

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 October 1972

AM
10:00

CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Dates of Next Meetings: 15 November 1972
20 December 1972
2. Approval of Minutes of September 1972 Meeting
3. Georgetown Waterfront Steering Committee Status Report,
Possible sub-committee presentation on 3 November 1972
at National Capital Planning Commission.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

1. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 73-32, 3050 K St., N.W. - Inland Steel, Proposed
New Office, Retail, Motel, Marina Complex
- b. Appendix 1

Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 73-12, 2700-2715 Unicorn Lane, N.W. - Resubmission
of New Townhouses
- b. S.L. 73-13, 2555 M St., N.W. - Resubmission of Office
Building Design
- c. S.L. 73-14, 2626 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. - Resubmission
of Office Building Design
- d. Appendix 2

2. General Services Administration

Washington Technical Institute, Design development of Phase
One

3. Department of the Army

Arlington Cemetery, Administration Building - Resubmission

4. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Arlington Cemetery Metro Station

5. Redevelopment Land Agency

Southwest Redevelopment, 3rd & 4th & E Sts., S.W.
Proposed new Wax Museum, Garage and Shops

INTERVIEWS

11:45 1. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

O.G. 73-32 - Inland Steel Project

12:00 2. Department of the Army

Arlington Cemetery Administration Building

12:15 3. General Services Administration

Washington Technical Institute

12:30 4. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

S.L. 73-12, 2700-2715 Unicorn Lane, N.W.

S.L. 73-13,-14, Pennsylvania Ave., M St., N.W. Office
Buildings

12:40 5. Redevelopment Land Agency

Southwest Redevelopment, Wax Museum, Garage, and Shops

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 October, 1972

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Jane Dart
Hon. Kevin Roche
Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Hon. George Weymouth

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey Carson
Mr. J.L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present:

Mr. David McKinnon
Mr. Martin Rody

I. ADMINISTRATION

a. Dates of the Next Meetings. The Chairman suggested that the Commission meet next on December 1st, Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. in order to participate in afternoon and evening sessions of the National Endowment for the Arts on the same day. The Members concurred. The following meeting would be held on the regular schedule, 17 January, 1973.

b. Minutes of September, 1972 Meeting, Approved with corrections by the Chairman.

c. Georgetown Waterfront Steering Committee Meeting on 3 November, 1972. The Assistant Secretary told the Commission of a presentation by Consultants hired by a combined Federal and City effort to study the Georgetown Waterfront with respect to zoning, historic structures, traffic and legal problems. This study's first draft would be presented to the National Capital Planning Commission at its November 3rd meeting and the Commission of Fine Arts as well as the Georgetown Board of Review were invited to sit in on this long and involved presentation. There would be a printed report circulated to all members and an opportunity to discuss the report at the December Meeting. The Chairman stated that the George-

town Waterfront would be one of the Commission's most important matters in the coming year and that the opportunity to understand the Consultants' study should be taken very seriously. The Chairman encouraged any local Members to attend this briefing if at all possible.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

a. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development.

1. Old Georgetown Act

(a.) O.G. 73-32, 3050 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Inland Steel, proposed new office, marina, shopping and motel complex. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and a model of this large complex designed for the Potomac River shore on the Georgetown Waterfront on K Street and between 30th and 31st Streets, N.W. With a maximum height of 90 feet the structure was blank walled on the perimeter with a lively inner court facing the river with terraces for promenades, restaurants, and shops. There would be parking for 1800 automobiles and 650,000 square feet of commercial space. The proposal would be an extension of the previously approved Inland Steel project at the Canal, between Thomas Jefferson Street and 30th Street, N.W., up the hill a block away. Materials would be brick with a great deal of roof and wall glass facing the river. The Assistant Secretary reported that the Old Georgetown Board had recommended the design of the building, as such, but referred the project to the full Commission with the suggestions that exterior massing and fenestration be restudied to achieve a smaller scale. During discussion of the project it was determined that adjacent property plans as well as the cross-Georgetown freeway were in such a state of flux and dependent on the aforementioned Waterfront Study that it was impossible to judge the merits of the scheme in context. Further discussion was withheld until a conference with project representatives later in the morning.

