



NEWS

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July/August 2006

Dreyfus PUD Zoning Hearing Set for Monday, July 31



by Gary Peterson

The amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) filed by the Louis Dreyfus Property Group (Dreyfus) has been set for a Monday, July 31, Zoning Commission hearing. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will be held on the second floor of 441 Fourth Street, NW.

Since the report in the May 2006 *News*, p. 6, the only change has been that Dreyfus has lowered the height of the building on the Second Street frontage by 8 feet. Dreyfus achieves this reduction by cutting back on the amount of retail including a retail mezzanine.

The Stanton Park Neighborhood Association's Land Use Committee (SPNA) rejected the PUD because the proposed buildings are too tall. Subsequently, at a meeting with the Office of Planning, SPNA, and CHRS on June 23, 2006, the participants agreed to support the proposal upon the following terms:

1. The building fronting G Street will be lowered to 65 feet in height above G Street and will be entirely residential. There will be no retail at the corner of Second and G Streets.
2. The building fronting Second Street will be lowered to 75 feet in height above Second Street.
3. The building fronting H Street will remain unchanged. The portion of the building at

This drawing shows the Second Street elevation of the Capitol Place retail and condo complex planned for NE Capitol Hill. Courtesy: Cook+Fox Architects, LLP

Second and H Street can be as high as 100 feet.

4. Since part of the property is in the H Street Overlay, the restrictions in the Overlay will apply to the entire property.

Dreyfus PUD continued on page 3

Results of CHRS Board Election

The following members were elected to serve one-year terms commencing with the August Board meeting:

President:	Dick Wolf
1st V.P.:	Barbara Eck
2nd V.P.:	Gary Peterson
Secretary:	Mary Withum
Treasurer:	Mike Canning

Tom Grahame and Donna Hanousek were elected to two-year terms as at-large members. Two other at-large seats will be up for election next year. They, along with Standing Committee Chairs appointed by the President with consent of the sitting Board, comprise the Board of Directors. ✧

President's Column: Year's End

by Dick Wolf

We ended the year on a high note with our forum on public school education on the Hill. But there were other moments of progress to report.

Both in near North East and in Barney Circle there is interest by residents either to become part of an enlarged Capitol Hill Historic District or in creating their own historic district. There is progress, albeit slow, to support the establishment of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, as the great Capitol Hill ceremonial street it ought to be with appropriate streetscape and planning, including a "town square" at the Eastern Market Metro Plaza. Barracks Row is continuing to take shape as both a shopping and entertainment venue with the possibility of adding the Peoples' Church theatre—the old Senate Theatre—to the mix as a performing arts center. After years of planning and construction, the old Ellen Wilson

public housing complex, now called Town Homes, will be completely finished with the opening soon of the new community center at the corner of Sixth and I Streets, SE. There is even hope for a new public use for the Old Naval Hospital as the Hill community center. And, we won't forget to mention a very successful CHRS House and Garden tour held under the threat of rain.

All of these successes have been rewarded with varying degrees of recognition. According to local real estate agents the Hill is now a location of "choice." We are attracting young families, one of the few areas of the city to do so. We had an unsolicited article in the *Financial Times* written by a reporter who apparently lived here, calling the Hill a "jewel box of a neighborhood" and giving recognition to CHRS for its efforts in creating this area. Most importantly, the draft Comprehensive Plan for DC now contains a Capitol Hill Element that recognizes the Hill as a planning

entity encompassing the area from the Capitol to the Anacostia River and from the freeway on the south to Florida Avenue on the north. And, it calls for both expanded historic preservation in the area as well as steps to protect the row house portions of this element.

The Hill is here to stay. But there are still enormous tasks ahead in making the physical and social objectives become real, in re-inventing the schools, and in demanding the best planning and design as various projects develop. CHRS will continue to play a major role in this community, but only if its members continue to contribute to the various committees and activities. Moreover, we need to take steps to build our membership to ensure that it includes all parts of the community—especially our new residents and former members (welcome back!).

