Meeting Minutes

FROM: EHT Traceries
SUBJECT: Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan
Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting
DATE: March 30, 2015

The following minutes represent comments received during the March Section 106 consulting parties meeting for the Smithsonian South Mall Campus Master Plan.

Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Trowbridge</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Spofford</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Lethbridge</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samir Bitar</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Westerberg</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Ballard</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Passman</td>
<td>SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Faust</td>
<td>SI Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Donnelly</td>
<td>SI Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda St. Thomas</td>
<td>SI OPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Cadogan</td>
<td>SI Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredie Adelman</td>
<td>SI Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Sullivan</td>
<td>NCPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Kelly</td>
<td>NCPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Lee</td>
<td>NCPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghan Spigle</td>
<td>NCPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Marzella</td>
<td>EHT Traceries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Hughes</td>
<td>EHT Traceries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Estes</td>
<td>Stantec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Franklin</td>
<td>BIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lewis</td>
<td>DC HPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Snieckus</td>
<td>USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haren Dhokai</td>
<td>USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Spain</td>
<td>NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter May</td>
<td>NPS/NCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Smith</td>
<td>NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Lusher</td>
<td>ACHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tinpe</td>
<td>ANC 2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Saginaw</td>
<td>DOJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Gavula</td>
<td>NGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan D. Rogers</td>
<td>DDOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Kanagy</td>
<td>DDOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.P. Tiller</td>
<td>Committee of 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Aten</td>
<td>Committee of 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Merritt</td>
<td>NTHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Nieweg</td>
<td>NTHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Lindstrom</td>
<td>CFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Luebke</td>
<td>CFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Batcheler</td>
<td>CFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Craycraft</td>
<td>Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Sinclair</td>
<td>Bethesda Community Garden Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Taylor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Perry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David M. Maxfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Blair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger P. Stone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Presentation**

1. Ann Trowbridge (AT) presented an overview of agenda and goals for meeting.
2. Amy Ballard (AB) presented summary of Section 106 process, role of NCPC and Smithsonian, role of consulting parties, and Area of Potential Effect (APE).
3. Bill Marzella (BM) presented an overview of the South Mall Campus Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) scope and process.
4. AT presented summary of process to date, including overview of NEPA status. AT indicated that an EIS will be prepared, instead of the EA SI and NCPC had anticipated.
5. AT presented list of twelve master plan objectives, and discussed further with associated graphics for each.

**Discussion**

1. Cynthia Field (CF) asked whether CLR would include features that were present before the current landscape. AT indicated that it would.
2. Roger Stone asked if Smithsonian Regents were being updated throughout the process. AT responded that they had received an informational presentation in April 2014 and the response was positive, but no formal vote had been conducted. Several Regents are also on the Master Plan Steering Committee.
3. Pat Tiller, Committee of 100, asked about the integration between Section 106 and NEPA, and whether a separate consulting process was being undertaken for NEPA.
a. AT responded that, unlike Section 106, NEPA does not occur through consulting party meetings. The EIS effort is being led by NCPC in cooperation with SI and NPS, and there would be opportunities to comment when the draft is released.

b. AT also explained that the processes are being completed in parallel, and will examine the same alternatives for their impacts. The Section 106 process, however, will focus only on effects to historic resources, whereas the EIS would examine a broader range of environmental impacts.

4. Bob Craycraft, Waterfront Gateway Neighborhood Association, asked if SI had a mechanism for reaching out to the potential future residents of the Southwest, which is undergoing a dramatic expansion.

a. AT responded that consultation and outreach efforts will be conducted as each phase of the master plan is realized.

b. AT also responded that SI may seek public space permits for portions of the project, and public input would be invited through that process.

5. Cynthia Field (CF) stated that aspects of the master plan, particularly the extensive excavation, could endanger historic landmarks, and that historic preservation should be given precedence over other drivers.

a. AT responded that SI has commissioned additional structural and geotechnical reports to examine the potential impacts on the Castle.

b. AT also related that the restoration of the Castle was a beneficial aspect of the plan.

c. CF asked about the period to which the Castle was being restored. AT responded that it was based on the findings and recommendations of the Historic Structure Report (HSR) completed by SI in 2009.

d. CF expressed skepticism that Congress would act on the proposed bill to examine the feasibility of using the Arts and Industries Building (AIB) as a Latino museum. She encouraged SI to act and find a use for the building.
   i. Christopher Lethbridge (CL) and AT stated that interim uses for AIB are an integral part of the Master Plan, and a contract for short-term uses will soon be awarded.

6. Robert Nieweg, NTHP, asked at what point the materials mentioned (CLR, geo-tech and structural reports) would be made available. He indicated that the proposed schedule (as presented in December 2014) to conclude consultation in summer 2015 was unrealistic.

a. AT responded that the documents are being reviewed internally by SI staff and would be finalized and made available in 1-2 months.

b. AT also stated that the consultation schedule has been extended to allow for additional consultation.

