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IN REPLY REFER TO:

NCPC File No. 6487

JUN 24 2004

Mr. Terry Carlstrom  
 Regional Director  
 National Capital Region  
 National Park Service  
 U. S. Department of the Interior  
 1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20242

Re: NPS Reference L3215 (NCR-I.RP)

Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

We have reviewed the National Park Services' (NPS) request to be placed on the National Capital Planning Commission's (NCPC) agenda on July 8, 2004 for review and approval of street furniture in several of the urban parks downtown, specifically benches and trash receptacles in Franklin Park and McPherson Square. After careful review, we have determined that the request meets the exemption requirements of Section 2 of the Commission's guidelines and will not require formal Commission review. This decision is based on our understanding that NPS will be using its signature bench, used since 1900, in the parks and will be replacing the trash cans with the standard trash can used by the Downtown Business Improvement District.

As stated in your letter, NCPC staff participated along with a number of other parties in evaluating the furniture and studying the rehabilitation of Franklin Park and McPherson Square. We have also evaluated the results of the study and determined that the changes to the parks also meet the exemption requirements because they are considered rehabilitation and maintenance.

It is our understanding that the Franklin Park rehabilitation includes:

1. Tree pruning and selective removal to provide additional sunning areas and to allow light to reach the ground to improve turf and drainage conditions;
2. Tree replanting in areas consistent with the historic plan to replace those that have died or to reestablish the balance of sun and shade and spatial composition;
3. Replacement of paving materials to maintain a safe and attractive pedestrian area;
4. Notation of a location for a future memorial consistent with the Commission's Memorials and Museums Master Plan (the memorial will be subject to future Commission review); and
5. Removal of secondary sidewalks in Franklin Park that will restore the park back to its 1936 historic character, the period determined to be of historic significance.

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 United States Senate  
 Honorable Susan M. Collins

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 Honorable Anthony A. Williams

Chairman  
 Council of the District of Columbia  
 Honorable Linda W. Cropp

**Executive Director**

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP

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It is our understanding that the McPherson Square rehabilitation includes:

1. Tree pruning and limited selective tree removal to restore the historic view shed, to provide additional sunning areas and to allow light to reach the ground to improve turf and drainage conditions;
2. An intention not to replace the existing signature elm tree when it dies in order to eventually restore the historic L'Enfant Plan view corridor from Vermont Avenue to the White House;
3. Tree replanting in areas consistent with the historic plan to replace those that have died or to reestablish the balance of sun and shade and spatial composition;
4. Repaving and placement of quarter-round curbs to provide consistent curb treatment around the perimeter of the park and to improve maintenance and maintain safe and attractive pedestrian areas; and
5. Restoring the grass panels and improving maintenance within the entire L'Enfant view corridor by eliminating excess flower beds.

In accordance with Section 2, Exemptions, of the Commission's review requirements, plans do not require formal review when project proposals are replacement work that involves no change in the location, the existing character, or extent of the present facility. Staff review finds that your proposal adheres to the criteria of no significant change and believes the proposal is acceptable and need not be formally reviewed by the Commission. However, since the project was reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts and NCPC staff participated on the task force that studied the parks rehabilitation, we would like the NPS to give an informational presentation to the Commission at its next meeting.

We appreciate that the NPS included us on the task force and for informing us of the rehabilitation plans and your subsequent consultation with us on this and future projects. Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Miller at (202) 482-7246 regarding any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director

cc: John Parsons, NPS  
Sally Blumenthal, NPS  
Glenn DeMarr, NPS

12/07/04

12:01



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# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM  
401 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2726

202-504-2200  
202-504-2195 FAX

4 June 2004

Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

During its meeting of 20 May, the Commission reviewed and approved the rehabilitation plans for McPherson Square and the selection of site furniture proposed for installation in the other downtown parks. The Commission looks forward to the review of future rehabilitation projects for the small parks and squares in the city that are in the care of the National Park Service. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



Frederick J. Lindstrom  
Acting Secretary

Terry Carlstrom  
Regional Director, National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Sally Blumenthal, National Park Service  
Cy Paumier, Downtown BID