

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



www.committeef100.net

## **Founded 1923**

March 15, 2019

### **Chair**

Stephen A. Hansen

Robin Nixon, Acting Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks

### **Vice-Chair**

Kirby Vining

National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20242

### **Secretary**

Erik Hein

SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the Latest Design for the World War I Memorial in Pershing Park

### **Treasurer**

Carol F. Aten

Dear Ms. Nixon:

### **Trustees**

Charlie Bien  
Judy Chesser  
George R. Clark  
Monte Edwards  
Alma Gates  
Larry Hargrove  
Kathy Henderson  
Naima Jefferson  
Nancy MacWood  
Meg Maguire  
Elizabeth Purcell  
Marilyn Simon  
Jim Smailes  
Pat Tiller  
Evelyn Wrin

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City (Committee of 100), founded in 1923, is the District of Columbia's oldest citizen planning organization. The Committee of 100 has been especially interested in the design of the proposed World War I Memorial in Pershing Park, located at Pennsylvania Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. This is an important location, just south of Downtown, at the north edge of the Monumental Core and just east of the White House area.

The Committee of 100 has been involved with this project since the initial public meeting on May 20, 2015. The Committee of 100 has submitted comments on the design of the WWI Memorial over the past three (almost four) years. A total of eight comment letters have been submitted through February 2019. Two of these comment letters were to NCPC, the last being dated January 18, 2019, and six were to the National Park Service. All the comments are on the Committee of 100 website, under "Pennsylvania Avenue" in the "Planning" Section. In addition, members of the Committee of 100 have participated in all of the Consulting Parties meetings.

945 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202.681.0225  
[www.committeef100.net](http://www.committeef100.net)  
[info@committeef100.net](mailto:info@committeef100.net)

Our comments today are on the "Revised Draft Memorandum of Agreement" which was circulated last Thursday, March 7 with comments due this coming Friday, March 15, 2019.

The review and discussion of the design of the World War I Memorial by the Consulting Parties, and the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, has been a long and sometimes contentious process.

The Committee of 100 has advocated retaining as much of the original Pershing Park design as possible while still accommodating the World War I Memorial in a meaningful way. It is important to stress and continue the “urban park” role and benefits of this important open space.

**Comments on the Revised Memorandum of Agreement (Distributed March 7, 2019)**

We suggest the following changes to the Memorandum of Agreement:

- 1) page 2, WHEREAS #4: needs an "and" at end of sentence.
- 2) page 4, MITIGATION, d. Treatment of Vegetation: "In kind" replacement is unclear. We suggest "Comparable healthy" or "new or replacement of same species or material."
- 3) page 5, MITIGATION, Treatment of Vegetation, e and f: The MOA should require hiring of a consultant who meets the appropriate or applicable *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards*, such as one meeting the Historic Landscape Architect standard.
- 4) page 6, ADMINISTRATION, a. Reporting, last full line: How will Consulting Parties be notified? Just a change on the website is inadequate. We suggest that the MOA specify using the contact list for Consulting Parties (same list used to notify Consulting Parties of the February 25, 2019 meeting).
- 5) page 6, ADMINISTRATION, b, c, d, e: There should be a requirement to notify the Consulting Parties if any of these actions should be triggered.

We believe these comments will improve the Memorandum of Agreement. We suggest that in the future, when changes are made to a document being reviewed, the revised document be presented in a “red line” version so that the additions/deletion/revisions can be more easily understood by reviewers.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen A. Hansen, Chair

- cc: Marcel C. Acosta, Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission  
Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts  
Andrew Trueblood, Interim Director, D.C. Office of Planning  
David Maloney, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia  
Edwin Fountain, World War I Centennial Commission  
Claire Sale, AECOM