

MINUTES OF THE 39TH MEETING OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

A. Project Proposals :

Item No. 1. Add./Alts. plans in respect of The Comprehensive Conservation Management plan of President Estate.

The proposal was last considered at HCC's meeting held on March 6, 2014 so as to scrutinize the proposal in detail the group constituted by the HCC (at its meeting held on January 21, 2014) considered the matter at its meetings held on February 4, 2014 and February 11, 2014. The recommendations of the group have since been conveyed to all concerned and the same were also placed before the HCC at its meeting of March 6, 2014. In response, a letter was received from Prof. A.G.K. Menon on March 5, 2014. It was observed that the members could not get sufficient time to study the same.

2.. At its meeting of January 21, 2014 the HCC had also observed that the complex was in Grade-I of the notified list of heritage buildings in NDMC area and for change in this grading the matter would be required to go through the laid down process, which was yet to be initiated by the proponents.

3. The matter was discussed now in light of the above background of the matter. The HCC observed that the proponents have to comply with the observations of the group. The matter would be considered further after the proposal is accepted by the group.

Item No. 2. Plans in respect of Proposed Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Schedule 'B' President Estate.

The proposal forwarded by the NDMC was scrutinized and also discussed with the architects. The following observations were made:-

- i) A water balance diagram of the overall complex of Rashtrapati Bhawan Complex need to be submitted.
- ii) Far too many roads have been proposed al-around which should be minimized.
- iii) The drawings lacked clarity in terms of the foot paths, hard top surfaces, green etc.
- iv) Detail plantation plan need to be submitted.

- v) The relevant provisions as per Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) should be followed.
- vi) Efforts should be made to reduce the height of the structures proposed and these should merge with the landscaping.
- vii) With the present proposal, the existing water pipelines of the complex would be pressurized, therefore their up-dation is also required to be taken up by the proponents.

The proposal was found acceptable with above observations. The proponents were advised to submit revised proposal for consideration of the HCC.

Item No. 3. Plans in respect of Renovation and repair work in premises no. M-115, 2nd floor, Connaught Circus.

The proposal forwarded by the NDMC was considered at HCC meeting held on March 6, 2014. Some discrepancy was found between the drawings and the model. The architect had now submitted the correct drawings/model. The proposal was found acceptable and approved.

Item No. 4. Installation of monumental flagpole at Central Park Rajiv Chowk, Connaught Place.

The proponents M/s. Flag Foundation of India had submitted to the HCC certain documents with reference to HCC's observations of September 10, 2013. The matter was scrutinised and discussed with the proponent. The HCC observed that it had given in principle approval to the proposal with certain conditions/observations. While some of its observations are yet to be complied with the flag has already been installed at site.

The proponents were advised to ensure the compliance of HCC's observations of September 10, 2013 including at Sl. No. i, ii, iii, & vi at the earliest. Further the HCC observed that the conformity of the proposed project to the provisions of the National Flag Act should be ensured by the proponents. It should be checked by the NDMC.

The matter would be considered further after receipt of revised proposal as per above observations.

B. Letters :

Item No. 1. National Policy for Conservation of Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains - Letter received from Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

A copy of the document on National Policy for the Conservation of Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites received from Director General, Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI) vide letter dated February 26, 2014, since already circulated to the HCC's Members ,was placed before the HCC. It was taken note of.

Item No. 2. Preparation of Local Area plan of Ward no. 170 Mehrauli - Letter received from Chief Town Planner, SDMC

The matter was considered at HCC's meeting held on January 21, 2014. The HCC had observed that for this area SDMC should formulate separate regulations/plans as to preserve and conserve the heritage. Any kind of construction in this area should be done on the basis of comprehensive conservation plan of the area.

In response, the reply received from SDMC vide letter No. TP/G/SDMC/2014/4119 dated 27.02.2014 was placed before the HCC wherein it was informed that initially 33 wards have been selected for the preparation of local area plans and the mentioned area i.e. ward no.170 is not covered among 33 wards taken up, however suggestion would be considered when the ward is taken up . The letter of SDMC was taken note of by the HCC.

Item No. 3. Listing of National features area of environmental significance or scenic beauty - Letter received from Chief Architect NDMC.

The matter had been taken up with the local bodies with the request that the list of natural feature areas under their jurisdiction may be prepared and also indicated in zonal map so that the matter could be considered by the HCC.

In response, a letter had been received from Chief Architect, NDMC which is reproduced below:-

“With reference to above, it is to inform that the list which was prepared by Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (NTACH) in 2001 was approved by HCC and notified by Delhi Government on behalf of NDMC. The NDMC being a local municipal body can only implement the guidelines prepared by the respective Government agencies for the conservation of heritage.

The HCC observed that as per clause no. 23.5 of Unified Building bye-laws 1983, the work is required to be done by the concerned local body. It was accordingly decided to send a reminder to all the local bodies including NDMC in the matter.

Item No. 4. Placing issues raised by ASI for consideration of HCC - Letter received from Chief Town Planner SDMC.

The above matter was considered at HCC’s meeting held on March 6, 2014 and certain observations were given. While any response from ASI was yet to be received, a copy of letter dated April 1, 2014 was received from Chief Town Planner, SDMC wherein he had forwarded the relevant action points to concerned Departments.

The HCC requested Chief Town Planner SDMC (who was present in the meeting) to keep a follow up in the matter.

Addl. Item No. 1 : Conservation of Iconic and Architectural Heritage Buildings.

1. The above matter was considered at HCC's meeting held on September 10, 2013 wherein it was decided to take up the matter with all the three municipal corporations, DDA and also INTACH to initiate process of listing. The HCC had suggested the DUAC may also start the process of listing of Iconic Building of the contemporary architecture.
2. The matter was considered by the DUAC at its meeting held on April 30, 2014 and the following observations were made :-

“The Commission felt that the buildings in the public domain may be included in the list of iconic buildings but for the other category of buildings like housing complex where there are multiple ownership, the decision could be taken in consultation with the stakeholders.

During discussions the members suggested names of some other buildings for addition in the list of 62.

The Commission decided to forward the list so finalised to the Authorities for their notification as heritage/ iconic buildings for their preservation and conservation.”

3. The matter was now discussed in view of the above background of the matter. The list of iconic/heritage buildings from DUAC was considered by the HCC. The following observations were made :-

- i) In the first instance INTACH may be approached for knowing from them about the criteria used in preparing of the list..
- ii) All the concerned organisations have to be involved and their suggestions need to be invited including Delhi Government and DDA.
- iii) The objective and criteria for the listing has to be clearly defined.

The HCC accordingly decided to take up the matter with various authorities for their comments/suggestions.

Item no.2 : Compilation of Heritage of Delhi.

The above matter was considered at HCC's meeting held on March 6, 2014 and the following observations were made :-

"The HCC was apprised of, the creation of the Design Cell as per its decision of November 12, 2013. The Design Cell has started functioning. The members were requested to suggest the terms of reference in respect of the work to be done by the Design Cell on the subject."

Since no response has been received from the Members, HCC, with regard to term of reference for the Design Cell, it was decided that Chairman, HCC would write a letter to all the Members of HCC requesting to expedite comments/suggestions on the subject.

Sd/-

(Vinod Kumar)
Member Secretary