As I enter my second year as president, thanks for your help. I will need it even more over the next year. ✧

CHRS Urges Mayor to Delay Sending Comprehensive Plan to Council, Allow Thirty Days for Public Comment

June 21, 2006

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams
Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #600
Washington DC 20004

Dear Mayor Williams:

As a member of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force and as President of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, I urge you to delay your transmittal of the Plan to the council due to the incomplete nature of the plan (lacks all required elements and maps) and the inability of citizens to adequately review the Plan by the proposed deadline. Below is a resolution passed by the CHRS Board of Directors at its meeting yesterday about this issue.

Resolution Concerning Comprehensive Plan Review Time

WHEREAS, the new Comprehensive Plan is supposed to guide planning and development in the District of Columbia for the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the draft of the Plan is still incomplete, lacking elements and maps; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for comments on the draft Plan is June 23, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is scheduled to forward said Plan to the Council of the District of Columbia sometime in July, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the draft Comprehensive Plan, in its entirety, cannot be adequately reviewed by the public by June 23, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Capitol Hill Restoration Society urges the Mayor to defer sending said Plan to the Council until thirty days after a complete draft has been made available to the public for review and comment.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Wolf, President

cc: City Council Members
Ellen McCarthy, Director, DC
Office of Planning

Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)

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To contact any of the above, please contact the Society offices by calling 202-543-0425 or sending email to CapHRS@aol.com.

www.chrs.org

Celebrating our fiftieth year helping to preserve and protect Capitol Hill's residential character, the Society is now the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and one of the largest in the entire District of Columbia. From the beginning, the Society has played a key role in maintaining the diverse, residential character of our neighborhood. With your participation we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Start or Renew a CHRS Membership

* On the Web at www.CHRS.org

* Call 202-543-0425 and choose option 2

* Pick up a form at one of our meetings

Starting at just \$25 per year for a single membership, it's a great deal.

Dreyfus PUD Zoning Hearing *continued from page 1*



H Street side of the proposed Capitol Place development. Courtesy: Cook+Fox Architects, LLP.

5. The amenity package as previously discussed will not be lessened.

It is now up to Dreyfus and OP to arrive at a new amended PUD. There remains a lot to be done regarding this PUD in the next month.

NOTE: There will be no CHRS Zoning Committee meetings in July and August. The next zoning com-

mittee meeting will be at 7:30 pm on September 14, 2006 and will be held in the first floor conference room at 420 Tenth Street, SE. We will consider cases involving 643 South Carolina, SE; 1104 East Capitol Street, NE; 601-645 H Street, NE; 101 K Street, NE; 1411 Ames Place, NE; and 743 Tenth Street, SE. The meetings are open to the public. Contact Gary Peterson at 202-547-7969 or pgarylaw@aol.com. ✧

Pop-up Barrier on A Street, NE Rejected

by Barbara Eck

The Supreme Court's application to erect a pop-up barrier in the middle of A Street, NE, to prevent potential, explosive damage to their building at the Second and A Streets NE intersection was turned down by the city. At the same time, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton sent a letter to Chief Justice Roberts offering to work with the Court and the community as they have done over the last five years, to provide security to the Court without putting the neighborhood residents at additional risk. Justice Roberts responded with a suggestion that she and the community work with the Supreme Court Police Department to work out a solution.

To this end, Delegate Norton convened a meeting in her office in late May to discuss alternatives that would provide security to the

Supreme Court without further endangering nearby residents. Representatives from DDOT and Public Space, along with those from CHRS and A Street, compiled a list of alternatives to locating an explosive barrier in the middle of A Street. These included erection of the barrier in the middle of Second Street which is under federal jurisdiction, turning the 200 block of A Street into a one-way street eastward, and installation of traffic "calming" measures that would interfere with a bomb laden truck from barreling down the street.