7. Betsy Merritt, NTHP, asked about the anticipated budget for the master plan, and if separate estimates were being prepared for each alternative.

a. AT responded that the budget for implementing the twenty-year master plan is approximately $2 billion. AT also stated that only one estimate was being prepared, but that the value was subject to change based on the final master plan and the implementation schedule.

b. Ms. Merritt also questioned the objective to double the current number of visitors.

c. Samir Bitar, SI, clarified that item, stating that SI is not trying to draw more visitors, but rather to better accommodate and provide orientation for the existing pool of visitors to the Mall museums.

8. An unidentified CP asked about the comments received during the scoping period, and whether those were being integrated and made available to the public.

a. AT responded that a scoping report with summary of comments would be available on the master plan website soon.

b. The same CP questioned whether alternatives have been altered or dismissed based on those comments. AT responded that the comments have been reviewed and taken into consideration. She also indicated that the Section 106 process was not prescriptive for how an agency developed alternatives or responded to CP feedback, but rather how it identifies and resolves adverse effects to historic resources.
c. AT also indicated that the alternatives, including the final preferred alternative, would likely change subject to CP and public feedback.

9. CF asked if SI was aware of a legal agreement between SI and CFA regarding the visibility of the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden. CFA and SI responded that they were aware of no such agreement, but that they would review the documentation again.

10. CF asked DC HPO for comments. Andrew Lewis (AL) replied that he was still in the process of gathering information, and a determination of effect could not yet be made. AL stated that he was concerned about the effects on the Castle and its historic setting, and hoped that the alternatives will be revised to avoid adverse effects.

11. Tom Luebke (TL), CFA, asked how the Section 106 resolution documents will be approached, given the magnitude and longevity of the scope.
   a. AL stated that a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is the typical approach, although in this case more study is required. AL stated that a PA was used to implement the National Zoo master plan.
   b. Regarding the Castle, TL asked what was driving the proposed base isolation, the need for seismic protection or additional space for programming. He asked about the viability of that approach, given the high associated costs. AT and CL responded that the Castle is critically important to SI and that its significance was fully understood by SI. AT and CL stated that base isolation provided a variety of benefits, including needed additional space and protection should another seismic event occur.
   c. TL stated that a more productive use should be identified for AIB. CL responded that AIB had been upgraded to meet current seismic code, and that a temporary use would soon be active.

12. SI closed the meeting and invited CPs on an optional tour of the campus.

Tour

1. SI led CPs on a tour of portions of the South Mall Campus, including through the Ripley and Haupt gardens and into the Quadrangle complex.

2. Attendee comments while on tour:
   a. General discussion on proposed museum entrance “peaks.” When shown location of face of proposed lower level entrance to visitor services and location of proposed “peak” museum entrances, remarked on greater distance of peaks from Castle than was apparent in renderings and that length of Castle was visible between peaks as one approached Castle.
   b. General discussion of design of interior Quad layout, including:
      i. Awkwardness of Ripley Center entrance sequence.
      ii. Disorientation relative to the Haupt Garden and Castle above.
      iii. Lack of natural light. Were bridges spanning Concourse a later addition or part of original Quad design? (Editor’s note: Concourse has not been extensively altered since its completion in 1987. Some minor decorative elements have been added or removed, but all bridges, glazing, etc. appears to be original. Other areas of the Quad have been more extensively altered.)
      iv. One CP requested to see the original plan of the Quadrangle.
   c. General discussion of appropriateness and cost effectiveness of various seismic design approaches for the Castle.
   d. General discussion of evolution and age of plant material

Conclusion and Next Steps

1. SI stated that master plan materials and supporting documentation would be posted on the project website, www.southmallcampus.si.edu, as they become available.
2. Any additional comments can be emailed to Michelle Spofford at spoffordm@si.edu.
3. The April 27 Consulting Parties meeting will be postponed based on the availability of the Scoping Report, the Cultural Landscape Report and Geotechnical and Seismic Studies. The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the revised alternatives. A meeting invite will follow.

