



NEWS

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September 2006

NCPC Planners to Address CHRS September 26

by Barbara Eck

David Zaidain and Elizabeth Miller, planners with the National Capital Planning Commission, will present two projects related to the city's monumental core and the Capitol Hill neighborhood at a CHRS Community Forum on September 26th, at 7:30 pm in St. Peter's Church Hall, 2nd and C Streets, SE.

Mr. Zaidain will present the project relating to redevelopment of the RFK site. NCPC held a public meeting in July that focused on the RFK Stadium Site Redevelopment Study. More than 70 residents attended the meeting and contributed comments and suggestions. The study covers future land use opportunities for this federally-owned site in the context of the NCPC "Extending the Legacy" vision plan. An overview of the project and a summary of the comments received at the public meeting can be found at www.ncpc.gov/planning_init/RFK/RFK.html.

Ms. Miller will introduce the National Capital Framework Plan, a new initiative that will address plans to develop monument sites around and beyond the National Mall, which continues to be the monument site of choice in spite of limited space. She will also discuss improvement of visitor services and the quality of life for residents and workers as the city is devel-



The RFK Stadium Site Redevelopment Study is examining potential future uses for the 190 acres of federal land and is part of the National Capitol Framework Plan. "By creating new destinations and improving connections to and from nearby areas, the Framework Plan aims to provide accessible, inviting and attractive places for public commemoration, participation and celebration beyond the National Mall."

Top photo: David Holmes

oped as a cultural destination for future generations.

Plan to attend. Bring your friends and neighbors AND your questions and comments.

Everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments and socializing at 7:00 pm, followed by a brief business meeting and our two speakers. ✧

President's Column: Vote!

by Dick Wolf

This is a most important time for CHRS. The issues that are at the heart of our organization—planning, zoning, historic preservation, the protection and enhancement of our neighborhood—are also central concerns in this month's elections.

There is a new Comprehensive Plan for DC before the Council now which will affect the shape and nature of our community for many years to come. It will drive a comprehensive overhaul of our 1958 zoning code, and will also determine the importance of historic preservation in the development of the city.

Land use is a central political issue in every state and local government in the United States. It is particularly important in the District, which is both the national capital and a local government. Because of this dual governance, our local government is responsible only for a city of 39 square miles: tiny, dense, filled with historic buildings and homes, diverse, and experiencing the greatest development boom since the Civil War.

Ever since L'Enfant, planning has been the determiner for the shape, look, and feel of Washington DC. Will it continue to be so?

Among the issues affecting Capitol Hill and CHRS are the Dreyfus condo development; the Appletree charter school; the former Medlink Hospital;

including a new 11th Street Bridge. How will the election affect these issues?

CHRS has been a leader among DC civic groups in advocating for a local planning commission, removal of the Office of Planning as a subordinate agency to economic development, better appointments

A new Mayor, a new Council Chair, and a new council-member for Ward 6 will all be critical in determining... a revitalized preservation office; better appointments to our land use regulatory bodies; and whether or not we will get—as almost every other city in the country has—our own planning commission.

Congressional security actions; the development plans of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation; the development of Reservation 13; waterfront planning for the area between Reservation 13 and Benning Road; expansion of the Historic District both north and east; planning for Pennsylvania Avenue SE between 13th Street and Barney Circle; and all the new transportation plans,

to the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and improved assistance to neighborhoods from the Office of Planning. In particular, a new Mayor, a new Council Chair, and a new councilmember for Ward 6 will all be critical in determining the content of a Comprehensive Plan and the means of its implementation; a revitalized preservation office; better appointments to our land use regulatory bodies; and whether or not we will get—as almost every other city in the country has—our own planning commission, which will have among its tasks the implementation of the new Comprehensive Plan.

Members of CHRS need to determine where the candidates are on these issues. A number of candidates for the seats mentioned have expressed support for our initiatives, and some have been either vague or lukewarm. Your participation in this election is important because whoever we elect will have real consequences for Capitol Hill as well as the rest of the city. So vote on September 12th! ✧

Citizen Groups Urge Delay in Consideration of Comprehensive Plan

CHRS has recently been joined by the Federation of Citizens Associations of D.C. and the Committee of 100 on the Federal City in a request to delay formal consideration of the Comprehensive Plan bill recently forwarded to the Council by the Mayor. As will be noted in the letter and the accompanying list of problems on pages 10 and 11, the Plan is a deeply flawed proposal. It will make the work of fitting

all of the city's needs for development, neighborhoods, and social welfare initiatives much more contentious and divisive than it is already. As the letter explains, this proposed new plan requires much work before it can properly serve the needs of this city. (Dick Wolf is a trustee of the Committee of 100 and served on the informal committee that drafted the letter. CHRS is a member of the Federation.) ✧

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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.