Ms. Norton has not had a response from the Court as we go to press. At least one A Street resident has recently put his house up for sale and others are considering it. One stated that she was more afraid of what the Court would do than she was of terrorists careening down their narrow little street in a big truck. ✧

DC Housing Task Force Report is Flawed

by Dick Wolf

In early June, I presented the testimony that follows to the Economic Development Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia regarding the DC Housing Task Force Report. The report is the only portion of housing policy addressed in the housing element of the Draft Comprehensive Plan. And yet, the report does not speak to the full set of the District's housing issues, focusing instead on only a small part of the vast array of assisted housing programs.

Even more alarming is the testimony by the advocates of such programs to increase real estate transfer taxes to fund this new set of housing initiatives and also to provide a rent supplement to certain classes of lower income renters. As was pointed out by Councilmember Ambrose chairing the hearing, this was one of those entitlements that helped undermine the District's financial condition a few years ago. Mrs. Rivlin, the Chair of the Task Force and an advocate for these tax initiatives, as well as the last chair of the Control Board, admitted that this was the case, but this time with the District's finances in "better shape" the rent supplement entitlement should be tried again.

Unable to wait for my turn to testify, I left my testimony with the committee and gave it to several members of the Task Force leader-

ship. One of those persons later called me to say that I was right. The Task Force was composed only of advocates—some not even residents of the city—and the underlying data has not been made available for public scrutiny.

What are the implications of this report? Already, the Office of Planning has succeeded in convincing the Zoning Commission to develop an "inclusionary zoning" rule that would undermine row house neighborhoods by narrowing lot width minimums from 18 to 15 feet and otherwise shrink lot area requirements. In addition, in planned unit developments, "benefits" to support larger developments include additional low and moderate-income units that increase—even more—the PUDs' height, bulk and density. That is already part of the huge Drefysus PUD at Second and G Streets, NE.

These proposals are clearly a case of good intentions having gone awry.

(Testimony submitted)

Economic Development Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia: Hearing on the Report of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force. June 13, 2006

I am Richard N. Wolf. I appear here to represent only my views on this important matter. These views are

informed by my own experiences over many years in community development with private, non-profit neighborhood and citywide organizations; with the outstandingly successful and award winning Town Homes development; with the former Ellen Wilson Public Housing Dwellings; as an initiator of the first Hope 6 in the District; and finally, as your appointee to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

I take issue with a number of assumptions and facts that are presented in this report. There is no doubt that there is an affordability issue with respect to virtually all levels of housing in DC and the entire metropolitan area. This has been a problem since WWII: it was a problem when rent control was enacted after home rule in the 1970s, and it continues today. Nevertheless, this report is written as if the District of Columbia—all 39 square miles of it—must solve that problem for the entire metro area. This is absurd.

The District, for purposes of accommodating low and moderate income housing in this area, is a paragon of virtue compared to all other jurisdictions, even Montgomery County. It contains 52% of the assisted housing in the area; 60% of its extremely large rental stock is covered by rent control; it has a myriad of housing programs; and, according to a recent Washington Post article, DC still is the most affordable place to live in the metro area.

In planning for the District of Columbia—a tiny city by almost any standard, choices have to be made. In developing a city it is not only about such fungible physical elements as office buildings and housing, but also about the social outcomes from the disposition of land: the building of successful neighborhoods. By most standards DC is a dysfunctional place. One

Housing Report continued on page 5

Welcome CHRS Supporters

We thank the following new members, patrons, and sponsors.

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Leslie Feder
Christine Feroli
Bart Hudson
Catherine McCulloch
Philip Moeller
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One Last Look at the 2006 House Tour

by Ann Richards

Attendance at the tour was off nearly 30% from last year, mainly due to dire weekend weather forecasts during the entire week leading up to the tour. Saturday evening turned out to be a beautiful night for the Candlelight Tour and the rain held off until late in the afternoon on Sunday (3:35 pm to be exact!) but temperatures were still brisk. Despite the lower attendance, the net proceeds to CHRS are just under \$37,000, down from last year's lofty \$50,000 (a record) net proceeds but better than the 2004 tour results.

