

## **World War I Memorial Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting**

**June 28, 2017**

**10:00 a.m.**

### **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Conference Room**

**Agencies:** Glenn DeMarr, Maureen Joseph (National Park Service-National Capital Region); Catherine Dewey, Mike Commisso (National Park Service-National Mall and Memorial Parks); Matt Flis, Lee Webb (National Capital Planning Commission); Thomas Luebke, Sarah Batcheler (U.S. Commission of Fine Arts); Chris Wilson, Lexie Wang (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation); Nora Theodore via phone (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III)

**Attendees:** John Fondersmith, Beth Purcell (Committee of 100 on the Federal City); Rebecca Miller (DC Preservation League); Bill Brown, Darwina Neal (Association of Oldest Inhabitants of DC); Jo-Ann Neuhaus (Penn Quarter Neighborhood Association); Charles Birnbaum via phone (The Cultural Landscape Foundation); Elizabeth Merritt, Rebecca Ribley, Sharee Williamson, Emily Choi (National Trust for Historic Preservation); Candace Scott via phone (Oliver Carr Co.)

**Project Team:** Dale Archer (WWI Centennial Commission); Joe Weishaar (U Studio); Phoebe Lickwar (Forge Landscape Architecture); Monica Pascatore (GWWO, Inc.); Alan Harwood, Claire Sale, Rachel Lloyd (AECOM)

*Note: The following is intended to be a summary of key discussion points. It is not intended to serve as a transcript or legal record.*

#### **Introduction**

Everybody introduced themselves. Attendees were reminded that the purpose of the meeting was to identify potential adverse effects of the current design proposal for the World War I Memorial.

#### **Review of project to date and presentation of current design**

Joe Weishaar described the changes to the project site and how features in the Restored Pool Concept, such as how the fountain element and the pool would work.

- The memorial bas relief sculpture would extend 65 feet along the western portion of the park, replacing the existing cascade fountain feature.
- A new water feature would provide moving water along the north and south sides of the relief sculpture.
- The pool would retain its existing dimensions, but a walkway would be placed near the southern and eastern portions of the pool.

#### Design clarifications

- The accessibility features would be the same as the current park configuration, with access to the multiple levels available at ramps near the kiosk, along the southern portion of the park, and east of the existing Pershing Memorial.
- The treatment of the walkway across the pool is currently undetermined. For instance, the pathway could be a low bridge slightly above the water, or it could potentially be covered by water at times.
- Incorporating the water cascade into the bas relief has been considered, but was not adopted due to maintenance concerns.

- The NPS will work with the memorial sponsor to develop interpretive elements for the memorial.
- Parties raised concerns that having the walkway located two feet from the wall could present safety concerns.

### **Assessment of Effects Discussion**

Claire Sale reviewed the existing historic resources, the previous designs' alterations to those resources, and the suggested assessment of effects for the Restored Pool concept.

#### L'Enfant Plan, Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, and Pennsylvania Avenue NW-White House Cultural Landscape

Most of the contributing features of these historic properties would be retained. Although the spatial organization of the park and the use of the park would be modified, the preliminary assessment would be a finding of no adverse effect.

- Consulting parties suggested that the proposed design of the World War I Memorial could have an adverse effect on the Pennsylvania Avenue NW-White House cultural landscape. NPS will review.

Concerns were raised about how the expanded significance of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site as documented in the 2016 Cultural Landscape Inventory would change if Pershing Park became no longer eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Pershing Park

The initial assessment for Pershing Park is that the modifications of the spatial organization, views and vistas, built features, water features, and vegetation would result in an adverse effect. *Consulting Parties Comments*

- Concerns were raised about the perception of changes to the pool, stating that if the perception of the pool changes, then an adverse effect on the pool would occur; some parties indicated that there would be no way to mitigate the adverse effect to the pool.
- Concerns were raised about changes in views in and out of the park, such as the changes that would occur from the placement of the bas relief in an area where open steps are currently located.
- Concerns were raised that an eight-foot gap between the southern steps and the pathway would not be sufficient to retain the original interaction with the water. Safety concerns were also raised about the two-foot gap between the pathway and bas relief.
- The table should be updated to include an adverse effect on the trees on the step seating on the western edge of the pool.
- The table should be updated to indicate that trees would be replaced in-kind to the extent practicable.

### **Next Steps**

- The design will be open to comment on PEPC for two weeks.
- The National Capital Planning Commission will review the project on July 13, 2017.
- The NPS intends to complete the Environmental Assessment this year.
- Final CFA and NCPC approvals will be sought in 2018. Construction is also anticipated to start in 2018, the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I.