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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.

Fall Preservation Café Line-Up

by Nancy Metzger

Leading off this fall's season of Preservation Cafés will be a special look at "Barracks Row Below the Freeway" on Wednesday, September 20, from 6:30—7:15 pm at Trattoria Alberto, 506 8th Street, SE (upstairs room). This slide-show tour will focus on one of the most historic areas of the Hill—and one that everyone expects will be the site of much new construction in the coming years. Bill McLeod, executive director of Barracks Row Main Street, will be highlighting some of the renovations and new ventures that have occurred since these blocks were incorporated into the Capitol Hill Historic District five years ago. Nancy Metzger, chair of CHRS's Historic Preservation Committee, will add commentary on the historic resources of the area—the buildings that provide the framework for new construction that will fill many of the now-empty lots.

This Preservation Café will give residents a chance to take a close look at a historic area just before changes begin, learn about its past, and understand what Barracks Row Main Street hopes will be here in the future. And, as at all Preservation Cafés, attendees

will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments in an informal setting. Afterwards, of course, there will be a chance to relax with friends over a plate of Trattoria's wonderful pasta.

The October 18 Preservation Café will feature a presentation by John Deatruck and the DC Department of Transportation on the city's Historic Streets and Alleys program. Capitol Hill can claim some very special alleys—residential alleys with historic houses from the 1880s and 1890s, alleys paved with cobblestone, and many with red and yellow brick paving. Some of our alleys have been repaved under this DDOT program—Gessford Court and Brown's Court, for example. Residents will have an opportunity to ask DDOT representatives about the program.

On November 15, Robert Sonderman, an archaeologist with the National Park Service and a Capitol Hill resident, will be spotlighting the archaeological finds of Capitol Hill, particularly the Indian artifacts collected near Barney Circle. There will also be an opportunity for residents to have bits of pottery, glass, and other mysterious lumps dug up in the gardens of Capitol Hill identified by this expert. ✧

Welcome CHRS Supporters

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

NEW MEMBERS

Michael & Margot Green
Richard & Alice Greene
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Surprises in DDOT Bridge and Road Proposals

by Thomas Grahame

A bevy of new transportation projects that will affect Capitol Hill are now approaching important decision points. Chief among these are the proposed 11th Street Bridges upgrades and the Kenilworth Avenue corridor project, which despite its location on the east side of the Anacostia contains plans which will determine how Capitol Hill enjoys incipient new parkland on the west bank of the river. Another such project is the Capitol Hill Transportation Study, due this fall. The Anacostia Waterfront Transportation Master Plan is in the mix as well.

The position of CHRS on the many transportation proposals—proposals that interact but are presented separately—has consistently emphasized the following points:

1. Remove traffic from local streets via alternative routing.
2. Connect I-395 and I-295 via a new northbound connection to I-295 at 11th Street.

3. Do not increase the footprint of the 11th Street Bridges in any new construction.
4. Do not destroy parkland; instead restore it for the use of the community as bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly parkland, rather than as new commuter roads.
5. Consider the impacts of all the projects together (no segmentation of transportation studies of adjoining areas).

Here is a review of recent transportation-related proposals.

11th St. Bridges Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

DDOT presented its draft EIS at a community meeting in late July for the 11th Street Bridges project. This project, to a degree, is a follow-on to the Middle Anacostia Crossings (MAC) study, which was finalized in the summer of 2005. Comments were due August 28. The EIS web-

site is: www.11thstreetbridgeseis.com/.

When CHRS and other local groups were invited to initial community meetings on this project, we were told that among the major benefits of establishing a freeway connection between I-395 and Kenilworth Avenue/I-295 northbound would be a reduction in the “cut through” traffic that causes the Sousa Bridge to be so congested. This is traffic that takes the Sousa Bridge westbound in the morning and connects to I-395 at Barney Circle, and vice versa in the afternoon rush hour. Alternatively, some of this traffic uses 17th and 19th Streets to connect with Independence Avenue. Community groups generally favor removal of traffic from the Sousa Bridge and Pennsylvania Avenue and local streets, which led several local groups, including CHRS, to endorse the proposed connection.