Advertising revenue (\$16,315) from 36 restaurants, shops, contractors, real estate professionals, banks and others more than covered the costs of the tour, which were up this year. Contributions from members were also significant with \$4,350 coming from 52 members. The proceeds fund much of the basic operations of CHRS. A significant portion of the proceeds also goes to fund the Society's grants awards program for neighbor-

hood organizations that improve or maintain their surroundings. Recent recipients include CHAW, Barracks Row Main Street, Brent Neighbors and Trees for Capitol Hill. You can read about the grants program in this newsletter, and you can visit the CHRS Website to obtain a copy of the grant application, which is

due September 4, and pass it on to other neighborhood organizations that you know.

Planning has already begun for next year's Fiftieth Tour, which should attract attention beyond the tri-state area. Stay tuned for further details. ✧

CHRS Solicits Grant Proposals for Capitol Hill Community Projects

For the seventh consecutive year, CHRS will share a portion of the proceeds of its annual House Tour with the community. In order to apply for a grant, organizations must submit an original proposal and six copies to the Society's office at 420 Tenth Street, SE, by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 4, 2006.

Criteria for judging grant applications include the following:

- The proposal must be for a specific project or projects relating to Capitol Hill. A pro-

posal to simply add the CHRS grant to an organization's operating funds would not be eligible for consideration.

- Incorporation or nonprofit status is not required. However, CHRS needs to be reasonably assured that there is a capacity to carry out the project as well as accountability for the funds.

For an application and additional information, please visit the CHRS Website at CapHRS@aol.com. ✧

DC Housing Task Force Report *from page 4*

third of its adults are functionally illiterate, a great number of residents have chronic diseases, its schools perform at almost the lowest level of any system in the country, it has an extremely high murder rate, and so on. You know the story. An important component of this dysfunction is the continuing erosion of middle class families. Without that component of the population DC will continue to turn into fun city and a repository for the social ills of the region. Some of the housing initiatives proposed by the report and the draft housing element of the comprehensive plan will exacerbate these problems.

In my experience the top down

imposition of low and moderate income housing into neighborhoods without careful attention to planning and design blights these neighborhoods, as did traditional public housing in the past. Particularly is this true with such proposed remedies as short cutting codes, densification of development, and, especially, inclusionary zoning proposals. As proposed, these would drastically alter the character of row house neighborhoods and potentially undermine historic district controls. All this for very little in the way of increased low and moderate income housing, and without affecting the continuing loss of families and family housing stock.

If there is to be a housing component to the Comprehensive Plan for the District of Columbia, it should treat the entire range of housing, not just low and moderate. Moreover, there needs to be policies relating to the realities of population changes and to create not just an "inclusive city"—this is already an inclusive city—but a city once again with viable neighborhoods and families. If money and programs could create the utopia envisioned by the housing task force, we would have already arrived. It takes a whole lot more.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. ✧

NCPC Studying RFK Stadium Site

(from a press release dated June 1, 2006)

Washington, DC—At its regular June meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission announced its intention to conduct an in-depth exploration of multiple uses for the RFK Stadium site once the baseball and soccer teams currently using the stadium have relocated. “The East Capitol Street area can be a dramatic gateway to the city, but it will require careful planning to realize the full potential of the site—respecting its historical significance as well as its prominence at the east end of the monumental core,” said John V. Cogbill, III, NCPC Commission Chairman. Cogbill emphasized the critical role public input will have in the planning process. “Federal planners will be exploring a responsible mix of federal and public uses for the site,” said Cogbill. “Of course, public opinion will be solicited, too, and we will coordinate with the District government as well.”

“NCPC’s 1997 Legacy Plan broadly re-envisioned the site with a major memorial surrounded by new housing and commercial development,” said Patricia Gallagher, NCPC Executive Director. “The Legacy Plan also described an East Capitol Street that “links the traditional monumental core and the Anacostia River.” The RFK site is one of more than 100 sites for future memorials identified in NCPC’s Memorials and Museums Master Plan released in 2001. The site is on a list to receive major focus this year as the National Capital Framework Plan is developed. The Framework Plan will encourage the selection of sites off the National Mall for future memorials, museums, cultural and civic events. Details of the Framework Plan are expected later this year.

