

Commission of Fine Arts

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Subpart B—General Organization

§ 2101.10 The Commission.

The Commission is composed of seven members, each of whom is appointed by the President and serves for a period of four years or until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected by the members. The Commission is assisted by a staff as authorized by the Commission.

§ 2101.11 Secretary to the Commission.

Subject to the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary to the Commission is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency and for supervising the staff in its support of the functions of the Commission; for preparing the agenda of Commission meetings; for organizing presentations before the Commission of plans, designs, or questions upon which it is to advise, comment, or respond; for interpreting the Commission's conclusions, advice, or recommendations on each matter submitted to it; for maintaining a liaison with other governmental entities, professionals, and the public; and for maintaining the Commission's records. The Assistant Secretary of the Commission shall carry out duties delegated to him/her by the Secretary and shall act in place of the Secretary during his/her absence or disability.

§ 2101.12 Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants.

To assist the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Old Georgetown Act (§2101.1 (c)), a committee of three architects appointed for a term of three years by the Commission serves as the Board of Architectural Consultants without expense to the United States. This committee advises the Commission regarding designs and plans referred to it. The Chairman is elected by its members.

PART 2102—MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C., App. 1.

SOURCE: 62 FR 4647, Jan. 31, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Commission Meetings

§ 2102.1 Times and places of meetings.

Regular meetings of the Commission, open to the public, are held monthly on the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 10 a.m., at its offices in Suite 312, 441 F Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001, except that by action of the Commission a regular meeting in any particular month may be omitted or it may be held on another day or at a different time or place. A special meeting, open to the public, may be held in the interval between regular meetings upon call of the Chairman and five days' written notice of the time and place mailed to each member who does not in writing waive such notice. On all matters of official business, the Commission shall conduct its deliberations and reach its conclusions at such open meetings except as stated in §2101.12 provided, however, the Commission members may receive staff briefings or may have informal background discussions among themselves and the staff outside of such meetings.

§ 2102.2 Actions outside of meetings.

Between meetings in situations of emergency, the Commission may act through a canvass by the Secretary of individual members, provided that any action so taken is brought up and ratified at the next meeting. In addition,

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the Commission members may convene away from the Commission's offices to make inspections at the site of a proposed project or at the location of a mock-up for the project and may then and there reach its conclusions respecting such project which shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the same day or, if none was then held, in the minutes of the next meeting.

§ 2102.3 Public notice of meetings.

Notice of each meeting of the Commission shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 2102.4 Public attendance and participation.

Interested persons are permitted to attend meetings of the Commission, to file statements with the Commission at or before a meeting, and to appear before the Commission when it is in meeting, provided that an appearance is germane to the functions and policies of the Commission and to the matter or issues then before the Commission, and if the presentation or argument is made in a concise manner, within reasonable time limits and avoids duplicating information or views already before the Commission. A decision of the Chairman as to the order of appearances and as to compliance with these regulations by any person shall be final unless the Commission determines otherwise.

§ 2102.5 Records and minutes; public inspection.

A detailed record of each meeting shall be made and kept which shall contain copies of all written, printed, or graphic materials presented. The Secretary shall have prepared minutes of each meeting which shall state the time and place it was held and attendance by Commission members and staff and which shall contain a complete summary of matters discussed and conclusions reached and an explanation of the extent of public participation, including names of persons who presented oral or written statements; and he shall send a copy to all members of the Commission for their approval. Subsequent to such approval, the minutes shall be certified by the Secretary.

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The minutes and any completed reports, studies, agenda or other documents made available to, or prepared for or by, the Commission shall be available for public inspection and, at the requesting party's expense, for copying at the offices of the Commission.

Subpart B—Procedures on Submissions of Plans or Designs

§ 2102.10 Timing, scope and content of submissions for proposed projects involving land, buildings, or other structures.

(a) A party proposing a project which is within the purview of the Commission's functions under § 2101.1 (a), (b), or (c) should make a submission when concept plans for the project are ready but before detailed plans and specifications or working drawings are prepared. In order to assure that a submission will be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Commission, it should be delivered to the Commission's offices not later than ten (10) working days before the meeting; if it is a project subject to review first by the Georgetown Board, not later than ten (10) working days before the Georgetown Board meeting. The Commission will attempt to consider a submission which is not made in conformity with this schedule, but it reserves the right to postpone consideration until its next subsequent meeting.