Minutes prepared by Bill Marzella, EHT Traceries, April 7, 2015
COMMON TO ALL BUILD Alternatives

**Visitor Experience**

- Enhance Castle's historic role as the Smithsonian's front door
- Welcome and orient 2x current # of visitors
- Create space for group tour arrival and orientation
- Restore the Great Hall and Upper Great Hall
- Moderate, expand and improve retail, dining, restrooms
- Create new institutional educational space
- Expand security screening space and entrance capacity
- Provide secure and access to technologies for planning controlled visits
- Present the whole Smithsonian including off-Mall venues and scientific research and discoveries
- Enhance its ability to host ceremonial events and government
- Reduce office space while increasing public space
- Enhance visitor experience of evening events

**Education Programs**

- Improve lighting throughout South Mall campus
- Provide east-west circulation from FGA to HMSG
- Improve visitor access to and education in the gardens

**Museum Programs**

- Enhance circulation within the South Campus
- Improve visibility of museum entries from the Mall
- Enhance and diversify and increase the museum visitation at FGA, RMNH and HMSG
- Enhance visitor access and education in the gardens
- Improve way-finding between museums
- Provide east-west circulation from FGA to HMSG
- Improve accessibility at Castle, FGA and Restoration
- Improve lighting throughout South Mall campus

**Support and Enhance Smithsonian Gardens (5G) capabilities to**

- Extend museum themes and exhibits outdoors
- Provide learning environments in a public garden setting
- Shape visitors' overall experience of the Smithsonian

**Collections**

- Provide sustainably designed landscapes that
  - Enhance the wide range of building architectures
  - Demonstrate outstanding horticultural skill and design
  - Provide appropriate settings for outdoor sculpture
  - Accommodate group activities as well as quiet contemplation
  - Allow more space for temporary special events tents
  - Consider Cultural Landscape Report treatment recommendations (in progress)

**Gardens Programs**

- Provide convenient tool & equipment storage, connected from public view

**Central and Institutional**

- Stewardship of collections
- Provide sustainable designs that
  - Maximize collections
- Enhance cultivation
- Leverage parking
- Ensure public and for researchers
- Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
- Enhance SI's ability to conduct high quality events
- Differentiate and align with other programs and historic architecture
- Support year round indoor day and evening activities
- Support seasonal outdoor events
- Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Building Systems**

- Replace or improve existing building systems where needed
  - Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
  - Maximize reliability and durability to support S’s 365 days/year visitation and 24/7 maintenance of collections space environments, fire protection and security
  - Centralize utility systems where feasible to reduce building output and operating costs
  - Consider use of renewable sources and recycled resources for energy and water
  - Provide distribution systems that minimize piping above and below grade, including:
    - GSA ‘Federal Triangle South’ initiative, potentially
    - SW EcoDistrict Plan, including plans for a linear 10th street park that will connect the Castle and National Mall
    - In conformance with individual museums' collections policies

**Security and Safety**

- Create pan-Institutional educational space
- China, for art
- Present the whole Smithsonian including off-Mall venues
- Provide space for and access to technologies for planning controlled visits
- Enhance visitor experience of evening events
- Restore the Great Hall and Upper Great Hall
- Welcome and orient 2x current # of visitors
- Enhance and diversify and increase the museum visitation at FGA, RMNH and HMSG
- Enhance visitor access and education in the gardens
- Improve way-finding between museums
- Provide east-west circulation from FGA to HMSG
- Improve accessibility at Castle, FGA and Restoration
- Improve lighting throughout South Mall campus

**Goals for the plan include**

- Provide a healthy, day-lit, outdoor and energy-conserving environment for visitors, staff, and volunteers
- Provide sustainable preservation environments for collections
- Address relevant SC, DC and federal sustainability targets and regulations
- Achieve a minimum rating of LEED Gold for new major building and renovation projects
- Achieve LEED EB for existing buildings
- Incorporate appropriate climate change adaptation measures
- Identify opportunities to collaborate on district-wide strategies when feasible
- Enhance the Smithsonian’s ability to provide educational programs relevant to sustainability and climate change adaptation
- Highlight Smithsonian research activities related to sustainability and climate change
- Demonstrate sustainable practices for visitors, including recycling programs

**Loading /Service**

- Improve capacity to serve existing and expanded uses on the South Mall Campus
  - Provide central facilities where feasible
  - Locate major loading and service underground
  - Avoid conflicts with pedestrian circulation whenever possible
  - Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric
  - Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric and garden landscapes

**Urban Design**

- Consider other adopted plans and plans in development by DC and federal agencies including
  - SW EcoDistrict Plan, including plans for a linear 10th street park that will connect the Castle and National Mall
  - In conformance with individual museums' collections policies
  - Central and museum retail stores
  - In high traffic locations
  - Not detrimental to historic architecture
  - Support year round indoor day and evening activities
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Security master Plan for guidance**

- Improve seismic performance, particularly the Castle
- Explore expansion of the Independence Ave sidewalk to immediately to the south
- Improve capacity to serve existing and expanded uses on the South Mall Campus
  - Provide central facilities where feasible
  - Locate major loading and service underground
  - Avoid conflicts with pedestrian circulation whenever possible
  - Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric
  - Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric and garden landscapes