“The vision of previous plans was to reserve the RFK site for a major memorial that is commensurate with those at the other end

of the Monumental Core,” said Cogbill. “An urban design for the entire area that focuses more on recreation, open space, and some private development will be important to restoring East Capitol, Independence and Pennsylvania Avenues as major thoroughfares through east and Southeast Washington.”

NCPC expects to begin work this year on a concept analysis for the RFK site. The Commission has begun the process of soliciting input on the RFK site from several key stakeholders, including the DC Office of Planning, District Department of Transportation, National Park Service and others. “Throughout the summer, we will gather information from all interested parties on potential uses for the site,” said Gallagher. “An open house to receive public input is planned for mid-summer,” and right now planners estimate the date will fall in late July.



*Aerial view of RFK Memorial Stadium.
Photo: DC Film Commission*

Gallagher believes the Commission should be able to make a formal recommendation for future use of the land in early fall. “Our goal is to be as pro-active as possible in planning the best future use of the RFK site,” said Gallagher. RFK Stadium (built in 1961) is owned by the city and sits on land leased from the federal government. Altogether, the stadium site and surrounding federal lands and buildings occupy 190 acres. ✧

NCPC Plans Call for Demolition of RFK Stadium

by Gary Peterson

On June 13, 2006, Gary Peterson, Chair of the CHRS Zoning Committee, met with the planner for the NCPC responsible for the RFK project, David Zaiden. Zaiden explained three scenarios for a new plan for the site. The site includes all land north of Independence Avenue, east of Nineteenth Street and Oklahoma Avenue, south of Benning Road, and west of the Anacostia River.

All of the plans call for demolition of RFK and changes to the traffic pattern around the stadium.

Much of the land east of the METRO tracks will be left open as public park and the land to the west of METRO will include the Seed School and possibly tennis courts and a swimming pool. The NCPC has jurisdiction over this site because it is the federal government’s central planning agency in the District of Columbia and is responsible for creating a master plan for the entire region. The NCPC also reviews and approves all DC Comprehensive plans and all changes to the zoning regulations. Please watch for the notice of the July meeting and be sure and attend. ✧

Washington Canal Park Coming in 2007

Your Comments Sought

by David Holmes

The Washington Canal Park will be constructed south of the SE/SW Freeway between I and M Streets, SE, and bordered by the two Second Streets. The first public park of the City's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, it will run along the probable route of the former Washington Canal, a route



The drawings on this page illustrate the Washington Canal Park, which will feature a grassy median and wide sidewalks comprising a walkway along New Jersey Avenue from near the Canal Park at M Street, SE, to the Anacostia waterfront.

now buried under landfill, street surfaces, and buildings.

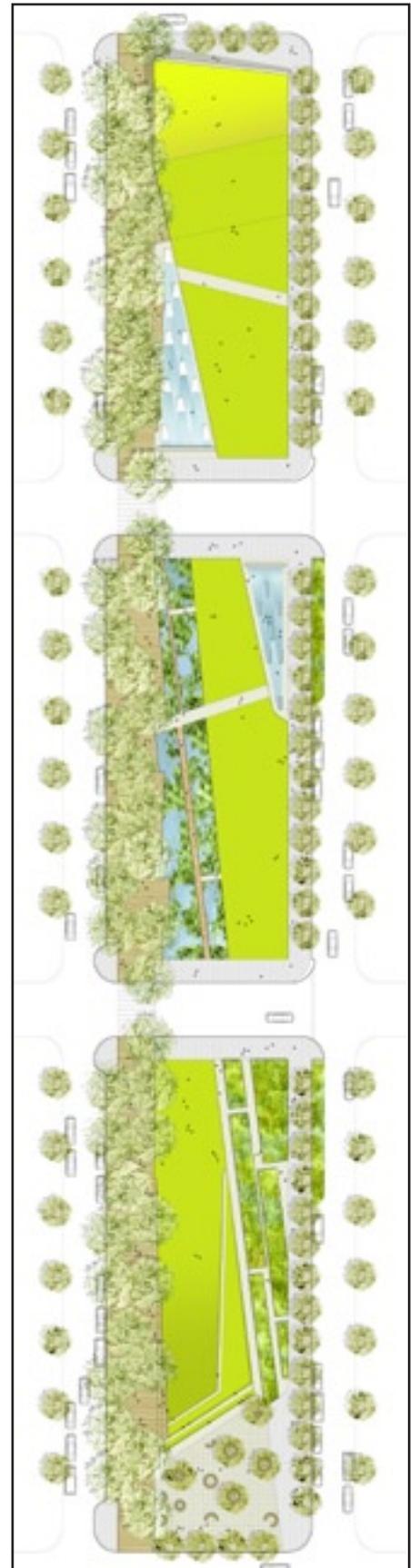
Connecting to the C&O Canal, which ran freight and passenger traffic from Cumberland to Georgetown, the Washington Canal ended at the Navy Yard, where goods from eastern Maryland could be transferred to canal barges headed to Georgetown's port and to Washington's city markets. Retracing the path of the Canal is difficult and conjectural at this time, since surface indications are long lost. But in this urban desert, you can still hear the sound of

