



REPORT TO MEMBERS

...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.

APRIL/MAY 2004

OFFICERS

Barbara Zartman, Chair
Laura M. Richards, Vice Chair
Bonnie Cain, Secretary
Francis M. Clarke, III, Treasurer

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Sally Berk
Charles E. Cotten
Judy Scott Feldman
Andrea C. Ferster
John Forrer
Eric S. Graye
Ann Hughes Hargrove
Donald Hawkins
Loretta Neumann
George H.F. Oberlander
Joseph Passonneau
Diane A. Pecor
Roger S. Rihm
Matthew S. Watson
Richard N. Wolf

2004 MEMBER MEETINGS

May 20
June 17
September 16
October 21
November 18

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

has a wide range of responsibilities. Prime concerns of the Committee of 100 are the Office of Planning and the Historic Preservation Office (including the State Historic Preservation Officer), both of which fall under this Deputy Mayor.

Beyond these concerns, the Deputy Mayor has the role of:

- Overseeing and coordinating the District's economic development programs and projects. He sets development priorities and policies, coordinates how the District markets itself to businesses and developers, and recommends financial packaging for District development.
- Representing the Mayor before businesses, developers, and other government agencies. This includes explaining the policies and actions of the government to the business community, interpreting and communicating the needs of business to government officials, and forging partnerships between government and business that promote economic development throughout the District.
- Managing the executive agencies responsible for economic development. This includes those agencies that have responsibility for planning, housing, employment services, business development, and regulation.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our **June 17th** meeting will feature a person little known to the public, but wielding important authority: the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation. Administrative Law Judge Rohulamin Quander presides over the appellate hearings on contested historic preservation decisions. Preservation policy can be set by the decisions in these cases.

Plan to attend. Please bring colleagues who care about this local "court of last resort" for preservation cases.

Policy Subcommittees

Historic Preservation	Don Hawkins	DonHawkins@comcast.net	703-558-0111
Street Trees	Sally Boasberg	sboasberg@aol.com	202-363-2147
Housing and Neighborhoods	*to be filled	_____	_____
Security	George Oberlander	goberland@erols.com	301-654-4199
Parks and Environment	Loretta Neumann	LNeumann@boo.net	202-333-0411
Planning	Dorn McGrath	dornmcg@gwu.edu	202-966-9559
Transportation	Diane Pecor	pecorda@earthlink.net	202-832-0522
Zoning	Laura Richards	richards@cftc.gov	202-418-5126

Organizational Subcommittees

Communications	Kateri Ellison	kateriellison@aol.com	202-588-0215
Finance and Administration	Buck Clarke	buck@clarkerealtypartners.com	202-610-2645
Development	Roger Rihm	RRihm@starpower.net	202-244-0704
Endowment	Con Hitchcock	_____	202-974-5111
Membership	Eric Graye	Eric.graye@mncppc-mc.org	301-495-4632
Nominating	*Judy Scott Feldman	jfeldman@savethemall.org	301-340-3938
Program	Barbara Zartman	zartmanbj@aol.com	202-337-6505

**interim subcommittee contact*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already paid your 2004 dues, you will shortly receive an invoice from Treasurer Buck Clarke. Failure to pay your dues will result in suspension of your membership privileges, including voting on any business to come before the members.

The renewal form also allows you to update your contact information, and it provides a simple way to request minutes from subcommittees whose work particularly interests you.

Please respond promptly, so that your standing continues active – and to demonstrate your continued commitment to the work of the Committee.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR

Trustee Eric Graye has agreed to assume responsibilities as chair of the membership subcommittee. There are several potential members in the “pipeline” for election to membership, whose skills would be real assets for the Committee’s work.

If you have colleagues who are interested in the areas of specialization of the Committee, or its overall goals, and who have skills to contribute, please contact Eric and begin the process. If you are sponsoring a new member, please arrange to complete the paperwork so that he or she can be considered for election.

ADMINISTRATIVE AID

The Committee is seeking the part-time services of an administrative support person for our offices. Someone with computer skills, familiar with office practices, who is available for 16 hours a week can request more information by writing to the Committee at: TheComm100@aol.com

If you know of someone sympathetic with our work, please encourage him or her to inquire.

MEMBER ACTIONS ON BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

At the April meeting, the membership considered a number of recommendations from the Trustees, and took the following actions:

(1) Endorsed the recommendation from the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and the Trustees to settle the remaining issues concerning Carroll Square (formerly known as St. Patrick's), in the downtown arts district. We collaborated on this project with the DC Preservation League and the Downtown Artists Coalition.

(2) Endorsed the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and the Trustees to oppose the current design for the Old City Hall/Law Enforcement Officers Museum at Fourth and E Streets, NW. The proposal was deemed too inconsistent with the historic design of a significant public place.

(3) Endorsed the recommendation of the Transportation and Historic Preservation Subcommittees, supported by the Trustees, to favor a simplification of the traffic patterns around the Kennedy Center, and to call for a reworking of the Vinoly design for a new building complex over the roadways, which effectively cuts the Center off from the neighborhoods that surround it. The NCPC Legacy Plan specifically calls for linking the Center more effectively to the surrounding areas. The current proposal also truncates the L'Enfant street design at New Hampshire Avenue.