(b)(1) Each submission should state or disclose:

(i) The nature, location, and justification of the project, including any relevant historical information about the building or other structure to be altered or razed;

(ii) The identity of the owner or developer (or for public buildings, the governmental unit with authority to approve or act upon the plans) and of the architect;

(iii) The functions, uses, and purpose of the project; and

(iv) Other information to the extent it is relevant, such as area studies, site plans, building and landscape schematics, renderings, models, depictions or samples of exterior materials and

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components, and photographs of existing conditions to be affected by the project.

(2) Alternative proposals may be included within one submission. The information submitted shall be sufficiently complete, detailed, and accurate as will enable the Commission to judge the ultimate character, siting, height, bulk, and appearance of the project, in its entirety, including the grounds within the scope of the project, its setting and environs, and its effect upon existing conditions and upon historical and prevailing architectural values. Record drawings and photographs will be submitted by the applicant for a permanent Commission record of the submission.

(c) If a project consists of a first or intermediate phase of a contemplated larger program of construction, similar information about the eventual plans should accompany the submission. Even though a submission relates only to approval for razing or removal of a building or other structure, the project will be regarded as part of phased development, and the submission is subject to such requirement.

(d) If the project involves a statue, fountain or a monument within the purview of the Commission under § 2101.1 (a)(2), partial submissions should be made as appropriate to permit the Commission to advise on each aspect of the project as prescribed by the Commemorative Works Act (Pub. L. 99-652, H.R. 4378, 40 U.S.C. 1001).

(e) The Commission staff will advise owners and architects concerning the scope and content of particular submissions. Material relevant to the functions and policies of the Commission varies greatly depending upon the nature, size, and importance of the project to be reviewed by the Commission. Also, it is the policy of the Commission not to impose unnecessary burdens or delays on persons who make submissions to the Commission. However, the Commission at any meeting may decline to reach a conclusion about a proposed project if it deems the submission materials inadequate for its purposes, or it may condition its conclusions on the submission of further information to it at a later meeting or,

in its discretion, may delegate final action to the staff.

(f) The Commission staff, members of the Georgetown Board, interested members of the public, or the submitting party may augment any submission by additional relevant information made available to the Commission before or at the meeting where the submission is considered. The staff should also make information available concerning prior considerations or conclusions of the Commission regarding the same project or earlier versions of it.

§ 2102.11 Scope and content of submissions for proposed medals, insignia, coins, seals, and the like.

Each submission of the design for a proposed item which is within the Commission's purview under § 2101.1 (d) should identify the sponsoring government unit and disclose the uses and purpose of the item, the size and forms in which it will be produced, and the materials and finishes to be used, including colors if any, along with a sketch, model, or prototype.

§ 2102.12 Responses of Commission to submissions.

(a) The Commission before disposing of any project presented to it may ask for the proposed plans or designs to be changed in certain particulars and resubmitted, or for the opportunity to review plans, designs, and specifications in certain particulars at a later stage in their development, and to see samples or mock-ups of materials or components; and when appropriate in the matter of a statue or other object of art, the Commission may ask for the opportunity to see a larger or full-scale model. All conclusions, advice, or comments of the Commission which lead to further development of plans, designs, and specifications or to actual carrying out of the project are made in contemplation that such steps will conform in all substantial respects with the plans or designs submitted to the Commission, including only such changes as the Commission may have recommended; any other changes in plans or designs require further submission to the Commission.

(b) In the case of plans submitted with a permit application subject to

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the Old Georgetown Act (§ 2101.1(c)), if the Commission does not respond with a report on such plans within forty-five days after their receipt by the Commission, its approval shall be assumed and a permit may be issued by the government of the District of Columbia.

(1) In the case of a concept application submitted for a project subject to the Old Georgetown Act (§ 2101.1(c)), the Commission's approval is valid for two years. At the end of the two years, the original owner for the project may submit a new concept application requesting to extend the approval for one more year. The Commission, however, may decline to extend its approval.

(2) [Reserved]

(c) In the case of plans submitted with a permit application subject to the Shipstead-Luce Act (§ 2101.1(b)), if the Commission does not respond with a report on such plans within thirty days after their receipt by the Commission, its approval shall be assumed and a permit may be issued by the government of the District of Columbia.

(1) In the case of a concept application for a project subject to the Shipstead-Luce Act (§ 2101.1(b)), the Commission's approval is valid for two years. At the end of the two years, the original owner for the project may submit a concept application requesting to extend the approval for one more year. The Commission, however, may decline to extend its approval.