horses, at Charley Horses under the freeway—an echo of the mules and horses that used to tow barges along the edge of Capitol Hill.

The Washington Canal and the C&O Extension ran along Canal Road southwest of the Rayburn House Office Building, across what is now the Mall, and then along B Street (currently Constitution Avenue). Farther west, the Canal went past the lockkeeper's house at Seventeenth and Constitution Avenue, NW. To facilitate railroad transit and eliminate what had become a noisome, sewage-filled, civic blemish, Congress in 1870 authorized filling parts of the Canal and incorporating the rest into the sewer system. Railroad stations and rail lines were then located across and along the former canal at the base of Capitol Hill.

Washington Canal Park is to be a model of storm water run-off control. Rainfall from surrounding streets and on the Park will be collected and stored within and under the Park. Shallow flows of clean water along the sides will invite wading. The Park is meant to be an urban refuge in the midst of the new canyons of office buildings now under construction or being planned. A grassy median and wide sidewalks will comprise a walkway along New Jersey Avenue from near the Canal Park at M Street, SE, to the waterfront. River walkways are planned to connect Capitol Hill to the new Washington Nationals Baseball Stadium. Improved and lighted access from Garfield Park is also planned.

The Anacostia Waterfront Corporation seeks input on how best to develop the Park. How can the Park best link Capitol Hill to the waterfront, connect neighborhood green spaces, illustrate the area's history, and provide a place for relaxation and community events? Your comments can be sent to washingtoncanalpark@awcdc.com. ✧



Eastern Market Rehabilitation Plans Under Review

by Nancy Metzger

Rehabilitation plans for Eastern Market went through a second round of review before the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Commission of Fine Arts in June. Revised concepts for handicapped access and for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems were presented by Baird Smith, AIA, of Quinn Evans Architects and Peter May of DC's Office of Property Management (OPM).

Instead of long ramps outside the market, regrading the sidewalk, lowering certain doors, and constructing ramps on the interior will accomplish handicapped access to the market. This proposal has far less of an impact on the exterior of the building and the functioning of the Saturday and Sunday outdoor market than the original plan but it will negatively impact several of the indoor vendors.

Both the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC) supported the change but also advocated a study of how to alleviate that impact on individual

vendors. Plans now call for one handicapped accessible entrance to the North Hall and three to the South Hall—one at the west and two from Seventh Street.

In this round of review, OPM removed major roof work from the scope of the project. The proposed skylights were removed during the April hearings; the present roof tiles are estimated to last another 10-15 years. Natural ventilation will be provided through operable windows (the round windows would be opened by mechanical means), rather than by replacement of the rooftop ventilators or restoration of the roof ridge. CHRS had urged more exploration of natural ventilation systems before tackling an air conditioning system.