(4) Endorsed the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee to support retention of the paving blocks and at least some of the trolley tracks along O and P Streets in Georgetown. The concerns about the safety of these heavily traveled streets have led to consideration by District Department of Transportation to merely eliminate the tracks altogether; it is believed safety can be restored by effecting long-delayed maintenance.

In addition, the members heard updates about:

(5) The Gales School on Capitol Hill. We opposed the gutting of the landmark building without proof of the necessity for the demolition and underground excavation. Our position was not adopted by the Mayor's Agent, and the project will proceed. *(continued on page 4)*

Member Actions on Board Recommendations continued:

(6) The creation of a Planning Commission for the District of Columbia, which was a matter of consideration at the national convention of the American Planning Association meeting in the District in April. The proposal received very favorable comment during panel sessions at the convention. Planning subcommittee chair Dorn McGrath indicated that advocacy will continue.

OFFICE OF ZONING PRESENTATION

Jerrily Kress, director of the District Office of Zoning, made a cogent presentation at the member meeting of her office operations and the steps to modernize and computerize its functions. She described the steps that have made it possible to cybercast meetings of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment, a huge advantage for those who cannot attend these hearings.

All transcripts of past hearings are now available in searchable databases, and shortly the office will make available electronically all documents filed in connection with zoning cases. This remarkable progress was seen in contrast with comparatively recent practices, in which interested parties had to physically duplicate tape recordings of hearings.

Further, the contrast was drawn with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, which has recently established a requirement that citizens who want copies of permits or other documents file Freedom of Information requests to obtain those documents.

The performance of the Office of Zoning was lauded by those in attendance, and it has received favorable testimony at oversight and budget hearings. The OZ website [oz.dc.gov] contains many useful reference documents, including a short handbook on zoning basics that could help even novice inquirers to find their way through the zoning process.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN / FEDERAL ELEMENTS

The Comprehensive Plan is the fundamental planning document for the District of Columbia. It contains both Federal Elements and District Elements, reflecting the divided responsibility for this function in the District.

The National Capital Planning Commission recently published draft reworking of the Federal Elements in a carefully considered report. The elements cross many C100 concerns, including parks, preservation, transportation, the environment, and the federal workplace. This draft offered an opportunity to contribute our views on how the elements should be amended.

Trustee George Oberlander coordinated the comments of several subcommittees, and we look forward to a meeting with NCPC staff to discuss the import of the changes before the comment period ends in early June.

CONTINUED MONITORING

The Committee and its subcommittees continue to monitor the developments on a number of projects, including those mentioned in previous newsletters. A partial list would include:

- The Old Convention Center site. What the next steps should be are currently being debated between the Williams Administration and City Council. The proposals includes a convention hotel, a music museum and performance hall, a new library, a “major public space,” and residential and commercial uses.

- The proposed baseball stadium. The Committee was pleased when some sites were taken off the District’s list of potential location, but there are questions about all three of the sites mentioned in recent meetings with baseball executives. The Committee for several years has espoused moving forward with acquisition of a baseball team. The Committee has not yet addressed the question of whether outright costs (or the cost of lost opportunities) make continued advocacy untenable.

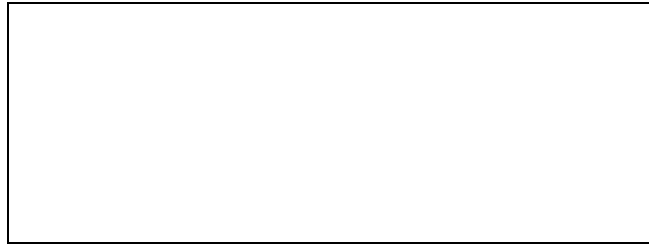
- St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. The Historic Preservation subcommittee is finalizing a nomination for landmark status of the existing building, as well as monitoring proposals for development at the site overall.

VISION AWARDS

Keep your calendar open for the evening of Friday, June 4, for presentation of this year’s Vision Awards, aimed at “recognizing individuals, plans, and projects from across the city that contribute to the quality of life we all seek and enjoy.”

Emily Eig chairs the selection committee for 2004, and is about to finalize the list of awardees who will be honored at the ceremony, which this year will be held at the Kingsbury Center in the Dickson Mansion, 5000 14th Street, N.W.

Roger Rihm, Development subcommittee chair, has done a heroic job organizing all the elements for this year’s program. He will welcome any volunteers who wish to assist with the logistics of the evening’s program. He can be reached at: RRihm@starpower.net



1317 G Street NW
Washington DC 20005-3102



Membership Meeting

**Thursday, May 20, 2004
12:00 PM**

Driving the District Economic Engine

Eric Price

Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

*Hear about the big developments already on the landscape. The others to come.
How to balance enhanced economic development with other priorities, including preservation.*

The Charles Sumner School and Museum,
(located on the northeast corner of Seventeenth and M Streets, NW)

A lunch buffet is available for \$13 for members who call in a reservation (628-8030).