The final MAC study (summer 2005) reinforced the benefits that had been suggested by DDOT, showing substantial reductions in Pennsylvania Avenue traffic in 2030. The 2005 MAC study proposed several alternatives, but, notably, none of them increased the total number of traffic lanes crossing the Anacostia at 11th Street.

However, the Draft EIS contains several substantial surprises to community groups. Three major ones are:

1. At best, there will be no reductions in Sousa Bridge and/or Pennsylvania Avenue traffic in 2030 from 2004 levels with the “build” alternatives as presented. DDOT explains that between the MAC study and the draft EIS, a new set of regional economic projections became available for use in their models, which wiped out the earlier projected traffic reductions.

DDOT Proposals continued on page 5



Existing



Proposed

Existing and proposed road and bridge design at the Southeast Freeway Interchange just east of the Navy Yard, as part of the 11th Street Bridges Draft EIS.

Making The Bus Fly

A recent Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) presentation on plans for regional Rapid Bus Service illustrated a range of planned improvements for Capitol Hill, including the 90 buses on Eighth Street and the D-6. Current implementation of rapid bus service on University Boulevard in Maryland, Columbia Pike in Arlington, and Georgia Avenue in DC has been welcomed and

deemed a success. Innovations such as electronic signs at bus stops announcing the next bus arrival are slated to be installed in the near future on Georgia Avenue.

CHRS attendees came away with a sense that regional leadership and WMATA finally realize the importance of improved bus service and better transit information for riders. There appears to be a general enthusiasm for improved bus service as part of the larger

transportation and development picture. Evident also was a willingness to work together multi-jurisdictionally to improve connections and overall workability of a regional bus system. DC officials made it clear that they would be holding WMATA responsible for service monitoring to eliminate problems like stacking up of buses and a consistent failure to maintain schedules. ✧

DDOT Proposals *from page 4*

2. Major new additional traffic connections are proposed at the 11th Street Bridge location by adding 4 new local lanes of traffic, in addition to the 8 lanes of freeway traffic. These added lanes will no doubt create significantly more traffic in both directions, spilling into the Hill near 11th and M Streets, SE.
3. More than 80% of the cost (current estimates are about \$500 million) will come from DC taxpayers.

CHRS will provide comments by the August 28 deadline that will emphasize the need to stick to the basics of the project—e.g., provide only the freeway-to-freeway link—without adding new commuter lanes into Capitol Hill. These new lanes would appear to obviate a major reason the project was recommended in the first place—to remove commuter traffic from Capitol Hill.

Kenilworth Avenue Corridor Project

Around October, DDOT plans to present the final Kenilworth Avenue Corridor study (KAC). Much of the study is devoted to improving interchanges with Kenilworth Avenue at East Capitol Street and Benning Road. One part

of the project of interest to Capitol Hill residents will be the proposals for a new bridge across the Anacostia at Massachusetts Avenue extended. Another is the proposal for a “park road” whose stated purpose is to increase access to the narrow parkland to be created on the west bank of the Anacostia from Pennsylvania Avenue at Barney Circle, northeast to East Capitol Street (and perhaps beyond). The changes appear to be driven by the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation’s plans for the area, although the KAC is a DDOT project.

Despite the fact that the new bridge was proposed to enable new access for bikers and pedestrians, all proposed configurations allow vehicles. Many community groups objected to a new Massachusetts Avenue bridge on several grounds—for example, a bridge which can carry vehicles could carry commuters (one alternative explicitly connects Massachusetts Avenue with Randle Circle across the river); a bridge in the mile between the East Capitol and Sousa Bridges would remove parkland and spoil the viewscape, an important part of enjoying a new riverside park; and added access for bikers and pedestrians could instead be provided adjacent to the East Capitol Street Bridge, as it is now at Sousa.

Several community groups have opposed the “park road” because it would harm enjoyment of the narrow new park by taking up too much land in this narrow strip, and by adding vehicles to what could be just a walking and biking experience in a surprisingly natural area just behind the Congressional Cemetery. Nonetheless, no “no build” option is presented at this time, just as no “no build” option is presented for the Massachusetts Avenue bridge.

CHRS will provide comments suggesting ways to rectify the present draft as well. The current draft is not available on a website.

