

Introduction and Review

Mina Wright (GSA) introduced the meeting and noted that GSA supported the revised design to be shown in the slides to the Consulting Parties (CPs), that this was intended to be the final Section 106 meeting and that the presentation would be posted on the GSA website and the ten day CP and Signatory Final Design comment period per the Programmatic Agreement would start. Final submission to CFA and NCPC and for the Tax Credit application will follow.

Tom Luebke (CFA) noted that he was not sure if they could get a quorum together for the interim December 19 CFA meeting and that he would get back to GSA on this.

Hany Hassan (BBB) led the meeting and reviewed the slides reviewing Signage, Lighting, Interiors, and C Street design.

Presentation

1. Signage and C Street Design

Hany Hassan (BBB) reviewed the exterior signage as follows:

- a. General: The quantity and location of signs shown on the plan overlay was noted as acceptable to the CPs.
- b. C Street Entrance: The C Street plaza design was shown and noted as acceptable to the CPs. Hany noted that there is now glass over the entire length of the C Street shed roof in response to the CPs comments at the last meeting. The following were additional comments made by the CPs:

The revised C Street signage and material design was presented and the CPs all agreed that this design was acceptable with **Tom Luebke (CFA)** noting one change- that the middle sign on the truss should say "Old Post Office" and then the sign over the middle door could say "Clock Tower and Museum". Hany noted that this change would be made.

Tom Luebke (CFA) asked about the proportion of the door header and if anything could be done to make the opening seem taller. Perhaps have a frame on the opening and inset with glass to make the door taller.

There was some discussion about the stone designed to cover the brick at the C Street entry and it was recommended that a more grey stone be selected that does not look as much like the existing building stone and that the use of polished and/or honed be studied. **Sarah Batcheler (CFA)** suggested looking at making the joints similar to existing stone or rectangular like the annex, rather

than square. Hany suggested that he take some samples to the site to see how they looked next to the existing stone and the natural light.

Kirsten Kulis (ACHP) asked if there was a new material for the base of the window. Hany responded no it is a wood window base and no new materials were being introduced.

- c. Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street: The main hotel sign between the arches on Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street (identical installation) were noted by the CP as acceptable in size and design. They acknowledged that the “Old Post Office” sign being designed over the main door on Pennsylvania Avenue satisfied their concerns about having the name “Old Post Office” on the building somewhere along with the addition over C Street noted above.
- d. 11th Street: The monument signs on 11th Street and C Street were reviewed and accepted by the CPs.

The removal of the “Presidential Ballroom” sign from the Annex canopy was applauded by the CPs and the addition of the “Presidential Ballroom” sign to the sides of the Annex entry were acceptable to the CPs.

There was some discussion about whether the Annex garage entrance needed a sign. Hany noted that it would be valet parking and agreed to review this later in the design process.

Hany pointed out that there would be a mix of laminated stone, opaque and clear glass at the Annex façade and loading dock side as shown on the slides. The CPs found this acceptable.

The Annex façade was reviewed and the CPs found the design acceptable. Hany showed that the material and lighting sample and noted that the final details and stone selection would be made after a site review of the materials in daylight and at night.

- e. 10th Street signage: the replacement of the existing signage with “Presidential Ballroom” as shown was acceptable to the CPs.
- f. Awnings, Flags and NPS Signage: The awning and signage on the awnings was reviewed and deemed acceptable by the CPs. It was noted by Hany that the lettering would be front lit and he confirmed that they would be black. **Kirsten Kulis (ACHP)** advised that the design team should think about bird control issues related to the awnings.

Rick Dupuy (WRS) asked what will the small flags on the turrets read. Hany responded that this was to be determined. **Sarah Batcheler (CFA)** noted that if the flags become ‘signs’ then CFA may push back.

Sarah Batcheler (CFA) asked what was the decision regarding the added flags on the roof. Hany responded that they have gone away as they were unable to work it out structurally.