Another major change from the initial submission was the proposal to move the air conditioning chillers from the west façade of the market to the second floor of the Center Hall (now the Pottery Studio). This change means that the fire access stairs to the Center Hall would not have to be built and that the west façade would not be obscured by more equipment. The second-floor

windows in the west 'tower' would have louvers as well as a small dormer to provide necessary air circulation for the mechanical equipment. The porches that were originally part of the tower would be reconstructed or repaired. This reconstruction would help mitigate the impact of the dormer and the louvered windows. The architects are still working on details of the air conditioning duct systems within the South Hall. Sometime later this summer or fall a mock-up of the duct system will be installed so that the least obtrusive height from the floor and depth from the wall can be determined.

While the change in location for the mechanical equipment is a plus in terms of reduced impact on the fabric of the building, it has the obvious negative impact of dislodging the Eastern Market Pottery Studio, long-term occupants of the second floor of the Center Hall. OPM is searching for new quarters for the Pottery Studio. One suggestion is to move the Pottery Studio to the basement of the Market, which has housed an armory and an archery range in the past. Other options are also apparently being explored. ✧

Historic Preservation Briefs

by Nancy Metzger

Anne Archbold Hall: The landmark nomination of Anne Archbold Hall in Reservation 13 will be considered at the July Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) hearing. Anne Archbold, a brick and limestone Classical Revival structure, was built in 1932 as the residence hall and educational facility of the Capital City School of Nursing. According to the landmark nomination filed by CHRS and the DC Preservation League (DCPL) in December 2003, Anne Archbold is significant within the context of Washington's history because it serves as a visible reminder of the efforts within the

community to provide medical services to the poor from the time when such services were regarded as charities to the time of their incorporation with the DC Health Department. It was named one of DC's most endangered buildings by DC Preservation League in 2002 because there were no provisions for its retention and re-use in the proposed Master Plan for Reservation 13. In July, at the same HPRB meeting, the Anacostia Waterfront Commission, the entity currently responsible for the development of Reservation 13, will present its revised Master Plan and the Preservation Plan for the area. In those plans Anne Archbold Hall is sited along the Massachusetts

Avenue extension (in the front) and the center of its rear façade will line up with a new neighborhood park. The 1945 north addition to the west arm of the building would be demolished to accommodate a required new street.

Historic Preservation Amendment Act of 2006: On June 6, the DC Council approved its first reading of Bill 16-195, the "Historic Preservation Amendment Act of 2006," which includes major improvements to the District's historic preservation law. Final passage of the bill is anticipated in July. The bill makes a number of significant changes to the 1978 Historic Preservation Act

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CHRS Membership Forum Discusses Community Involvement in Public Schools

by Amanda Molson

On June 22, nearly 70 CHRS members, neighbors and city officials gathered at St. Peter's Church to discuss reinvesting in Capitol Hill's public schools. Consistently a top priority for residents across the city, quality education on the Hill reaps benefits by attracting and retaining young couples and new families to our neighborhood. Without educational offerings that meet the needs of our steadily growing number of children, Capitol Hill could slip into a transient lifestyle whose population lacks a long-term interest in the community. Great schools—public, private and charter—bring us more great families who enjoy urban living.

The membership forum opened with a review of CHRS elections and an informative introduction by DC Board of Education Member Tommy Wells, who highlighted the importance of focusing on our public schools across the board, especially those with low enrollment numbers that often leave them out of community efforts targeted at the more popular schools. Wells also discussed innovative leadership training courses that prepare new principals, language programs that meet community-specific demographics, and the use of infrastructure and space by the city.