Capitol Hill Transportation Study (CHTS)

The CHTS will not be available until mid-September. Reportedly, this study may include some important traffic mitigation measures for slowing commuter traffic on such streets as Independence and Constitution Avenues. For example, there might be a proposal to make Independence Avenue two-way. CHRS will report on, and comment on, this study when it becomes available. ✧

Looking Back on Capitol Hill

The 1950s and 1960s mark the era of the “first generation” of restorers of Capitol Hill houses. While there were professional builders and developers who worked on houses, many of the new owners were young people who tackled the job themselves—working on one part of the house while living in another part. One such family in the 1950s was the Glickerts—Betty and Peter, who restored 154 Eleventh Street, SE (the southernmost house of Philadelphia Row) and then 140 Twelfth Street, SE before they moved a few years ago to an apartment in Southwest. In an interview with Ev Barnes in 2003 for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill History project, Betty Glickert recalls the days before one could search the internet for spare house parts and when the Hill lost one of its most glorious houses—the Carry mansion at 12th and Independence SE, built in the late 1880s for the Albert Carry family. Mr. Carry was well known on Capitol Hill as the owner of the National Capital Brewing Company and a founder of the National Capital Bank.

“... I want to say how different things were at this time. It was much later before restoration became what it is now. It was very difficult to duplicate things that were lost. For instance the balustrades: if you had them missing, you could climb about Ace wreckage junk yards for days trying to find one similar. ... [The Carry mansion] was one of the most formidable places around the Hill. It had a ballroom and eighteen-inch thick masonry walls. The carriage house itself, if it had been saved—at the corner of the alley and Independence Avenue—would have been a beautiful home. We had friends who had come on the Philadelphia Row, the Karrases from Philadelphia, and they had saved parts of houses up there



Photo of the Carry Mansion courtesy of George Didden

that ... were being torn down. So we knew this and we called Ace Wrecking. They came one day and broke down one room deep in the back. We called to see about if there was going to be a sale of any of their artifacts. “Oh,” he said, “there’s nothing to save. You go in and get whatever you want.” So we had just one week because by Monday they had closed it off and they had a “ball” that was taking down the rest of the house. My husband and—we had a couple of foster children from Cuba—they went over and took down the lovely paneling from the hall and the stairway, and although the stairway of our house was much smaller, it was remarkably within the same angle. We could use it with very little change. Then we took down, although there were layers and layers of paint, the hinges were bronze and brass, very ornate; the screws were even brass, and the back plates to the doors, the

window pulls, and even the back plates for ... pocket doors. We had two sets of pocket doors. We took them all, but you could hardly see the design on some. ... The mansion had been taken down to being a really, very bad rooming house, and then finally, to nothing. It really was condemned and no one was in there. The Kreinheders, they were interested in the ornate tile, and so they spent their weekend working on the tile rows, and the Karrases on getting more of the artifacts they had wanted for their Philadelphia Row house.”

For other stories of Capitol Hill, visit www.capitolhillhistory.org. Interviewers, transcribers and volunteers for other tasks are always needed and welcome. Contact Bernadette McMahon (bmcmahon@his.com) for more information on how to volunteer. ✧

Save the Dates! 50th Annual CHRS House and Garden Tour, May 12 and 13, 2007

by Ann Richards

The first house tour benefiting the Capitol Hill Restoration Society was in 1958; that's before JFK was President, before the Beatles had arrived, and before most of us had settled in the neighborhood. The early tours were very close in, generally bounded by 8th Street to the East, New Jersey Avenue SE to the West, and A Streets, SE and NE. The first East Capitol Street house on the tour was in 1962, and the first Lincoln Park residence wasn't on the tour until the late 70s.

CHRS had only been established two years before the first tour. Early publicity for the tour promoted modernization and restoration as goals; houses were showcased to give tour-goers ideas of what they could do for their own homes. The second tour in 1959 even had twin houses next door to each other at 623 and 625 A Street SE; one had been restored, the other not. In a *Washington Post* article dated 4/19/59, "The twelve homes that will be open for the Tour are examples of the wave of restoration which is now

sweeping the Hill. Last year some 100 houses benefited from the kind of renewal these houses demonstrate."

In the early years of the tour, CHRS was in its formative years as an advocacy group. In a press release for the 1959 house tour from the office of Charles A. Halleck, then Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, "Plans for the tour are going forward in face of legislation to create an East Mall which would eventually replace many homes in the area. Eight of the homes scheduled for showing on the tour are located in the proposed Mall area." While CHRS records don't indicate which houses were in the planned East Mall area, in reviewing the dozen houses on this tour, three no longer exist. Two were victims of the new Madison Building of the Library of Congress, and one became a victim of House expansion.

