumann@boo.net.

Committee of 100 Speaks Out

In a March 17 letter to the Mayor the Committee re-stated opposition to the Mt Vernon and New Jersey Avenue sites for a baseball stadium, again urging that the appropriate site analyses be done and made public. By continuing to insist that several sites are under consideration, the administration keeps the planning for alternative uses for many sites from going forward.

The Committee testified on a proposed Waterfront Open Space zoning category. Arguing that it actually invites too much development, we sought building height limits at water's edge, accurate descriptions of "recreational uses," and opposed elimination of public access, and parking and loading requirements.

The full text of all testimony and correspondence are available at www.committeeof100.net.

Committee of 100 Listens

At a brown bag lunch on February 11, the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and members of the DC Preservation League heard from the new State Historic Preservation Officer, Lisa Burcham, and Charles Atherton of the Commission of Fine Arts. Atherton noted that one of the major issues that will be coming before the Commission is the location of the proposed African American Museum.

Email?

If you've just signed on or haven't yet given us your address, please send a message to theComm100@aol.com. Email helps us communicate with you quickly, inexpensively, and easily.

2003 Subcommittees and Task Forces

Policy

Historic Preservation

Don Hawkins, Sally Berk

Housing and Neighborhoods

Eric Graye, Jim Banks

Parks and Environment

Loretta Neumann, Mary Ann Lasch

Street Tree Management

Sally Boasberg

Transportation

Diane Pecor, Joe Passoneau

Zoning

Barbara Zartman, Laura Richards

Planning

Dorn McGrath, Kent Cooper

Organization

Communications

Bonnie Cain

Development

Roger Rihm, Mary Parham Wolfe

Finance and Administration

Bonnie Cain, Buck Clarke

Membership

Buck Clarke, Diane Pecor

Program

Laura Richards, Ann Satterthwaite

Nominating

Open

Ad Hoc

Legislative

Jim Nathanson

Vision Awards

Buck Clarke

Endowment

Con Hitchcock

Policy Task Forces

Mt. Vernon Triangle/NOMA

Joe Bender, Kent Cooper

Security and Civic Life

George Oberlander, Arthur Cotton
Moore

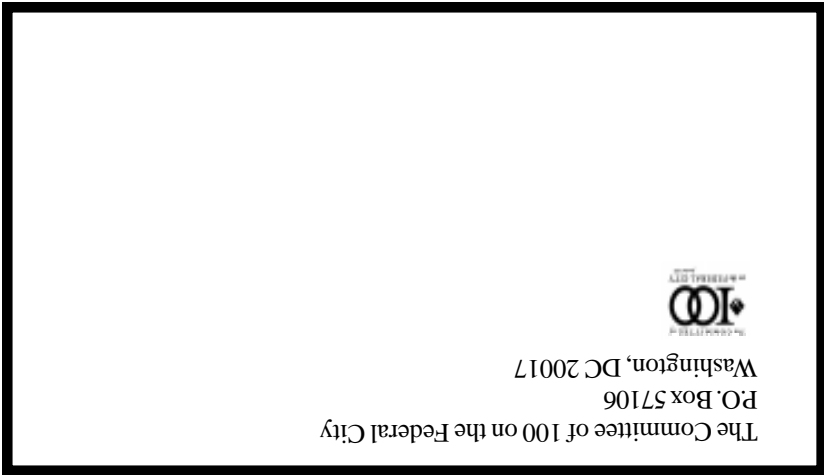
Memorials and Monuments

Judy Scott Feldman, Kent Cooper

Baseball

Jim Nathanson, Joe Bender

For further information, or to volunteer, call a subcommittee representative or the Committee of 100 office at 202-628-8030.



April Membership Meeting

Date: Thurs., April 17
Time: 12-2:00 p.m.
Location: Summer School
 1201 17th Street NW

Topic: "Where Will They Live?"
Moderator: Eric Graye

A panel of experts and practitioners will address the issue of housing for 100,000 new residents in the next ten years. How many retail and sales units, at market price or with a subsidy, will be needed? What must happen to insure a sufficient supply and variety of housing for our new neighbors?

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

Come Celebrate

**The Committee of 100
 on the Federal City**

2003 Vision Awards

Friday, April 25

6:30 - 8:30 pm

The Brooks Mansion
 901 Newton Street NE

Wine and light refreshments
 Donations appreciated

Rsvp 202-628-8030
 Adjacent to Brookland Metro
 Ample parking

The Brooks Mansion

The Brookland community rescued the crumbling Brooks Mansion, not once, but twice. Now, with a state-of-the-art public access corporation nestled inside its Greek Revival walls, the Brooks Mansion has a future as well as a history.

The mansion was built in the late 1830's by Colonel Jehiel Brooks and his wife, Anne Queen, as the center of their 246-acre estate, Bellair. In 1887, the property was sold and subdivided, creating the early railroad commuter suburb of Brookland. In 1891, the Marist Society purchased the property, by then reduced to two and a half acres, to house the Marist College, adding an east wing in 1894.

Various religious orders owned and used the property for educa-

tional purposes until 1970 when it was sold to WMATA, which threatened demolition for a Metro parking lot. Citizen and local government intervention halted this effort.

Through a property swap, the District government took ownership and renovated the building. It became vacant in 1997, again requiring neighborhood action to rescue the building. DC PUBLIC ACCESS Corporation was chosen to restore the building, creating an all-digital studio facility. In 2002, DCTV began operating two state-of-the-art television studios with digital cameras and portable lighting equipment while still retaining the building's classic and historic ambiance. Brooks Mansion is listed in both the national and district registers of historic places.

