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July 14, 2001

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 Fourth Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20001

D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
2001 JUL 15 AM 11:45

Dear Ms. Mitten:

Re: Text Amendment Case 02-15

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City considered the above captioned text amendment case at its Trustees meeting on July 11, 2001.

As you know, the Committee was unable to formally present its position during the Commission's public hearing because neither the Board nor the membership had met. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, we accepted the recommendations of our Parks and Environment Subcommittee and Zoning Subcommittee, and adopted the position incorporated in the enclosed summary.

We ask that the Commission waive closing of the record in order to be able to have our position officially stated on this matter of considerable importance to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Ann Hughes Hargrove
Chair

Enclosure

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-15
Exhibit 25

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-15
EXHIBIT NO.35

Committee of 100 on the Federal City

Statement on Zoning Commission Text Amendment Case 02-15
July 14, 2002

The parks, parklands, and recreation facilities located throughout the District of Columbia are of great importance to both the history and the future of our city. They can be critical elements of community stability, neighborhood growth, beauty, environmental quality, and development for youth, families, and seniors alike.

The proposal to make permanent the Commission's emergency rulemaking that permits matter-of-right development of these properties (up to 60% lot coverage and 40-foot building height) would jeopardize planful changes to these facilities, which is required to meet the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Matter-of-right development puts in jeopardy all other planning initiatives, including historic preservation (including preservation of the L'Enfant and Macmillan Plans), capital development at schools and other facilities, and transportation management, to cite just the most obvious.

The good intentions of the Department of Parks and Recreation are no substitute for due process in established forums to allow for quick, uncontested dispositions when all parties are in agreement, but protect the interests of those whose judgments about beneficial park development do not coincide with the then-current leadership of DPR. The looming pressures of Olympic-venue development only compound the importance of an orderly process.

For these reason, we strongly urge the Commission to:

1. Adopt standards that require variances or special exceptions when park and recreation facilities are scheduled for work that goes beyond standard repair, utility upgrade, and the like, and

2. Begin the process of developing a master parks plan (complete with definitions of relevant terms) that would address the above concerns and assure that:

   (a) recreation facilities are developed in a coordinated, planful way, assuring greatest access for residents, avoiding duplication of facilities, minimizing loss of valued open spaces;

   (b) traffic and transportation impacts on neighborhoods, schools,a nd other facilities are minimized; and

   (c) resources are utilized in logical, prioritized schemes.

To: Alberto Bustelo

From: Barbara Zartman

Re: ZC 02-15

Ann Hargrove asked that I get this to you.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

GWINNETT COUNTY, GA
2002 JUL 15 AM 11:48