Kirsten Kulis (ACHP) reminded the team that the 'chewing gum' signs in front of the building will need to be coordinated with NPS.

2. Lighting

The revised lighting design was shown for Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street with reduced lighting levels and a more white light. The CPs found the reduced lighting level and color acceptable but noted that CFA would likely want to see a partial site mock up during construction to make sure the lighting was acceptable. **Sarah Batcheler (CFA)** asked whether lights could be dimmed after installed and Hany noted that they could not so that feedback would need to be received prior to finalizing design and installing. It was also noted by Hany that 11th St side of the building would be lit symmetrically as requested by CPs.

Audrey Tepper (NPS) noted that the attachment of the lights to the building and the access of wiring to the fixtures without damage to the stone were of paramount concern. Hany noted that those details would be worked out with care not to damage the stone with SHPO / NPS.

Sarah Batcheler (CFA) noted a concern with the Clock Tower seeming to have "flashpoints". Hany noted that it could only be lit from the bottom which may be creating that effect and agreed to have the lighting designer look at that. Hany also noted that the clock faces would be lit up similarly to how they are currently now.

3. Interiors

Hany Hassan (BBB) presented the interior slides. In general the CPs applauded the re-design of the Cortile, corridors and typical corridors from floors 2-9 for materials and design.

The carpet slide with the design exposing more marble on the edges was deemed acceptable by the CPs.

Hany Hassan (BBB) noted that gold would only be used on the details on the elevator cages and the CPs found that acceptable.

Tom Luebke (CFA) noted that the details, specifically a section, of how the trusses intersected with the Cortile were not shared. Hany noted that the existing condition was to remain and that the mezzanine had been set back to further expose one of the trusses and also any prospective tenant of the restaurant might have input on the mezzanine design. The CPs liked the exposing of the truss on the North side of the

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mezzanine. Hany agreed to continue to develop how the trusses entered the mezzanine through design development.

NPS Elevator: a new design was presented showing a new cab with an angular plan rather than a round plan, new glass and the top flattened out. **Tom Luebke (CFA)** had a concern about the visitors being able to see out of the glass from inside the elevator with the “frit” applied to the glass. Hany noted that the intent was to allow the visitors to see out without people in the hotel seeing them from the Cortile. Tom suggested only using the frit on the bottom and leaving the top clear as there is value in the visibility of this historic resource from the elevator. Hany agreed to further refine the percentage of “frit” to ensure that visitors’ views from the elevator were not overly obscured.

Cortile: the design in plan, section and rendering was reviewed. In general the CPs applauded the re-design as appropriate including the fountain design, bar, floor material and pattern and other design elements like furniture. The CPs did suggest that the three different kinds of light fixtures (chandeliers, hanging lanterns and lamp posts) be studied more. They felt they did not work together. In particular they did not think the lampposts were appropriate, being more an outdoor fixture. David Maloney (DCSHPO) added that the lighting did not seem to be fully pulled together and suggested the ‘street lights’ should look more like interior torchieres. In general the CP’s supported looking at alternatives for the lampposts, an overall simplification of the lighting, harmony among finishes and language of the lighting. Tom Luebke added that the lighting color finish was better. Hany agreed to study the lighting.

Kirsten Kulis (ACHP) asked is the team was planning to light the Irwin artwork. Hany responded that they are no plans to light the artwork at this time.

Andy Lewis (DCSHPO) noted that he felt that the updated design was a nice simplification and his concern about the cumulative effect of the design possibly creating an adverse affect had been addressed and he no longer had that concern. **Audrey Tepper (NPS)** applauded the effort made by the design team and overall was pleased with what was presented.

Next Steps

GSA noted that the Section 106 meetings were completed now and that they would proceed with the ten-day comment period per the Programmatic Agreement.

Meeting Attendees

11/20	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Phone	Email
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X	Sarah	Batcheler	CFA	202-504-2200	sbatcheler@cfa.gov
X	Danielle	Breaux	GSA	202-288-1298	danielle_breaux@gsa.gov

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