



February 13, 2008

Dear Committee of 100 Members and Friends,

The year continues to move at a breathtaking pace with the rollout of major local, federal and private initiatives affecting the District.

February Membership Meeting. Our very timely speaker is Mr. Peter May, who replaced the long-serving John Parsons as Director for Lands, Resources and Planning for the National Capital Region, National Park Service. Mr. May will address the challenges he faces in:

- coordinating facility, security, transportation and other elements of planning;
- Citizen engagement in environmental review; and
- public participation in planning process.

Given the recent news reports on NPS's plans for future use of the Mall and the NPS involvement in the Anacostia Waterfront development, Mr. May could not have come at a better time. Please plan to join us at noon, on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at the Sumner School, 17th and M Streets, NW. If you want lunch, let us know at 202-628-8030 or email treasurer Buck Clarke at buck@clarkerealtypartners.com.

Deputy Mayor Questions Height Limit. Those of you unable to join us in January missed an earful, as Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Neil Albert said, among other provocative remarks, that the District's height limit should be revisited. Emphasizing that he spoke for himself, not Mayor Fenty, Mr. Albert suggested that heights might be restricted in a limited area centered on the Mall, but that elsewhere in the District, we should go up in order to be a world-class city.

Zoning Regulations Rewrite. The Office of Planning today posted the public 20 Working Groups that will make recommended changes to the Regulations. After working group review, recommendations for each subject area will be reviewed by the Zoning Task Force (which includes a number of C100 members) and then forwarded on to the Zoning Commission for a public hearing. Please visit OP's website at <http://planning.dc.gov> and click on Comprehensive Zoning Rewrite to sign up for one or more groups, or call/email Travis Parker at (202) 741-5243 or travis.parker@dc.gov.

The Working Groups include: Height, Flood Plain, Parking, Loading, Retail Strategy, Historic, Sustainability, Low/Moderate Density Residential and Commercial, Medium/High Density Residential and Commercial, Downtown, Commercial Corridors, Industrial, Mixed Use/Other Districts, Campus/Institutional, Parks/Open Space, Design Review, Administration and Enforcement, ZC and BZA Procedures. The groups are listed in the order in which they begin meeting. For instance, the Height Working Group began meeting on January 29 and Flood Plain on February 6.

Planning Commission? By the time you read this, the Council will have heard the preliminary report of the outside consultant (Paul Zucker) charged with studying a Planning Commission for the District, as mandated by the Comprehensive Plan. The C100 continues advocating for a Planning Commission despite the discouraging tone of the Zucker Report.

HPRB Nominees. On January 20 the C100 testified at Chairman Gray's confirmation hearing on the Mayor's nomination of two existing members and four new members to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). Since the four new nominees—two architects and two citizens--were unknown to the preservation community, the C100 and other groups asked to interview these candidates to explore their suitability. Gray extracted a promise from the four that they would meet with the groups, but the Mayor's Acting General Counsel has instructed them not to meet. Follow-up action is under consideration.

Third Church of Christ Scientist. In December Richard Longstreth for the C100 presented to the Historic Preservation Review Board the landmark nomination for the Third Church Scientist by I. M Pei at 16 & I Streets, NW. The HPBR unanimously voted to landmark the church. The church has filed for a demolition permit that will be heard by the Mayor's Agent. The church has announced that it also plans to sue the city. The DC Preservation League, which co-sponsored the landmark application, has arranged for pro bono counsel to represent it in these proceedings.

Georgetown Boathouse. The NPS has agreed to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal to build a private GU boathouse in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Results of the scoping study have not been released, but C100 joined with other groups in support of a broad EIS, covering alternative sites and reviewing the land-exchange that is to be part of the project.

AFRH. In January the HPRB designated the Armed Forces Retirement Home an historic district and considered a master plan for its development. The plan was rejected by the HPRB as woefully inadequate. The C 100 presented testimony at the hearings. The HPRB spoke frankly to the AFRH director, indicating that it was "offensive, really" to be asked to accept a plan that seeks to develop large parcels of the Armed Forces Retirement Home grounds to provide financial resources to improve and operate the Home, but not provide financial information that justifies the impact on historic resources.

Making the C100's Train Run

Help Wanted. The C100 is actively seeking part-time administrative staff help. The ideal applicant will be a highly organized self-starter who can develop and maintain electronic databases, mailing lists, and hardcopy files. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them call the office at 202-628-8030 or me at 202-418-5126. ***Are you actively involved on a C100 Subcommittee?*** If not, we welcome your participation on the Subcommittee of your choice. Zoning, Historic Preservation, Transportation and Parks/Recreation, just to name a few, have very full agendas and could use your help. If your talents and interests tend toward organizational structures, the please consider working with Communications, Speakers, Membership or special event planning. Just give us a call. ***Vision Awards.*** The C100 board voted today to hold the Visions Awards ceremony during the third week in May, and exploring potential sites, including the International Student House on R Street. We'll send a "save the date" notice as soon as the exact day is firm. Now is the time to start thinking about worthy projects.

As always, we welcome your news, thoughts and suggestions, and value your interest and support.

Regards,

Laura Richards, Chair