

Friends of McMillan Park

October 28, 2013

Here are some specific issues with the [Gray Administration's updated development plan for McMillan Park](#) to note in your testimony for the [DC Historic Preservation Review Board \(HPRB\) hearing on October 31, 2013](#):

- There has been only marginal improvement since the previous iteration was so bad; the changes are essentially "lipstick on a pig".
- The plans create no sense of a campus.
- The Olmsted walk has been eliminated and changed to private front yards.
- There has been notable destruction of historic fabric:
 - Demolition of the underground caverns is unacceptable
 - Demolition of the walls framing the courts is unacceptable
- The plan lacks the tri-partite organization required by HPRB's approved design principles for the site. This plan is divided into four sections.
- The supermarket and the retail should be adaptively inserted into preserved sand filtration chambers, which could easily be entered from the sidewalk at North Capitol Street.
- The scale of buildings remains too large and disproportionate.
- The faux-historic cookie-cutter row houses are barely disguised by their color scheme.
- The buildings to the north are very massive and out of scale with the whole site and the surrounding neighborhoods.
- The office buildings should be divided into smaller volumes and would be much more appropriate located on the north side of Michigan Avenue in the hospital complex, rather than in a historic park.
- The apartment building above the supermarket is too massive.
- The supermarket wall next to the north service court dominates the street.
- The shared color scheme fails to unify the disparate scales of the buildings across the quad-partite plan.
- The community center is too small.