Belmont House at Maryland Avenue and 2nd Street, NE, was given a bronze plaque by CHRS that year to commemorate its preservation from threatened encroachment by the New Senate Office Building. Legislators who helped CHRS preserve this his-

toric building were in attendance. Tour publicity in 1962 referred to "Inner Loop Freeway which has been approved by the District of Columbia Commissioners to run from the Navy Yard to Florida Avenue NE between 10th and 11th Streets. The plan will displace 6000 persons and scores of business establishments. It also will break the constantly more cohesive Capitol Hill community asunder by placing a speedway in the center of the area." CHRS President Dick Wolf remembers that when he moved to the Hill (Philadelphia Row) in 1964, this area had just been "de-mapped."

As we begin planning for the 50th year of the House and Garden Tour, our neighborhood has become a destination for families, empty nesters, and others seeking a sophisticated yet cohesive community in which to live, work, play, and worship. Its boundaries are much broader now and growing every day. We hope to showcase some of the changes that have taken place: under-utilized properties, both government and church, that have become beautiful homes, and new development north toward H Street, NE, and east toward RFK.

And don't be surprised if you see me or other CHRS reps combing the streets looking for beautiful gardens and unfound gems to include on next year's tour.

There will be many opportunities for volunteering during the 50th tour:

- Selling tickets on weekends at the CHRS kiosk at Eastern Market;
- Being a docent on tour days (May 12 and 13, 2007);
- Accompanying the jitneys on May 13 to provide information to riders.

As with the 40th anniversary of the House and Garden Tour, we will approach owners of previous tour homes to see if they would welcome a commemorative sign in their yard. ✧

A Capitol (Hill) Fourth

If you missed the 4th of July parade down 8th Street SE, you won't want to make the same mistake next year. Participants included a Mini-Cooper contingent, the Princess Patrol (with their handsome princes, knights-errant, slain dragon, and pumpkin coach), City Council candidates, PTAs from many local elementary schools—and

the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. Members, board members, and family members marched together, tossing Mardi Gras beads into the crowd. It was very gratifying to hear many of the folks lining the route shout "Thank you" in recognition of CHRS's work to protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

CHRS plans to have an increased presence at community events. We'll be sponsoring a table and children's activities at both the PSA 103/107 Community Party on Sept. 9 at Eliot JHS and at Barracks Row Day on Sept. 16. If you would like to help "fish for marbles" (Sept. 9) or paint faces (Sept. 16), please contact Elizabeth Nelson, 543-3512 or elizabeth_knits@yahoo.com. ✧



Photo: Abigail Terrones

Overbeck Lecture: The Improbable History of Eastern Market

The Overbeck History Lecture Series begins a new season on Tuesday evening, September 19, as Capitol Hill writer Stephen Ackerman offers a sneak preview of his forthcoming book on the history of Eastern Market.

September marks the 200th anniversary of the market's opening at its original location near 6th and L Streets, SE. Ackerman has unearthed a wealth of detail from the market's improbable history, including a brief period when the facility was viewed as a security threat and another when the current building's basement served as a rifle range.

A Capitol Hill native and sixth-generation Washingtonian, Ackerman has pursued a varied career, moving from college English teacher to congressional aide to federal civil servant, and has worked for the past twenty years as a free-lance writer.

His highly readable historical articles have appeared in *American Heritage*, *Smithsonian*, *Preservation*, *American History*, *Washington Post Magazine*, and many other publications.

The lecture will be held at 8:00 pm Tuesday, September 19, at the Naval Lodge Hall at 330

Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. As usual, admission is free, but a reservation is required due to limited seating. Please email OverbeckLecture@aol.com, or phone 202-544-1845, leaving your name, address, and phone number so you can receive a confirmation and any updates. ✧

CHRS Congratulates the Capitol Hill History Project on Its Fifth Anniversary

This month, the Capitol Hill History Project celebrates five years of hard work honoring and furthering the significant research and writings of the late Ruth Ann Overbeck, beloved community historian. Through its ongoing collection of oral histories, an online database of information,

and the presentation of lectures throughout the year, the Capitol Hill History Project continues to educate the residents of Capitol Hill. We thank the project team for their commitment to our neighborhood and its story, and hope you will learn more at www.capitolhillhistory.org. ✧

A Tragedy Waiting to Happen

by Nancy Metzger

In the fall of 2002, CHRS and David Clark, then-director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), instituted a series of monthly meetings to address long-standing problems in the Capitol Hill neighborhood concerning vacant housing and irregular permits and inspections. Through these monthly contacts, problems have been identified, and in some cases information from the community has caused DCRA to reconsider procedures and decisions. However, sometimes there have been no or poor responses, even with persistent prodding and requests for answers.