(b.) Appendix 1, Approved.

Exhibit A.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

(a.) S.L. 73-12, 2700-2715 Unicorn Lane, N.W., resubmission of proposed townhouse development on the rim of Rock Creek Park. This small planned community of brick pseudo-Georgian townhouses was presented by the Secretary who stated that a previous submission had been returned for further information and zoning clarification. The Zoning Commission had approved the project and the developers had screened the project from Rock Creek Park with a great deal of landscape material, thus protecting the Park from scenic intrusion. The Commission approved the project, provided this screening would be used, and an interview with the project representatives later in the day was cancelled.

(b.) S.L. 73-14, 2626 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., resubmission of proposed office building. The Assistant Secretary showed the Commission drawings of elevation studies for this building which had been disapproved at the September Meeting with suggestions for restudy of the facade, with no objections to the location nor bulk of the building. The Commission favored Scheme A which showed large windows divided by columns and was quite simple. The Commission objected to the large penthouse, however, and felt that this building's prominent location on Pennsylvania Avenue and the edge of Rock Creek Park warranted making a special effort either to eliminate the penthouse or to raise the cornice height to screen it. Further discussion was withheld until a conference with the project representatives later in the morning.

(c.) S.L. 73-13, 2555 M Street, N.W., resubmission of proposed office building. The Assistant Secretary presented facade studies of this brick building which had a variation of the "Chicago Window". The roof and the facade had been simplified and the Commission approved the project.

(d.) Appendix 2, Approved.

Exhibit B.

b. General Services Administration, Washington Technical Institute, Design Development of Phase One. The Secretary presented drawings and photos of the July-approved Master Plan and schematics for Phase One with drawings of the developed preliminary plans for the first buildings to be built on this site. He stated that the designs were by the same architects, echoed the concepts approved by the Commission and seemed to pose no problems. The Commission studied the designs for these concrete structures and approved them, cancelling an interview which had been scheduled for later in the morning.

Exhibit C.

c. Department of the Army, Arlington Cemetery, Administration Building, resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and photos of the previous submission for this one-floor cemetery administration building. The Commission's action in September had been to eliminate perimeter parking around the building - this had not been done - and to suggest slimming down of the facade and columns. Mr. Roche said that there had been a design for this building done in conjunction with the master plan by Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon some years ago which was a great deal more refined than the submitted plan. The Assistant Secretary located a perspective of this design and the Commission found it to be more satisfactory than the current proposal. Further discussion was withheld until an interview with the project representatives later in the morning.

d. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Arlington Cemetery Metro Station. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and a model for a small station to be located under Memorial Drive. The track

alignment had been planned for years, but having a stop at this location was new and required Commission review. Escalators and small elevators for the handicapped were discretely located in the pedestrian area along the Drive, but nothing else would be visible from the monumental entrance to the main gates of the cemetery. The Commission approved the station with the suggestion that the right-of-way be screened from public view wherever possible. Exhibit D.

e. Redevelopment Land Agency, Southwest Redevelopment, 3rd, 4th and E Streets, S.W., proposed new Wax Museum, shops and garage. The Secretary presented this combined-use facility in the market district of Southwest for the relocation of a privately owned tourist attraction. The Secretary explained that there is a fine old stone wall about twenty feet high surrounding the perimeter of the site, part of which would be used as the facade along E Street for the new facility, but suggested that perhaps more of the wall could be retained. The Commission concurred with the Secretary, with Mr. Roche and Mrs. Smith suggesting using more of the wall on the 4th Street side to provide a return or a forecourt in front of the proposed shops. The Commission felt that the wall should be retained around the garage in particular. Further discussion was withheld until a conference with the architect later in the meeting.

