

Public Parks and Recreation Spaces

January 13, 2026

The committee reviewed materials related to the Rumsey Aquatic Center provided by DPR and concerns about the St. Elizabeth project provided by the DC Preservation League.

In both instances, the questions before the Committee were, first, what do we wish to say? And, second, where should we lodge our comments.

RE RUMSEY

The Committee has discussed this topic previously and was prepared to put forward a number of community concerns. Because a community briefing by DPR was planned for January 14, it was relatively easy to adopt a strategy for proceeding. A three step strategy was adopted: (1) a letter suggesting some topics that usefully might be addressed by the DPR team at the community meeting would be provide promptly; Committee members will attend the meeting on January 14 and participate as they wish; (3) a formal response will be prepared by the Committee for consideration by the Commission following the community meeting that would address new or continuing concerns.

The letter to DPR regarding their presentation on January 14 has been sent.

RE ST. ELIZABETH DEVELOPMENT

Reading the correspondence prepared jointly by the National Historical Trust and the DC Board of Historical Preservation, it appears that no consideration will be given to preservation of any buildings in the historical site: all are to be demolished. The correspondence from Homeland Security to justify this procedure being unconvincing; the question of Committee action was raised.

A proposal to have the Committee recommend that the ANC6B to write a letter supporting the position of the two preservation agencies was not endorsed: some feeling it was the role of the Planning and Zoning Committee; others feeling it was not a central issue of our committee. Several, including the chair thought the protection of historical building merited support of the action proposed by the two preservation

agencies (i.e. to review the buildings on an individual basis on site, rather than clear cut the area).

No Committee action was taken on this item but, of course, ANC6B is not precluded from doing so.