

Rehabilitation of Constitution Gardens

June 3, 2015

Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting

10:00am-12:00pm, National Mall and Memorial Parks Headquarters
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Attendees:

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| Mike Commisso | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Catherine Dewey | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Vicki Yang | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Ashley Intemann | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Sean Kennealy | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Joe Coratola | National Park Service, National Mall and Memorial Parks |
| Peter May | National Park Service, National Capital Region |
| Perry Wheelock | National Park Service, National Capital Region |
| Joel Gorder | National Park Service, National Capital Region |
| Craig Chenevert | National Park Service, National Capital Region |
| Joy Beasley | National Park Service, National Capital Region |
| Sarah Batcheler | Commission of Fine Arts |
| F.J. Lindstrom | Commission of Fine Arts |
| Jennifer Hirsh | National Capital Planning Commission |
| Julie Canter | PWP Landscape Architecture |
| Teresa Durkin | Trust for the National Mall |
| John Whilden | Trust for the National Mall |
| Mark Bennett | National Mall Coalition |
| Carol Aten | The Committee of 100 on the Federal City |
| Megan Kanagy | DDOT |

Purpose Section 106 Consultation meeting to receive updated information regarding the historic resources within the area of potential effects and to discuss the three action alternatives (with new preferred hybrid alternative—“regenerative park”) and measures necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects to historic resources.

Introduction Mike Commisso provided a brief summary of the purpose and need for the project and identified historic resources within the area of potential effect.

Julie Canter provided an overview of the alternatives for the project.

Alternative 1 (Sustainable Garden):

Q: Clarification of Pavilion sq. footage

A: The overall sq. footage for the pavilion is approximately 24,700 sq. ft.

Q: Elevation of berm

A: Up to 10 ft. higher in Alt 1. Approx. 12 ft. above sidewalk along the northern edge of the site. There will be grading along southern edge to comply with levee regulations (consistent in all 3 plans). 5-6 feet higher on the south side of site (consistent in all 3 plans)

Alternative 2 (Social Garden):

Q: Will there be a need to relocate the tour bus drop off?

A: The drop off will remain in the same location. The Lockkeeper's House will be relocated, but will not affect the tour bus drop of.

Preferred (Regenerative Garden):

Q: What will the elevation be above the sidewalk?

A: 7 ft. at highest point (along north berm)

Q: Is the extent of the topographic adjustment between the western side of knoll and the Lockkeeper's House ending at the Vietnam Memorial?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the topography of the knoll be altered?

A: The preferred alternative is to re-grade to restore character, not to alter the existing topography.

Q: Who will be managing the new space?

A: There will be a three component maintenance approach (the Park, the Trust, and concessioner)

Q: There are foreseen issues with deliveries to the pavilion. Is delivery traffic expected?

A: This will depend on the level of service that the restaurant, bookstore, etc. The park does not have the delivery truck data at this time. The bookstore, restaurant, ice skating rink, etc. may need to be serviced on a daily basis.

Q: Is there a view of the service driveway? It is not in the presentation. The impact of the levee and service driveway at the corner of 17th St/Constitution Ave is substantial. The levee project was unavoidable but the driveway is not. The driveway will have a large adverse effect.

A: The design team will provide photo simulations of the proposed service driveway with multiple views from different directions. The assessment of effects matrix will also identify additional views that may affected by the service driveway.

Q: Concerns about the proposed radius of the corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue.

A: The proposed radius is yet to be determined. The park plans on conducting a traffic study to determine if the current radius needs to be altered. The study will also include a pedestrian study. All 3 alternatives currently propose larger radii.

Q: What is the proposed timeline for the 17th St/Constitution Avenue traffic study?

There is a historic impact to changing that corner

A: The traffic study will be ongoing through phases 1 and 2. The traffic study may show that moving the Lockkeeper's House back may improve the visibility in the intersection.

Q: What determines the width of the paths? 20 feet wide seems large.

A: Smaller paths currently cannot accommodate the Mall's large crowds. The park will continue to study how to provide sufficient space. The park needs to build into the future because visitation continues to grow.

Q: Is the park concerned about the stepping stone path from the 56 Signers' Memorial? Is it a liability for the park? It may not be a good idea to only have one access point to the Signers' Memorial.

A: There are ways to design it so that the water level is remains low enough to feel as if the individual is walking through the water.

Q: What is the elevation for the theatre?

A: The theatre will have a shallow slope towards the levy. It a natural bowl space currently.

Q: Why have a continuous aquatic edge along the lake? Some visitors may want to have access to the water.

A: The plan is still being refined to incorporate openings.

General Questions and Comments:

Q: Will the park space be set aside for an additional memorial?

A: No. The park will not be reserving more places on the Mall for memorials

Q: The graphics in the presentation don't necessarily show the described views. We are missing the view along Constitution Avenue that shows the service driveway and levee. We need additional consultation after these views are provided. Reciprocal views are needed as well.

A: Additional graphic will be provided to address these comments.

Q: Concern about people cutting across the site from the reflecting pool.

A: The plan now is not to have a north-south crosswalk because it would be complicated by levee. The park wants to respect the original SOM paths and is not inclined to establish additional paths.

Next Steps

The presentation will be posted to PEPC for a 14-days comment period.

The park anticipates the completion of a Memorandum of Agreement for the project.

The proposed Phase 1 description: The Lockkeeper's House move is an independent part of the project that the park hopes to complete by the August 2016 centennial celebration. The park is also anxious to staff the house to use as a welcome area from

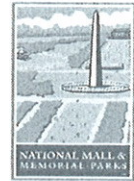
north side of the park. The radius of the 17th Street/Constitution Avenue intersection will remain the same in phase 1

In the past the Commissions supported the minor relocation of the lockkeeper's house, but wanted to eliminate the plantings adjacent to it. The proposed site improvements, containing a patio and numerous plantings, provide a false sense of history and how the building originally occupied the space. The park is advised to revisit the design, keeping in mind the historical use and setting of the lockkeeper's house.

The park plans to complete the rehabilitation project in 2018



National Mall and Memorial Parks



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MEETING ATTENDEES

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