One of the most troubling cases—because it is potentially the most dangerous—is 27 3rd Street, NE, where neighbors reported in March 2005 that the property owner was planning to add three bedrooms (sleeping 6) and one bath in the

basement of a 2-unit flat. Concerned about the safety of the basement renters, CHRS representatives have repeatedly asked for the results of inspections, but information has been sketchy.

For example, the February 7, 2006, agenda (prepared by CHRS's Gary Peterson) has 27 Third Street, NE, first on the agenda with the following notation, based on the discussions from the previous months: "Now has occupied basement. It is a rooming house without a Certificate of Occupancy. Zoning inspector to check. Added to Rooming house enforcement list. What has happened?" Six months later, the notes on the August 16 agenda (a meeting that was cancelled by DCRA) noted: "Six new students on one lease. Need to look to safety, poor to non-existent egress from basement. Illegal lease, what has Housing done?"

Given this potential for a major—and predictable—tragedy,

we challenge the DCRA and its director, Patrick Canavan, to give our community a full accounting for this property of inspections and results, as well as an explanation of the slowness of the process given the substantial safety issues. If it turns out that this building and this use meet DC Code, then we feel an investigation is needed into whether the DC Code meets the International Residential Code (or similar nationally recognized code) for safety in basement units.

Several years ago, there was a fire in the basement of a Georgetown house in which a student died. Immediately after that preventable tragedy, DCRA mounted an inspection campaign of off-campus housing. A fire hasn't happened here yet, but would students in the basement be able to get out if one did start? Would any DCRA official allow their college-age son or daughter to live in this place? ✧

Proposed CHRS Budget for 2007

Begins October 1, 2006

The proposed budget reflects a continuation of activities from prior years at approximately the same budget levels. Grants have been reduced because, as customary, the grant amount is set at 20% of the income from the House and Garden Tour after expenses. The 2007 House Tour

will be the fiftieth CHRS tour, and estimates for income after expenses from the 2007 tour are slightly higher than the \$33,000 realized in 2006.

The 2007 budget also provides for the part-time CHRS employee to be converted from a salaried position to that of a contractor with CHRS, with expected outlays remaining approximately the same. ✧

	Actual Expenses 2004	Actual Expenses 2005	Budget Adopted 2006	Budget Proposed 2007
I. SOCIETY ACTIVITIES				
A. Total Income	19808	23488	22700	20600
Membership	18878	19626	22000	20000
Interest	195	415	300	300
Contributions	46	20	200	200
Miscellaneous (DC Gov Photo project)	689	3427	200	100
B. Total Expenses	48896	58765	61800	58500
Administrative Expenses	5799	4682	5000	4500
Insurance	0	1087	0	1100
Computer support/purchase	0	0	0	1500
Accounting Service Expenses	3500	3500	3500	4000
Personal Services Contract	0	0	0	9600
Salaries	5575	7799	9000	0
Employment Expenses	807	945	1200	0
Rent (office and storage)	8526	8304	9000	9600
Grants paid	6700	8425	10000	6600
President's Party	1500	482	1000	600
CHRS Elections	699	610	800	500
City Planning Committee - Wolf	1994	2000	2000	1000
Community Development Committee - Eck	150	1462	500	500
Environment Committee - Purcell	0	0	100	100
Historic Preservation Committee - Metzger	2613	3602	4000	4000
Membership Committee - Nelson	413	1581	2000	800
Communications Committee - Molson	0	469	0	300
Zoning Committee - Peterson	0	90	200	100
Newsletter Expenses	9076	9085	10500	11000
Forums	766	950	1000	700
Web Site (DC Access)	780	875	1500	1500
Miscellaneous (including 50th in '05)	0	2818	500	500
C. Net Gain <Loss> from Society Activities	-29088	-35277	-39100	-37900
II. SALE OF GOODS				
A. Total Income from Goods	199	1283	700	550
Promotional Items Sales	6	1231	600	500
HD Guidelines Sales	193	52	100	50
B. Total Expenses for Goods	522	1843	100	550
Promotional Items Purchase (Nelson)	522	1769	100	500
Sales Tax	0	74	0	50
C. Net Gain <Loss> from Sales of Goods	-323	-560	600	0
III. ENDOWMENT FUND				
A. Total Income	2320	3129	3000	1500
Interest	2320	3129	1000	500
Dividend Income	0	0	2000	1000
B. Total Expenses	0	0	100	100
C. Net Gain <Loss> from Endowments	2320	3129	2900	1400
IV. HOUSE TOURS				
A. Tour Income	42459	62263	57000	51500
B. Tour Expenses	16243	12631	12000	15000
C. Net Gain <Loss> from House Tours	26216	49632	45000	36500
V. CHRS NET GAIN <LOSS>				
	-875	16924	9400	0

