

**Wednesday, January 9, 2008 – 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**National Mall Plan – Public Meeting Notes  
Old Post Office Tower**

**Historic Preservation, Cultural Landscapes, Views, Lighting**

- (Important) viewshed – (included in SOM [Skidmore/Owens/Merrill plan for the 1976 bicentennial] – maintenance of landscape path, lawns, tree[s])
- Needs more lighting to illuminate view at night
- View shed – structures – cross-axial structure
- McMillan Plan – caused lots to happen – (The National Mall Plan has) 2 big ideas
  1. Union Square – a great opportunity for urban plaza
  2. 8<sup>th</sup> Street axis – water feature /garden not interrupt[ing] view corridor – midway location – (connects back to) McMillan – more impact
- Historic documents on website?
- Simplicity of design is working
- Restore tree canopy – pleasant visitor experience – corners – don't disturb views
- Likes ideas about 8<sup>th</sup> Street axis
- Reuse lock house (Alt. A)
- Alt. A Food and gifts [at Washington Monument] [is] bad for vis. axis – Alt. B [is] good
- Pull roads (away) from Tidal Basin
- More space (in C) – enhance
- (Like) Union Square – C hybrid, design detail (will be important) – great gathering space
- Drop E & W Potomac Park designation
- 14<sup>th</sup> Street tunnel good (Alt C)
- Define mall – visitor facilities and open space improvements
- Gravel walks a problem – mud holes
- Organization of American States (OAS) 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Andrew Carnegie (building is close to) – Constitution Gardens – celebrate Avenue of the Americas – Tie to OAS Sculpture Garden. 17<sup>th</sup> and Constitution – (improve) walk signals – move lock keepers [house] – add [OAS] information
- (Mall) Gravel (walkways) modeled on Tuilleries (are) deteriorated – not maintained as intended
- Constitution [?]

- (The) no action – (appears to be) moving away from recreation
- Issues – Trans[portation] – improving transportation – Foggy Bottom to Metro; (provide) accessibility for older [visitors], Inexpensive shuttle
- Cherry trees? (They are a )Natural and cultural resource
- Tidal Basin roads – C phenomenal – improving walkways single-most important thing
- Constitution Gardens – Isn't place for fun [like] Central Park, Toronto [parks] – need for children and family orientation space – 2-3 small areas to appeal to young people – children's areas – move carousel – make mall prestigious
- Lighting mall at night (important)
- 14<sup>th</sup> St. tunnel (like)
- Moratorium – enhance green space
- (Tour guides) – Initiate and overall lighting plan
  1. Safety
  2. Security
  3. Aesthetics

### **The Mall**

- (Important) Viewshed (SOM Plan, elms, pathways, more illumination/lighting for the viewshed)
- Viewshed as structure, too – include the (north-south) cross – axis
- Union Square and McMillan Plan w/ two ideas
  1. A major urban plaza (skating rink too)
  2. Important place (8<sup>th</sup> street) ½ way between Capitol and the Monument w/ a garden feature that wouldn't interrupt the view corridor on N/S street axis – maybe include other types of landscapes
- What's available on the website as far as documentation for the cultural resources? (CLI's but not NRs – we could add)
- Pockets of space on Washington Monument grounds to put shade trees maybe other trees (plant large trees)
- Canal lock house – like idea to reuse the lock house
- Food/gifts – Washington Monument preferred B location
- Pull roadways away from Tidal Basin good (Alt. C) to enhance the Tidal Basin experience
- Look for places to simplify pedestrian access around the area
- Drainable plaza/pool at Union Square a good idea (Alt. C)

- Like the National Mall going to Lincoln Memorial
- Like [the] idea to tunnel [under] 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- Plan needs to take into consideration all existing food/restrooms etc. visitor services provided by others
- Like open space – a real luxury in a city
- Don't like the pebble (gravel) walks as far as sustainability (puddles/mud) or for walking surface
- OAS – 17<sup>th</sup> [and] Constitution – garden café at Constitution Gardens to (should) have Latin American food/theme; how to tie in Constitution Gardens w/the OAS Sculpture garden, Set back the lock house and tie into the Constitution Gardens design
- Paths – think about what was originally intended and what's there now
- Cross walks (important)
- (Even in) No-action alternative – (make) positive step to move away from rusty backstops to move multi-purpose recreational use of space
- Some issues could be improved by improving transportation (shuttles, etc.) (using an) inexpensive (ticket cost) shuttle bus
- Cherry trees – both a cultural and natural resource
- Improving walkways around the Tidal Basin would be single-most important improvement to visitor experience
- Kids – “isn't there anyplace where we can have some fun?” [grandson] – Constitution Gardens could be it. Make at least 1 place for kids. Move carousel to Constitution Gardens
- Real need for crossing light at 13<sup>th</sup> Street (and Constitution) for pedestrian crossing – tunneling [under] 14<sup>th</sup> Street is good for pedestrian safety – maybe do it at 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – possibly also at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets underground.
- Moratorium for memorials on the Mall – put in the city (Reserve area does this)
- Overall lighting plan, [is] needed that considers aesthetics, circulation, and safety/security (a) – does not have to wait for the whole plan, w/incremental implementation.
- 8<sup>th</sup> St. garden idea may interrupt the Mall and maybe interrupt the demonstrations
- [Do] NOT replace trash cans on Pa. Ave. But replace those installed by NPS that DO NOT MATCH the Pa. Ave. trash can. Consider this design for Mall. [This comment was submitted in writing at 01/09/08 meeting]

**Section 106 consultation** (*The following are contact information and comments shared during the meeting that was conducted at the end of the public meeting on January 9, 2008*)

- 106 contacts
  1. [Tom.Thomas@nps.gov](mailto:Tom.Thomas@nps.gov) – 303.969.2389
  2. [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) – [k.fanizzo@achp.gov](mailto:k.fanizzo@achp.gov)
  3. David Maloney, [www.dc.gov/planning](http://www.dc.gov/planning) - [david.maloney@dc.gov](mailto:david.maloney@dc.gov)
  4. [Perry.Wheelock@nps.gov](mailto:Perry.Wheelock@nps.gov)
- Suggestion – send out the schedule of meetings [for 106 consultation meetings] several months in advance
- 1<sup>st</sup> face to face meeting in next 6 weeks or so
- Have to have a signed agreement 106 document before the ROD [Record of Decision is signed] – parallel w/the overall planning process
  1. Draft plan late spring (early summer) ‘08
  2. 60 [day] public comment [period] summer ‘08
  3. Final plan Fall ‘08
  4. Summary and ROD by early ‘09