

COMMITTEE OF 100 REPORT ON CENTRAL WASHINGTON PLANS

In March 2008 I was asked to represent the Committee of 100 as a consulting party on the National Mall Plan being prepared by the National Park Service. In effect, this has been a subset of the work of the Planning Subcommittee and has broadened to include involvement with some other Central Washington planning work. I have attended numerous meetings and have submitted written comments to the appropriate agencies. A number of other Committee of 100 members have attended some of these meetings, either due to their interest in the subject or in representing other organizations.

The brochure prepared by NCPC, *Planning Together for Central Washington*, reflects the current efforts of four federal agencies (NCPC, CFA, NPS and AOC) and the District government (Office of Planning, etc.) on four significant planning programs that affect Central Washington. This type of planning coordination is commendable. These four planning programs (listed below) are of interest, especially in light of the Committee of 100's concern with the integrity of the L'Enfant and McMillan Commission plans.

Center City Action Agenda: This plan, prepared primarily by the D.C. Office of Planning and the Downtown BID, was released on March 3, 2008.

National Capital Framework Plan: This plan, prepared by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, deals primarily with areas north (Federal Triangle and Northwest Rectangle) and south (Southwest Rectangle and East Potomac Park) of the National Mall, with lesser attention on two other areas on South Capitol Street and adjacent to RFK Stadium. Some proposals deal with correcting development mistakes made 40-60 years ago. The draft plan was released July 10, 2008 for a 90 day review period. Committee of 100 comments were submitted October 9 and are on the website. A revised plan is expected to be completed and adopted early in 2009.

Capitol Complex Master Plan: Work on this plan is underway by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), and is scheduled for public release in early 2009, following Congressional review. It appears that this is primarily a building and facilities update plan. However, no draft information has yet been released for public review.

National Mall Plan: The National Park Service is preparing a long-range (50 year) plan for the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. A number of organizations are involved with the Section 106 consultation process for this plan (John Fondersmith is representing the Committee of 100). Several meetings were held in the first half of 2008 but then public consultation was halted while the Park Service undertook internal coordination and further work. Initial Committee of 100 comments on this planning work were submitted on May 19, 2008 and are on the website. Although the schedule is not clear it seems that a plan is not likely until early or mid-2009, perhaps later. Several organizations, including the Committee of 100, have indicated the need for a more comprehensive vision plan for the National Mall.

Submitted by John Fondersmith, AICP November 19, 2008