Federation of Citizens Associations of D.C
P.O. Box 60622
Washington, D.C. 20039

Committee of 100 on the Federal City
1317 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

August 18, 2006

Via Hand Delivery and E-Mail

Chairman Linda W. Cropp
District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

URGENT ATTENTION NEEDED

Re: Delay in Council Action on District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

Dear Chairman Cropp:

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City and the Federation of Citizens Associations have worked over the past year to affect the draft of the District Elements of the Comprehensive Plan, through memberships on the Task Force and organizational comments.

While we believe progress has been made on several fronts, the Mayor's Draft that was submitted to the Council in July still presents serious problems for the residents of the District. The fundamental flaw is that it is not a Plan. It is full of wishes, provides few directives, and leaves virtually unlimited latitude to approve anything the executive branch or zoning commission desires. There is no statutorily created entity, such as a Planning Commission, to ride herd on the necessary capital budgeting, or to assist with implementation.

For this reason, we ask you to commit to a delay in Council consideration of the draft until communities have a chance to fully assess the impacts of the far-reaching proposals on their homes and businesses. At least 7 ANCs in 3 different Wards have already passed resolutions in support of a delay, even though most ANCs received the draft plan only after they had adjourned for the summer. Others will take up this matter in September when they resume their normal schedules.

As you know, our organizations have worked for many decades in the interests of the citizens of the District. Several of our members will be calling your office in the coming days for appointments to share with you the reasons for our concerns and the necessity of addressing fundamental flaws in the plan, a few of which are described in the attachment.

It has been suggested that the outgoing Mayor deserves to see enactment of this plan, a major initiative of his administration. However, this plan will affect every District community and the city as a whole for decades to come, and we believe those who will be obligated to enforce its provisions and live with its consequences should be the ones who shape its final form.

We look forward to working with you on this most important initiative.

Sincerely yours,



George R. Clark
President
Federation of Citizens Associations of D.C.

Sincerely yours,



Don Alexander Hawkins
Chairman
Committee of 100 on the Federal City

Problems with the Mayor's Draft of the Comprehensive Plan

1. The data are not reliable.

If the numbers are wrong, analyses cannot be relied upon. Population subsets, transit-oriented development, development trends are untrustworthy.

2. Adequate and useful financial information is lacking as to revenues, capital budget, taxes, debt, and other benchmarks.

We are asked to mortgage our future. There is no financial impact assessment, as is required for the most basic of Council actions.

3. Protective policies and goals have been lost.

Existing plan safeguards have been dropped, including those in Ward plans. Council must restore hard-won standards.

4. There is a lack of specificity, clarity, and certainty throughout the Mayor's Draft Plan.

Language is neither proscriptive nor directive for many policies and goals. The Mayor's Draft Plan is longer than the one we have now, and twice as confusing.

5. Powerful conflicts are presented among policies and goals.

Mayor's Draft Plan gives no indication of how the conflicts would be resolved, or which policies would govern.

6. The Mayor's Draft Plan lack definitions essential to understanding plan intentions and/or protections.

The terms are left vague, depriving property owners of the ability to protect their properties when challenged by intrusionary density, bulk, or use.

7. New and substantially different legislative regulatory approaches are being imposed before a revised Plan is enacted.

Changes already underway, e.g. OP proposals for mandatory inclusionary zoning, PUDs in campus plans, matter-of-right charter schools are being processed by the Zoning Commission.

8. There is a loss of Ward identity.

Use of planning "areas" diminishes links with elected representatives, is not justified in any policy language, has had no neighborhood buy-in; greatly lacking in specificity to guide future development.

9. Additional statutory language is essential for interpretation of the Mayor's Draft Plan.

Our present enacted plan requires such Council action; the Mayor's Draft Plan ignores the importance of such safeguards, leaving each and every future decision without guidance about the plan's intention.

10. The proposed maps are inadequate as guides for future land-use policy and zoning.

The maps represent floating targets, not firm commitments. In prior plans, maps were relied upon to represent commitments to land use within neighborhoods and within blocks. The Mayor's Draft Plan suggests the maps are merely current thinking, not bulwarks against challenge.