**Sustainability**

- Improve parking on site to and below grade to SI service access and pedestrian and bicycle circulation
- Provide for large trucks to enter and leave going forward
- Centralize utility systems where feasible to reduce carbon output and operating costs
- Consider use of renewable sources and recycled resources for energy and water
- Provide distribution systems that minimize piping above and below grade, including:
  - GSA ‘Federal Triangle South’ initiative, potentially
  - SW EcoDistrict Plan, including plans for a linear 10th street park that will connect the Castle and National Mall
  - In conformance with individual museums' collections policies

**Framework Plan**

- Support seasonal outdoor events
- Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Historic Preservation**

- Acknowledge limitations of some historic buildings to
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Smithsonian’s decisions with respect to historic resources**

- The plan will inform Smithsonian historic preservation policy and will be subject to the Section 106 process coordinated with a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement
- The Section 106 process will look at ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties
- The plan will utilize appropriate tools including the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report to inform the Smithsonian’s decisions with respect to historic resources
- The plan for collections environments (required in storage and exhibit areas and in transition spaces between these and the loading docks) will consider individual buildings’ inherent ability to provide sustainable collections environments without damage or inappropriate treatments to historic building fabric
- The plan will address longstanding needs for a major revitalization of the Castle and its protection from severe and blast damage

**Plan for collections environments (required in storage and exhibit areas and in transition spaces between**

- Plan the Smithsonian’s decisions with respect to historic resources
- Acknowledge limitations of some historic buildings to
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Goals for the plan include**

- Provide a healthy, day-lit, outdoor and energy-conserving environment for visitors, staff, and volunteers
- Provide sustainable preservation environments for collections
- Address relevant SC, DC and federal sustainability targets and regulations
- Achieve a minimum rating of LEED Gold for new major building and renovation projects
- Achieve LEED EB for existing buildings
- Incorporate appropriate climate change adaptation measures
- Identify opportunities to collaborate on district-wide strategies when feasible
- Enhance the Smithsonian’s ability to provide educational programs relevant to sustainability and climate change adaptation
- Highlight Smithsonian research activities related to sustainability and climate change
- Demonstrate sustainable practices for visitors, including recycling programs

**Replace or improve existing building systems where needed**

- Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
- Maximize reliability and durability to support S’s 365 days/year visitation and 24/7 maintenance of collections space environments, fire protection and security
- Centralize utility systems where feasible to reduce building output and operating costs
- Consider use of renewable sources and recycled resources for energy and water
- Provide distribution systems that minimize piping above and adjacent to collections space
- Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric
- Minimize the impact of systems on historic fabric and garden landscapes

**Improve capacity to serve existing and expanded uses on**

- Provide a secure environment for visitors, staff and collections
- Conform to Smithsonian security policies
- Conform to federal perimeter security requirements and federal visitor screening requirements
- Utilize the 30% previously completed SI Perimeter Security Master Plan for guidance
- Explore expansion of the Independence Ave sidewalk to immediately to the south
- Ensure collections conditions:
  - Structural load issues
  - Absence of a vapor barrier
  - Allow for the safe and efficient movement of collections equipment where needed
  - Upgrade security, environmental requirements, fire safety, construction requirements, and collections storage equipment where needed
  - Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
  - Enhance SI’s ability to conduct high quality events
  - Differentiate and align with other programs and historic architecture
  - Support year round indoor day and evening activities
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Provide secure environment for visitors, staff and collections**

- Conform to Smithsonian security policies
- Conform to federal perimeter security requirements and federal visitor screening requirements
- Utilize the 30% previously completed SI Perimeter Security Master Plan for guidance
- Explore expansion of the Independence Ave sidewalk to immediately to the south
- Ensure collections conditions:
  - Structural load issues
  - Absence of a vapor barrier
  - Allow for the safe and efficient movement of collections equipment where needed
  - Upgrade security, environmental requirements, fire safety, construction requirements, and collections storage equipment where needed
  - Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
  - Enhance SI’s ability to conduct high quality events
  - Differentiate and align with other programs and historic architecture
  - Support year round indoor day and evening activities
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Site Planning**

- Support seasonal outdoor events
- Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.

**Conform to federal perimeter security requirements and federal visitor screening requirements**

- Utilize the 30% previously completed SI Perimeter Security Master Plan for guidance
- Explore expansion of the Independence Ave sidewalk to immediately to the south
- Ensure collections conditions:
  - Structural load issues
  - Absence of a vapor barrier
  - Allow for the safe and efficient movement of collections equipment where needed
  - Upgrade security, environmental requirements, fire safety, construction requirements, and collections storage equipment where needed
  - Conform to Smithsonian design standards including
  - Enhance SI’s ability to conduct high quality events
  - Differentiate and align with other programs and historic architecture
  - Support year round indoor day and evening activities
  - Support seasonal outdoor events
  - Support specific needs such as Regent meetings, Folklife Festival, Inaugurals etc.