

Date of Meeting: February 17, 2010
Project: Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Rehabilitation EA and Section 106
Location of Meeting: 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington, D.C., 20024
Time of Meeting: 2:10 pm – 4:10 pm
Purpose of Meeting: Consulting Parties Meeting #4

Attendees: Perry Wheelock, NPS NAMA
Terri Urbanowski, NPS DSC
John Piltzecker, NPS NAMA
Steve Lorenzetti, NPS NAMA
Joel Gorder, NPS NCR
Nancy Witherell, National Capital Planning Commission
Sarah Batcheler, Commission of Fine Arts
F.J. Lindstrom, Commission of Fine Arts
Louis Brodnitz, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Judy Scott Feldman, National Coalition to Save Our Mall
John Fondersmith, Committee of 100
Richard Westbrook, The Guild of Professional Tour Guides
Russell Preble, The Guild of Professional Tour Guides

Consultant Team: Larry Earle, Berger
Jill Cavanaugh, Berger
Julie Eitner, Berge
Tim Kerr, Robinson & Associates

From 2:10 pm to 2:50 pm, Jill Cavanaugh presented the site design options for pedestrian circulation, security, walkway materials, site furnishings, and lighting fixtures.

From 2:50 pm to 3:20 pm, Jill Cavanaugh presented the water system options including the physical parameters of the system and the associated structures.

From 3:20 pm to 4:00 pm, the consulting parties discussed the presentation and made several comments.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman asked if the suggestions made by the National Coalition to Save Our Mall for permeable pavement, specifically at Hermann Park, had been considered. Judy Scott Feldman and Louise Brodnitz requested that the design team confirm that they have considered these suggestions.

A. Stabilized granular paving, such as used in Hermann Park, was evaluated in the conceptual design phase but dismissed from consideration. The NPS consulted with staff who have used this type of surface in other applications (such as the U.S. Botanical Gardens and National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden) and they reported that the granular paving, similar to stone dust, was difficult to keep in place and eventually became impermeable, as it packed together and granules cement themselves together.

Q. John Fondersmith asked how NPS will prevent new social trails that joggers and walkers will create once the elm walks are resurfaced..

A. The project team responded that there are several proposals that include a jogging path in the paving options.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman asked if the U.S. Park Police stables are going to be moved.

A. The NPS responded that the stables will not be moved, but interpretive opportunities will be added at the stable area. The use for the area, as designated in the ongoing National Mall Plan, is operations and maintenance. The proposed water treatment facility is consistent with this land use.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman asked why the design team was not using city water since it seems as if the treatment of river water will require a relatively large structure (40' x 60').

A. The project team explained that even if city water was used, the water would still need to be treated and the organic waste deposited by the geese would still require a filtration and treatment structure. It would be smaller (30' x 50') but it would still require an above ground structure. In addition, this system is more holistic because it is anticipated that it can be used to furnish water to Constitution Gardens in the future.

Q. Nancy Witherell asked if it would be possible to reduce the size of the entrance driveway to the stables.

A. The project team responded that in any intervention to the stable area will be designed to have the smallest visual impact possible.

Q. Nancy Witherell asked if the wall height for the new configuration be 30" as stated in the presentation. She stated that the shorter the wall height, the better.

A. The wall height will be approximately 30", but may reach 32" if a cap is added on top for seating.

Q. Louise D. Brotnitz expressed concern that the color of the proposed paving materials in the renderings is inaccurate and hoped it would be explained at the CFA meeting.

A. The project team will explain at the CFA meeting that the exact color of the pavement materials may vary slightly from the renderings.

Q. Nancy Witherell expressed concern that the offset at the west end of the pool will be lost with the proposed paving. She suggested that the paving around the offset be widened to maintain the visual aesthetic of the offset. She also asked if the paved offset will be the same dimension as the coping offset.

A. NPS responded that the width of the offset may not be the same, but the characteristics of the offset will remain and will be reflected in the path.

Q. Sarah Batcheler asked how the proposed width for the pathways flanking the north and south was decided. She also asked if there will be further study for reducing the width of these pathways.

A. NPS responded that the width was decided upon based on the width of the pre-existing social trails, ADA compliance, and the need to keep the coping visibly different to keep pedestrians from walking on the coping.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman explained that there are not that many pedestrians on the pathways flanking the north and south of the Reflecting Pool. She expressed concern that by paving these pathways, the NPS will be encouraging new activities that have not previously occurred in this area. The new paved pathways will act as a stage and Park Police will have to monitor these areas in order to inhibit these new activities.

A. NPS responded that the plaza on the west end of the Reflecting Pool is already a stage area that promotes these activities.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman asked what the minimum width was to meet ADA. She expressed the desire to reduce the width of the proposed pathways flanking the north and south of the Reflecting Pool.

A. NPS responded that the minimum width for ADA pathways must accommodate two wheelchairs to comfortably pass. In addition, there are more compliance requirements for pathways adjacent to water. The width of the pathways was chosen because the width of the pre-existing social trails is 15', the width of the elm walk is 15', and with consideration for the scoring patterns, the path was decided to be 13' 4". The theory is that by reducing the path somewhat below 15', the public will self correct and not create a larger social trail.

Q. F.J. Lindstrom stated that the elm walks should be the primary pathway. Therefore, the width of the walkways flanking the north and south of the Reflecting Pool should be less than the width of the elm walks.

A. NPS responded that the width was decided upon based on the width of the pre-existing social trails, ADA compliance, and the need to keep the coping visibly different to prevent pedestrians from walking on the coping.

Q. Louise D. Brodnitz asked which requires less maintenance: maintaining grass or granite dust pathways.

A. NPS responded that both are costly and require extensive maintenance but during the design process, the NPS discovered that stone dust was difficult to keep in place and often became impacted to the point of being impervious.

Q. Louise D. Brodnitz recommended a meeting where paving material examples could be viewed on site.

A. NPS stated that the MOA will address ongoing consultation regarding the paving materials.

Q. Nancy Witherell explained that aggregate would be an improvement in paving and that a soft material is necessary. In terms of the color family, a warm color should be used over a cool color. This same color should be applied to the west plaza.

A. NPS noted the comment.

Q. Judy Scott Feldman explained that the Canada goose population problem needs to be addressed. She explained that currently the geese relieve themselves on the coping and that if a larger area is paved; they will also relieve themselves there as well. This in turn will redirect visitors to create new social trails.

A. NPS responded that the geese migrate to the project area from Anacostia and other areas. Therefore, goose management will be addressed in these areas through other ongoing and future projects. These other projects will likely help the geese problem in the project area.

Perry Wheelock explained that these comments will be addressed in the EA, the FONSI, and the MOA. A copy of the meeting notes will be posted on PEPC.

At 4:10 pm the meeting was adjourned.