(2) [Reserved]

(d) In the event that any project or item within the Commission's purview under 2101.1 has not progressed to a substantial start of construction or production within four years following the Commission meeting date on which the final design was approved, the Commission's approval is suspended. The plans or designs previously approved or alternative plans or designs, may thereupon be resubmitted for Commission review. The Commission's subsequent approval, if granted, shall remain in effect for four years.

[62 FR 4647, Jan. 31, 1997, as amended at 73 FR 29712, May 22, 2008]

§ 2102.13 Project eligibility criteria for placement on a Consent Calendar.

With respect to submissions to the Commission for projects that meet the

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following criteria, the Secretary, at his/her discretion and in coordination with the Commission's staff, may place these projects on a Consent Calendar according to § 2102.14.

(a) Additions to buildings of less than 25 percent (%) of the original structure and no more than 25,000 sq. ft.;

(b) New construction of less than 25,000 sq. ft.;

(c) Window replacement projects;

(d) Cellular or other communications antenna installations or replacements;

(e) New or replacement signs;

(f) Cleaning, routine maintenance, repairs or replacement-in-kind of exterior finish materials;

(g) Temporary utility or construction structures;

(h) And does not include new physical perimeter security items.

[70 FR 49194, Aug. 23, 2005]

§ 2102.14 Consent Calendar and Appendices procedures.

(a) The Commission shall review applications scheduled on its Meeting Agenda, Consent Calendar, or Appendices (Old Georgetown Act and Shipstead-Luce Act). Cases on the Meeting Agenda will be heard by the Commission in open session. Cases on the Consent Calendar or Appendices will be acted upon based on submitted materials and staff recommendations without further public comment.

(b) The Commission shall release the proposed Meeting Agenda, and the Consent Calendar and Appendices with staff recommendation to the public not later than five (5) calendar days before the meeting.

(c) The scheduling of cases on the Meeting Agenda, Consent Calendar, and Appendices shall be at the sole discretion of the Commission and staff, and nothing shall preclude the Commission from amending or changing the scheduling at a public meeting.

(d) The staff shall prepare a written recommendation for each case on the Consent Calendar or Appendices the Commission will review.

(e) The Commission shall conduct public review of cases in accordance with a proposed Agenda released to the public before the Commission meeting. The Commission shall dispose of other

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cases by adoption of a Consent Calendar and Appendices, as appropriate. The Commission may amend the Meeting Agenda, Consent Calendar and Appendices at the public meeting as it may deem appropriate.

(f) An application may be placed on the Consent Calendar if the applicant and staff agree that the proposed work has no known objection by an affected government agency, neighborhood organization, historic preservation organization, or affected person. Any relevant terms or modifications agreed upon by the applicant and staff may be included as conditions of the approval.

(g) At the request of any Commission member, the Chairperson may remove any case from the Consent Calendar and place it on the Meeting Agenda for individual consideration by the Commission at the meeting. A request from any other group or person to remove a case from the Consent Calendar should be made to the staff in advance of the meeting and shall be considered as a preliminary matter at the meeting.

(h) The Chairperson may also remove any case from a duly noticed Meeting Agenda and place it on the Consent Calendar, provided there is no objection from the applicant, any Commission member, or any affected group or person present and wishing to comment on the case.

(i) The Commission may approve the Consent Calendar and Appendices on a voice vote.

[70 FR 49194, Aug. 23, 2005]

PART 2103—STATEMENTS OF POLICY

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 81-808, 64 Stat. 903; 40 U.S.C. 72, 104, 106, and 121; E.O. 1259 of October 25, 1910; E.O. 1862 of November 28, 1913; E.O. 3524 of July 28, 1921.

§ 2103.1 General approaches to review of plans by the Commission.

The Commission functions relate to the appearance of proposed projects within its purview as specified herein. These functions are to serve the purpose of conserving and enhancing the visual assets which contribute significantly to the character and quality of Washington as the nation's capital and

which appropriately reflect the history and features of its development over two centuries. Where existing conditions detract from the overall appearance of official Washington or historic Georgetown—such as conditions caused by temporary, deteriorated, or abandoned buildings of little or no historical or architectural value, by interrupted developments, or by vacant lots not devoted to public use as parks or squares—the Commission will favor suitable corrections to these conditions. When changes or additions are proposed in other circumstances, the Commission may consider whether the public need or value of the project or the private interests to be served thereby justify making any change or addition, and it will consider whether the project can be accomplished in reasonable harmony with the nearby area, with a minimum loss of attractive features of the existing building or site, with due deference to the historical and architectural values affected, and without creating an anomalous disturbing element in the public view of the city.

[62 FR 4649, Jan. 31, 1997]

PART 2104—ENFORCEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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