Three organizations that have met with wonderful success in their



Dick Wolf addresses the membership forum. Panelists included (from left to right) Suzanne Wells and George Blackmon, Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization; Sally Kimball James, Brent Neighbors; Todd Cymrot, School Libraries Project; and Tommy Wells, DC Board of Education. Photo: Larry Janezich

own efforts joined us, represented by panelists: the School Libraries Project, the Brent Neighbors and the Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization. The School Libraries Project recently broke ground on the first three of ultimately eight schools that will receive new libraries, technology and additional books by the end of next summer. The Brent Neighbors recognized the strides that their enthusiastic principal has made and shared extensive plans to create an environmentally-friendly schoolyard with softer surfaces, new plantings and a butterfly garden. The Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization, formed by PTA presidents and school administrators, continues to champion pilot pro-

grams for three-year-olds and feeder patterns to create true neighborhood schools. The forum closed with audience questions on vocational schools and potential assistance from local congregations.

CHRS heartily thanks Tommy Wells and our panelists for their excellent presentations. All of our speakers were clearly deeply committed, which is a sure sign of possibilities for the future. We also appreciate the attendance of so many of our members—great to see you!

CHRS will continue to take a strong interest in these efforts and will plan additional meetings and articles to keep you informed on the health of our schools. ✧

Briefs continued from page 8

including ensuring protection for archeological sites like other historic structures when alterations to the site are proposed. The bill reduces the number of members to the Historic Preservation Review Board from 11 to 9 to help make the Board more efficient. It codifies the HPRB practice of informal con-

cept reviews, which saves the cost and time of more detailed permit reviews and establishes a "state 106 procedure" (similar to provisions under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act), which requires early consultation with the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) for projects involving DC-owned buildings. In addition, the bill clari-

fies the HPO's enforcement abilities against those who violate specific provisions of the law or regulations or specific provisions of their permits. It also expands the ability of the HPO to use its revolving fund for educational and outreach efforts and provides that legal settlements and enforcement fines can be paid into the fund. ✧

Mark Your Calendar!

JULY

10 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034

11 Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Council Chair Candidates Forum: Preservation and Planning in the District, with Kathy Patterson and Vincent Gray. Moderator, Mark Segraves, WTOP investigative reporter. Sponsored by DC Preservation League, Historic Districts Coalition, and Committee of 100. Sixth & I Synagogue, 6th & I Streets, NW. Details: DC Preservation League, 202-783-5144.

18 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 202-543-4353.

AUGUST

3 Thursday, 10:00 am

Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting, 441 4th Street, NW (#1 Judiciary Square), Room 220 South. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.

7 Monday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Historic Preservation Committee, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Nancy Metzger, 202-546-1034.

15 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Board Meeting, Kirby House, 420 10th Street, SE, first floor. Details: Dick Wolf, 202-543-4353

Please Note:

The CHRS *News* will not be published in August. Publication will resume in September.

National Arboretum Sponsors Guided Tour, Invasive Plants Workshop

On Saturday, September 16, CHRS members and their families have the opportunity to go on a guided tour of the woodlands areas of the Arboretum to learn about native trees and plants. Participants will also learn about invasive nonnative vines damaging native trees and help remove these vines. (This will not involve removing poison ivy.) The Arboretum will document community service for students.

Who may participate: Anyone age 16 or older. A parent or guardian must accompany volunteers under age 18.

Date/time: Saturday, September 16, 2006, 10:00 am to noon.

Place: National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE. Meet at the Administration Building.

Tools/equipment: The National Arboretum will provide tools, cotton gloves, and trash bags. Volunteers should bring their own garden gloves, if they prefer. Long pants and long sleeves recommended.

Contact: Joan Feely: 202-245-4512. Email: feelyj@usna.ars.usda.gov. ✧

Eco Boat Tours of the Anacostia River

by Beth Purcell

The Anacostia River has beautiful views and abundant wildlife—ospreys, herons and more. See the Anacostia River by boat with the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC). ECC staff will take you on their boat up the river and under the railroad bridge to explain the wildlife, the environmental successes (wetlands restoration, fish species returning), and the challenges

(trash, sewer-storm water run-off) facing the river. Life jackets are furnished. A donation is requested for passengers age 10 and over.

When: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm and Saturdays at 2:00 pm.

Where: ECC Pumphouse, 1st and Potomac Avenue, SE.

Contact: ECC: 202-479-6710 or email Jane Osborne—jane@religiouspartnership.org. ✧



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003