III. INTERVIEWS

a. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development, O.G. 73-32, Inland Steel Project. 11:50 a.m. The project was represented by Arthur Cotton Moore, the Architect; Hideo Sasaki, the Landscape Architect; and Robert Larsen, of Inland Steel. Mr. Moore briefly told the Commission what the main points were in the design and of the efforts to keep the vista of Thomas Jefferson Street open as well as providing a nucleus of activity inside the building which would relate to the river. The Chairman stated that the Commission had carefully studied the drawings and model and commended the designers for a fine job, but expressed the Commission's inability to act at this time on the project because of uncertainty about the adjacent development. Mr. Larsen asked the Chairman what time frame he was speaking of and the Chairman responded for the Commission that it would be desirable to wait until about mid-January, giving time to examine the expected Consultant's Report on the Waterfront and the Planning Commission and Fine Arts Commission review of the same, as well as Public Hearings which were scheduled on the Freeway alignment before January. The Chairman suggested and the project representatives agreed that at the Commission's December meeting it would be desirable to go into the adjacent plans of Inland Steel as well as those others which would be available by then.

b. Department of the Army, Arlington Cemetery Administration

Building. 12:15 p.m. The project was represented by Loren Sage, of Mills, Petticord and Mills, Architects; and Robert Beller, the Cemetery Chief Engineer. Mr. Sage outlined the changes in this design since the Commission's previous meeting. Mr. Beller spoke to the Army's reasons for the perimeter parking, going into the functions of the administrative facility. The Chairman informed the project representatives of the Commission's continued disapproval of the perimeter parking and their dissatisfaction with the revised design. The Commission pointed out the previously approved schematic for this structure, by a different architect, as part of the Master Plan as being more satisfactory and suggested that this design be studied in further efforts.

Exhibit E.

c. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development, S.L. 73-13 and 73-14, Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street, N.W., proposed office buildings.

12:30 p.m. The project was represented by Messers. Cohen and Haft, the Architects; and William Savage, the developer. The Chairman thanked the Architects for responding to the Commission's previous suggestions, stating the Commission's approval of the Pennsylvania Avenue building, except for the penthouse, which seemed excessive. After discussion between the Commission and the project representatives it was decided that the penthouse would be substantially eliminated. This was agreeable to all, and a brick sample was approved provided a less red mortar was used. The Chairman stated the Commission's approval of the M Street building and had the same comment on the brick proposed for that structure.

d. Redevelopment Land Agency, Southwest Redevelopment, Wax Museum. 12:40 p.m. The project was represented by the Architect, Robert Calhoun Smith; and Stanley Sherman of the Redevelopment Land Agency. The Chairman stated the Commission's general approval of the project, provided the stone wall could be continued around the parking garage to which the Architect was agreeable. The Commission's suggestion about returning the wall on the 4th Street side was rejected by the Architect, because the wall was now on the right-of-way for a street-widening project and could not be retained.

Exhibit F.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

NO. ADDRESS AND OWNER PROJECT

OG 73- 23	1616 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Antoine Houte Coiffure	One d/f internally lighted plexiglas display sign.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Character of sign and quantity of text not recommended. Internally illuminated sign not recommended in this location.	10-10-72
24	3700 O St., N.W. Georgetown University	Erect concrete & steel bus stop shelter on public space opp. hospital on Reservoir Rd.
ACTION:	Issue permit.	10-10-72
25	1075 T. Jefferson St., N.W. Al Wheeler	Canvas awning over door.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy with a scheme not crossing public sidewalk in this location.	10-10-72
26	1815 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Shrader Sound	Canvas awning over front door.
ACTION:	Issue permit.	10-10-72
27	3044 P St., N.W. Seton Shanley	Restore & reset wrought iron work & supports of balcony and entrance steps to house. Strengthen brickwork at basement to 1st floor. Patch basket weave sidewalk.
ACTION:	Issue Permit.	10-10-72
28	3034 M St., N.W. Rodney Rose	Remove brick from existing windows. No structural changes. Lintels & sills existing. Install temporary glass awaiting arrival of millwork. Windows to match existing.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. No objection to concept of restoring two original windows provided photos & shop drawings are submitted indicating proposed location, existing sash to be copied and exact dimensions to be used.	10-10-72

