

The National Mall Plan – Meeting Notes

March 19, 2008

Section 106 Meeting

Ray- Vietnam Veterans Museum, concern that location near the Wall is not appropriate. Have Homeland Security and/or Army Corps of Engineers been involved in the process? Security is the issue. Veterans left out of process for Institute of Peace planning process.

Steve Lorenzetti, NAMA- ACE has not been invited. Concerns for sea walls, flooding. VVM Center, African American Museum, and MLK Memorial were all approved by Congress before report. Congress has already directed the projects, the Mall Plan does not directly address those other projects.

Susan Spain, NAMA- “cumulative impact” is way to address those projects that are already directed by Congress. Homeland Security has been invited.

Kelly, ACHP- here to speak to impacts on historic properties, there is a limitation to what can be addressed under the 106 process.

DC SHPO- Congress has already approved: MLK Memorial and Smithsonian African American Museum. The 106 process is already underway.

Paul, ASLA- What is the role of this review? What are the other reviews?

Kelly, ACHP- 106 is for Federal agencies to assess impacts to historic resources (eligible for or listed on the Nat’l Register of Historic Places) specifically. Other processes include NEPA.

Ray- When is NEPA process scheduled?

Susan- public meetings held, 180 day public comment period, Nov. 2006 public symposium, early 2007 public meetings, approx. 5,000 public comments rec’d, newsletter #2 released, report online

Tom, Guild- Lafayette Square, White House in plan? The visitors endure unpredictable guidance in that area. We need a better, more predictable arrangement.

Susan- NPS requires a mgmt. plan for all units. NAMA is a series of units. The White House and President’s Park is a separate unit. We will look at the cumulative impacts in the White House/Pres. Park mgmt. plan.

Judy- Scope, Foundation Statement...What is the actual scope of this plan? When you look at the purpose, it should start with the L’Enfant and McMillan plans. Thinks of the Mall in terms of the historic plan. The fundamental question is what we are dealing with: the reservations that are within the NPS? Or is it the Nat’l Mall that is part of the historic plans. We have to understand

how we are defining this plan. The coalition has compiled the different definitions of the Mall and the Nat'l Mall showing the L'Enfant Plan, the McMillan Plan, and other descriptions, including the Nat'l Register Mall, the cultural resources report for the Mall (narrow), the DC historic inventory's description. There is no clarity for what is the historic Mall area of concern.

Steve, NAMA- Definition of the Nat'l Mall...how far do you go back historically? Hopes group will look at parts of the historic plans and look at ramifications of new Mall plan. NPS had to come up with criteria of what is the Nat'l Mall. The Mall starts at 1st St. and ends at 14th St. The visitor's idea is that the Mall starts at Lincoln and ends at the Capitol. For the study, the Mall starts at Union Sq. to the east, Lincoln Memorial to the west, Con. Ave. to the north, and the Jefferson Memorial to the south. Area of potential affects can "catch" other areas that interested parties may consider to be part of the Mall.

DC SHPO- Struggle to identify what the "Mall" is. Now in process of NHL nomination. Is the city's historic plan a frozen document? It's an evolving document. "The plan of the City of Washington". Every era has made a contribution to the plan. The smaller "triangle" parks or reservations are additions to the L'Enfant plan. Agrees that the Mall stops at 14th St.

Ray- concerning intended NHL nomination, can all parties be informed?

www.planning.dc.gov

Judy- Anything that happens on the Mall is going to impact the city's resources. (re: area of potential effect)

How will info be available? Online. Can be mapped by area, not as a whole.

NPS seeks input on how to communicate plan progress and 106 process.

Judy- concern that we're looking at Nat'l Mall as a series of separate landscapes and parks/zones, important to understand why NPS does it that way, danger that we'll lose sense of the "unity" of landscape (ex. WAMO landscape changed for security)

Paul Kelsch, ASLA- Nat'l Mall plan study area, concerned that President's Park and Capitol grounds not included...not separate in Mall experience (despite NPS unit designation)

SHPO- Opportunity to revise nominations to include areas not under NPS (ex. Dept. of Ag. Building)

Nell, NTHP- Nat'l Trust concerned with segmenting of Nat'l Mall. What projects are appropriately addressed under this 106 process? Ex. Changes to Tidal Basin. Would it be appropriate to revisit these other elements as part of a larger vision rather than dealing with them separately.

Ray- Must be careful to understand WHO is defining an area. Have these areas been determined or will the development of the areas be discussed? Request agendas for future meetings prepared to identify Mall areas to be discussed.

