

MINUTES OF THE 40TH MEETING OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 11, 2014

At the outset, the Member-Secretary welcomed the new Chairman of the Heritage Conservation Committee, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Additional Secretary (UD), Ministry of Urban Development. The leave of absence intimated by Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover, Member HCC was taken note. The Chairman, HCC expressed his displeasure on absence of following :

1. The Chief Engineer (Structure) Central Design Organisation, CPWD
2. The Chief Town Planner, North/South/East MCD
3. The Commissioner (PIng.) DDA
4. Director General, ASI
5. The Director, National Museum of Natural History

It was decided to take up the matter with the absentee Members of the HCC that by their absence the HCC has been deprived of their contribution in the meeting. In future the members should ensure their participation in HCC meetings.

A. Project Proposals :

1. Add./Alts. in respect of The Comprehensive Conservation Management plan of President's Estate.

The proposal forwarded by the NDMC was last considered by the HCC at its meeting held on May 8, 2014. The group constituted by the HCC subsequently considered the proposal at its meeting held on June 19, 2014.

The revised proposal received from the architect consultants was scrutinized. On a query, Prof. A.G.K. Menon, Architect Consultant informed that the building blocks as shown are tentative and actual building plans will be referred by the NDMC to HCC for its consideration in due course of time. HCC observed that the large volume of the revised reports submitted need time for scrutiny. The Members requested Prof. A.G.K. Menon to clearly identify the pages in the reports where changes have been made as per the observations of the group/HCC.

It was observed that the inventory of the complex as prepared should be more systematic. The Members of the group constituted by the HCC, were provided with the soft copy of the revised submission made by the architects for their scrutiny and interaction

among themselves. It was decided that the group will come up with its final recommendations to the HCC on priority basis so that a final decision in the matter could be taken in the next meeting within 2 weeks.

2. Plans in respect of Proposed Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Schedule 'B' President's Estate.

The proposal forming part of the comprehensive conservation management plan of the complex was last considered by the HCC at its meeting held on May 8, 2014. The proposal was found acceptable with certain observations which were to be complied by architect/proponent. The revised proposal received from the architect/proponents was scrutinized and the following observations were made:

- i) There was need to work out detail landscape plan of the proposal in such a manner so that the proposed structures are camouflaged by use of various elements of landscape like trees, mounds etc.

The landscape proposal so developed should be in coherence with the landscape scheme of CCMP of the complex.

- ii) Since there was no clear indication about HCC observation with regard to updation of the existing water pipelines of the complex, the necessary clarification/information need to be provided in this regard.
- iii) During the meeting, Chairman HCC emphasized on the usefulness of latest technology developed by DRDO by use of bio-digesters. The advantage of the DRDO technology is in terms of savings in overall the project cost including land requirement.

The architect/proponents were advised to incorporate the observations of the HCC so that the matter could be considered at its next meeting within 2 weeks.

3. Plans in respect of Add./Alts. of Vice President's House at 6 Maulana Azad Road.

The proposal was forwarded by the NDMC with certain comments. The present proposal included additions of single storied security cum screening room and medical unit block. The HCC observed that the architectural expressions particularly the geometry of fenestrations of proposed structures should respect the architecture of existing buildings.

The proposal was found acceptable with above observations and approved.

The architect was advised to submit the accordingly modified drawings and model photographs so that the approval could be released by the Member-Secretary.

Other matters :

1. Conservation of Iconic and Architectural Heritage Building of Delhi - Letter received from Prof. A.G.K. Menon, Convenor, INTACH.

The matter was last considered by the HCC at its meeting held on May 8, 2014 and 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 organizations 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."

2. In response, letter no. ND/581(HCC)/434 dated July 3, 2014 received from Prof. A.G.K. Menon, Convener INTACH, Delhi Chapter was perused. Before proceeding further in the matter , it was decided that the criteria for declaring any buildings iconic and heritage need to be looked from various angles like age and the existing laws on the subject, the criteria adopted by other cities like Mumbai or abroad.

2. Listing of Natural feature areas of environmental significance or scenic beauty - Letter received from Chief Town Planner, North DMC.

The matter was last considered at HCC meeting held on May 8, 2014. It was observed that while the listing of heritage buildings has been done, the listing of natural feature areas of environmental significance or scenic beauty, is yet to be done by the local bodies. The matter was accordingly taken up with the local bodies. Now a copy of letter received from Chief Town Planner, SDMC wherein he has requested Deputy Commissioner of the Zone to start the process was taken note of.

The matter was deliberated upon and it was decided to further workout the definition of 'Natural feature areas' for convenience of the local bodies.

Addl. Item No.1: The Project of Lighting show 3-D projection mapping of India Gate at one side-Letter received from CPWD.

The above matter was referred by CPWD directly to the HCC for its no objection in the matter. A copy of the no objection received by them from NDMC vide letter dated June 16, 2014 was also forwarded to the HCC.

As per the relevant provisions of HCC clause, all proposals for formal approval are required to be routed through the concerned local body. But in this case, the NDMC had since already given its no objection, the proposal was considered by the HCC. The proposal was found acceptable and the HCC decided to convey its 'no objection' to the proposal.

Sd/-
(Vinod Kumar)
Member-Secretary
Heritage Conservation Committee