PROJECTNO. ADDRESS AND OWNER

- 29 1518 28th St., N.W.
Mr./Mrs. Arthur M. Sullivan
Change window to door on north side of building. Change front door & install fence. ACTION: Do not issue permit. Front fence not recommended. Suggest using a matching window rather than French doors on front. Suggest a transom above new side door giving same height as other existing first floor openings. 10-10-72
- 30 3034 M St., N.W.
Phillip Moreau & Douglas Carty
Canvas awning above show window. ACTION: Do not issue permit. Awnings proposed not in character with building.
- 31 3108-10 M St., N.W.
Canal Square, Assoc.
New door and window in existing brick wall new brick paving and wood platform, joining area with existing Canal Square. ACTION: Issue permit. 10-10-72
- 33 3700 O St., N.W.
Georgetown University
Exterior lighting of Georgetown University Academic Campus. ACTION: Issue permit using alternate globe design only. 10-10-72

PROJECT

NO. ADDRESS AND OWNER

SL 73-
 8 400 N. Capitol St., N.W. Eight story office building
 400 N. Capitol Assoc.
 ACTION: Do not issue permit. Request use of white marble for exterior material. Green glass not recommended. No objection to massing of building. 10-11-72

9 2626 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Office building.
 Savage Fogarty Companies Inc.
 ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy of facade and fenestration. Suggest simplification of window areas and arches. No objection to massing nor location of building Request brick sample prior to construction. 10-11-72

10 2555 M St., N.W. Office building.
 Savage Fogarty Companies Inc.
 ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy of facade and fenestration. Suggest simplification of window areas and arches. No objection to massing nor location of building. Request brick sample prior to construction. 10-11-72

11 801 17th St., N.W. New signs on H St. facade of Lafayette
 Colonial Parking. Building for Colonial Parking.
 ACTION: Do not issue permit. Omit trademark emblem. 10-11-72

15 1349 E St., N.W. Show window remodeling.
 Redskins Locker Room, c/o Jolles & Jolles
 ACTION: Issue permit. 10-17-72

16 18th St., betw. C & D Sts., N.W. Erect two flag poles.
 National Society of Daughters of American Revolution.
 ACTION: Issue permit. 10-17-72

November 2, 1972

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the developed preliminary plans for Phase One of the Washington Technical Institute at its October 18th meeting. The designs proposed show a logical extension of the schematics which were presented to this Commission with the Master Plan in July, 1972.

We would expect that future efforts will be able to follow this concrete modular scheme as well. As building materials and landscaping details are developed we will be happy to review them.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. W.R. Lawson
Project Director
Special Projects Division
General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service
Washington, D.C. 20405

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Exhibit C.

November 2, 1972

Dear Mr. Graham:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved Metro Station designs for Arlington Cemetery at its October 18th meeting. We would hope that the Commission will have an opportunity to review landscaping plans for this site as they are developed.

Though the design presented has a minimum adverse effect on Memorial Drive, we feel that landscape screening to protect the park lands from track sights and sounds would be essential the length of the track in this special and historic location.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Jackson Graham
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
Authority
950 South L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

DM:kg

Exhibit D.

November 2, 1972

Dear Mr. Zuyus:

The Commission of Fine Arts considered revised designs for the Administration Building for Arlington National Cemetery at its October 18th meeting. As at the September meeting, the Commission felt that the design did not jell and that further study would be necessary to provide a suitable design for this important location. In making suggestions for design study, the Commission would recall the design published in the Master Plan booklet by Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, architects. That design had a refinement and an elegance which the last two efforts have not quite reached.

Another matter about which the Commission of Fine Arts is particularly concerned is the perimeter parking around the Administration Building, as shown in the September and October, 1972, schemes. We find this type of departure from the approved master plan scheme a loss to the character and quality of the overall design of the Cemetery. We would suggest that, as was the case with the Chapel, another solution be found.

The Commission will next meet on Friday, December 1st.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Peter Zuyus
Baltimore Engineering District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Attn: NADEN/M

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Exhibit E.

November 3, 1972

Dear Mr. Mister:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the proposed development plans for parcel 71, Project C, at its October 18th meeting. With Wax Museum, Shops and Parking facilities incorporated behind the existing stone wall, this design solution appears to be a reasonable proposal for this industrial area of South-west Washington, provided that the concept of using the old wall is carried one step further. The parking garage should be fully enclosed by the wall, and if possible, the wall should return on the 4th Street side.

We look forward to the opportunity to review the signage and outdoor graphics.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Melvin A. Mister
Executive Director
District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

JCB:kg

