

**MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE (HCC) HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 19, 2005
AT NIRMAN BHAWAN**

PRESENT :

1. Shri S.M. Acharya
Additional Secretary
M/o Urban Development Chairman
2. Shri K.T. Gurmukhi
Chief Planner, TCPO Member
3. Shri S.C. Bhatia
Addl. DG(Arch), CPWD Member
4. Shri V.K. Bugga
Chie Town Planner, MCD Member
5. Shri O.P. Jain
Convener, INTACH Member
6. Prof. A.G.K. Menon
Conservation Architect Member
7. Shri D.S. Meshram
Urban Designer Member
8. Shri B.K. Jain
Director (DC), DDA Member
9. Prof. Mohd Shaheer
Environmentalist Member
10. Shri Dina Nath
Secretary, DUAC Member-Secretary
11. Shri G.K. Rao
Dy. Architect, NDMC
12. Shri A.M. Athale
Architect, NDMC
13. Shri M.M. Kanade
SE, ASI

On behalf of the Committee, Member-Secretary welcomed Shri S.M. Acharya, Chairman in the first meeting of the Committee after taking over charge as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development. Member-Secretary enumerated the progress made by the HCC on various issues till date. Thereafter, the agenda for the meeting was taken up for discussion.

Item No.1 : Listing of Heritage Structures

Chairman, HCC urged both the NDMC and the MCD that the notification of the list of heritage structures as already approved by the HCC need to be done on priority. He emphasized that without notification of the list of heritage structures in the Official Gazette further degradation/alteration etc. of heritage structures in different parts of Delhi cannot be prevented.

Item No.2 : Provision of Glass Partitions at South Block Gate No.4 for Air-conditioning area.

The HCC noted that the proposal involves glass partitioning up to double height to enclose the reception area for VVIP. The proposal was earlier considered by the Delhi Urban Art Commission. The matter has now been brought before the HCC as South Block is a part of heritage building. The Committee noted that as the façade of the South Block was not being disturbed and the glass partitioning was necessary on account of air-conditioning of the reception area, the Committee has 'No Objection' to the proposal for provision of glass partition at South Block gate no.4 for air-conditioning the area.

Item No.3 : Plans in respect of additions/alterations in Odeon Cinema at Connaught Place.

The Committee noted that the proposal has been forwarded by the NDMC with the following comments :-

“The Add./alts. Plans in r/o. Odeon Cinema on plot Block ‘D’ Connaught Place, New Delhi have been submitted by the Party vide scheme No.4419 dtd.20.5.05. Party has submitted the proposal for carrying out add./alts. Within the existing Cinema without changing the outer façade, profile and elevation etc. and without any change in the existing covered area. However, the case has been referred to DCP Licensing, L&DO & CFO for their NOC/approved separately.”

The Committee noted that as the façade of Odeon Cinema contained some murals, there was a need by the NDMC to obtain 'No Objection' from the concerned artist before carrying out changes in the façade. The façade now proposed was more in consonance with the adjoining structures. As regards structural safety and parking requirements, the Committee was informed that the NDMC would ensure compliance with the requisite provisions in terms of Bye-laws. Accordingly, HCC gave its 'No Objection' to the proposal.

Item No.4 : Plans in respect of Police Station Complex at Mandir Marg.

The proposal has been forwarded by the NDMC for consideration of the HCC. The proposal is for construction of Police Station building and staff quarters after demolishing the existing structures except the heritage building in the front. The Committee decided to defer the matter as it needs to be examined in more detail on the basis of the three-dimensional model when promoters and the concerned architect are also present for interaction.

Item No.5 : Building plans in respect of Jubilee Cinema, Chandni Chowk.

The Proposal had been forwarded by the MCD, Building Department. It was indicated that the proposal is to convert the 600-seat Cinema Hall to 300-seat halls within the existing envelope.

It was indicated that while the Jubilee Cinema itself is not a heritage building but it is located in a heritage zone. After detailed deliberation, the Committee decided that in view of the aforesaid position, the concerned agency viz. MCD, may like to formulate policy relating to buildings located in the heritage zone, and examine proposals in the light of such policy. After such examination, if the MCD considers it appropriate, they may refer the matter again to the HCC for consideration.

It was decided, if need be, this would be considered at a subsequent meeting of the HCC with the help of a three-dimensional model indicating the changes envisaged when the promoters and the concerned architects are also present. Meanwhile, it was decided to constitute a Committee comprising of the following who may make a site visit to inspect the proposed changes :-

1. Prof. Mohd. Shaheer
Environmentalist
2. Shri O.P. Jain
Convener, INTACH
3. Prof. A.G.K. Menon
Conservation Architect
4. Shri D.S. Meshram
Urban Designer
5. Shri B.K. Jain
Director (DC), DDA

The recommendations of this Committee shall be placed before the HCC at its subsequent meeting.

Item No.6 : Permission for construction of corridor doorway in South Block.

The above proposal has been received from the Ministry of Defence together with a sketch drawing of the proposal. In view of the sensitive nature of South Block, it was decided to consider the proposal at a subsequent meeting of the Committee when the concerned Architect and the Promoter are also present for interaction.

The subsequent meetings of the HCC are to be held at premises where models can be viewed, computer aided perspective plans can be projected and where applicants and other advisers can explain their interest to the best advantages.

(Dina Nath)
Member Secretary