11. Implementation is left solely and entirely in the discretion of the executive branch.

The vague and permissive standards used throughout mean that executive agents will have exceptional ability to interpret the vague language of policies and goals, better left in the hands of statutorily created bodies, such as a Planning Commission, made accountable to the Council as well, offering citizens a vehicle for fulfilling much-clarified policies and goals.

12. The Mayor's Draft Plan doesn't conform to the basic elements of a plan.

There are no corridor plans, no guidelines for particular areas, no indication of need for "retained" land for future District uses, no linkage with infrastructure needs, no guidance about proportions of land to be allocated among uses (such as residential, commercial, mixed-use, public facilities, and institutions).

This powerful document should be acted upon by the persons who will hold office during its implementation.

Mark Your Calendar!

SEPTEMBER

9 Saturday, 12 noon-6 pm

PSA 103/107 Back to School Bash. Noon-6:00 pm. Eliot Middle School, 1830 Constitution Avenue NE. Details: Stephanie Nixon, 396-7234.

11 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

12 Tuesday, 7 am-8 pm

D.C. Primary Election. Find your voting location on www.dcboee.org.

12 Tuesday, 6-8 pm

Proposed Tax Increment Financing District for H Street NE. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street NE. Meeting for business and property owners, residents, and developers sponsored by the city's Great Streets program. Details: Derrick Woody, 727-2981 or derrick.woody@dc.gov.

14 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. The Committee will consider the following cases: ZC # 04-33A, Inclusionary Zoning, Map Amendment-Historic; BZA #17518, 643 South Carolina Avenue, SE; BZA #17520, 1104 East Capitol Street, NE; BZA #17521, 601 to 645 H Street, NE; BZA #17528, 743 10th Street, SE; BZA #17529, 208 10th Street, SE; BZA #17531, 1005 5th Street, NE. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

16 Saturday, 10 am-12 noon

Native Plant Tour/Invasive Plant Removal Workshop. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue NE, administration building. Open to participants age 16 or older. Details: Joan Feely, 245-4512 or feelyj@usna.ars.usda.gov.

16 Saturday, 11 am-5 pm

Barracks Row Fest: Featuring Art for Everyone. 400-700 blocks of 8th Street SE. Event features face-painting at the CHRS booth and a special salute to the 200th birthday of the Navy Yard Gate, designed by Benjamin Latrobe. Details: Bill McLeod, 544-3188 or bmcLeod@barracksrow.org.

16 Saturday, 12 noon-5 pm

Historic Preservation Fundraising Workshop. National Trust for Historic Preservation boardroom, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Donation of \$20 covers cost of lunch and beverages. Details: Rick Busch, 462-0948 or rbusch1520@aol.com.

19 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

19 Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Overbeck Lecture: History of the Eastern Market. Old Naval Lodge Hall, 330 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Speaker: Stephen Ackerman. Lecture is free, but reservations are required. Send email to OverbeckLecture@aol.com or call 544-1845 and leave your name, phone number, and email address to receive a confirmation and program updates. See page 8.

20 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Preservation Café: Barracks Row Below the Freeway. Trattoria Alberto, 506 8th Street SE, upstairs room. Slide show and tour with Bill McLeod. Meeting is free and open to all, no reservations required. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034. See page 3.

26 Tuesday, 7:00 pm

CHRS Community Forum: What Will Happen to the RFK Stadium Site? St. Peter's Church basement hall, 2nd & C Streets SE. Speakers are David Zaidain and Elizabeth Miller of the National Capital Planning Commission Meeting is free and open to all, no reservations required. Refreshments at 7:00 pm, CHRS

business at 7:25 pm, speakers at 7:30 pm. Details: Barbara Eck, 544-0840. See page 1 for more information.

28 Thursday, 10 am

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

30 Saturday, 9 am-12 noon

Lime-Based Mortars Seminar. Pacific Café, 1129 Pennsylvania Avenue SE. Free seminar sponsored by Frager's Hardware; light refreshments provided. Details: 543-6157 or fragers.hardware@verizon.net

OCTOBER

2 Monday, 6:30 pm

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

12 Thursday, 7:30 pm

CHRS Zoning Committee. Kirby House, 420 10th Street SE, first floor. Details: Gary Peterson, 547-7969.

17 Tuesday, 6:30 pm

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

18 Wednesday, 6:30 pm

CHRS Preservation Café: Capitol Hill's Historic Streets and Alleys. Location TBA. DDOT's John Deatrick will discuss the city's historic streets and alleys program and highlight how residents can work with DDOT on repaving initiatives. Details: Nancy Metzger, 546-1034.



Capitol Hill Restoration Society

420 Tenth Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003