SHPO- NPS has been through Environmental Impact Statement. Areas have been divided in a “natural” way. SHPO position is that what NPS is proposing is appropriate regarding division of Mall areas.

Judy- Clarify “Nat’l Mall Plan” title to be called “NPS Mall Mgmt. Plan” to identify that plan is for NPS “territory” that is actually impacted

Steve, NAMA- NPS has invited all interested parties to participate in planning process. NPS position is that the “Nat’l Mall Plan” is comprehensive and will create a vision for how the Mall will be used in the future.

Nancy- APE map: NW rectangle determined eligible, ~~Red Cross building,~~ should be added

SHPO concurs that area should be listed as eligible.

Ray- Veterans events considered demonstrations or events? Is there any thought of restricting events?

Steve, NAMA- Event vs. Demonstrations: request as 1st Amendment activity is considered just that

Scope of 106 Review is to consider affects on historic cultural resources only.

Uses on Nat’l Mall fall under NEPA process.

Judy- Map of potential effect, section leading to Kennedy Center...not part of Mall, not historic. That section needs to be eliminated. Integrity questioned. Concern that historic plan/concept of Mall is not being addressed. We will lose the integrity of historic plan

SHPO- Balance of what is historic and what needs to be planned for. Area can’t be excluded from Mall Plan. Is the L’Enfant or McMillan plan only what was originally conceived or what was later implemented, what evolved over time?

Perry- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkways in that area considered historic and under NAMA jurisdiction. Not inappropriate to look at that area.

Paul- also concerned, if plan is addressing historic Mall, the boundary that Judy refers to has historic implications. Important to distinguish between historic boundaries and jurisdiction boundaries.

NPS is obligated to consider undertaking and impact on historic resources, must show jurisdiction boundaries. Historic boundaries are different.

We are evaluating the undertaking and its impact on historic properties.

John- We should look at expanding area of potential effect. (cultural corridor to include Nat’l Building Museum, the Hill, etc.)

Paul- current boundary for APE is defined geometrically, would be better if it was defined geographically by street. Viewsheds from VA side along GWMP should also be considered (LBJ Memorial Grove, Arlington, etc.)

Viewshed from Air Force Memorial should be looked at.

Judy- center City Agenda boundaries should be considered. Boundary is geographic and by activity. How does potential effect work? Only what we do to the Mall or what other agencies do to the Mall?

ACHP- This area of potential effect is ONLY based on this undertaking, the Nat'l Mall Plan. There may be overlapping areas of potential effect from other projects.

Ray- What would be some overlapping areas of potential effect? This would assist interested parties in addressing cumulative impact.

SHPO- NPS is not obligated to plan for the undertakings of other parties. It is appropriate to consider the other impacts.

Judy- Concern that "deep sense of history" is not being addressed. Voice of citizens writing in to comment should not be equal with history of Mall...with L'Enfant and McMillan plans for Mall.

Susan- Public comment forms the base for everything that NPS does.

Linda- passive vs. active recreation

Susan- NEPA process...appropriate balance addressed. The Mall plan must address a balance of the "American Experience" on the Nat'l Mall...tangible and intangible.

Ray- How do you quantify advantages in Mall Plan and 106 Process? The advantages need to be broken down.

Paul, ASLA- What do the historic plans envision for the use of the landscape (recreation)? If recreation is at odds with historic plans, this issue should be addressed. "democratic use of space" ...is it at odds with historic plans?

Susan- Perceptions of recreation have changed over time. Use has changed over time.

Kelly, ACHP- Discussions will help develop preferred alternative. Consideration of historic properties will feed into that. Recreational issues will be addressed...we will mitigate impacts.

Tom, Guild- Concern that we take the function of the USPP, law enforcement presence. Impact of buses/large groups. Lack of lighting, water features turned on (mid-March) Lack of NPS personnel on site at FDR. Memorials as a "playground". NPS personnel do not want to enforce rules.

Steve, NAMA- Lighting issues need to be addressed on the Mall

National Register of Historic Places can be found at: www.cr.nps.gov

Ray- How does the process go beyond consulting party contributions? Requesting that NPS submit to group how they go through the process to make decisions. When does choosing by advantage process “kick in”? Will consulting parties get feedback?

Susan- Public input rolls into the choosing by advantage process.

Jane, Organization of American States- Use of Con. Gardens?

Susan- may be in NEPA process, not in 106

NEXT MEETING APRIL 16!

106 WEBSITE WILL BE DEVELOPED

REVISED MAP FOR APE WILL BE POSTED

DEVELOP AND POST APRIL 16 AGENDA

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FORUM WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR CONSULTING PARTIES

ALTERNATIVES MATRIX