Palisades Park gets landmark status

Preservation: Board calls both building, site significant

By BRADY HOLT
Current Staff Writer

The Palisades Recreation Center won landmark designation Thursday, with a majority of Historic Preservation Review Board members saying the property is significant for both its 1930s development and also for the archaeological artifacts believed to be on the site.

The designation follows heated debate within the neighborhood, with the local citizens association saying that an overwhelming majority of Palisades residents opposed preserving the 1935 field house at 5200 Sherier Place NW. Many neighbors feared that designation would greatly complicate plans to construct a replacement community center — driving up costs and forcing an addition to be constructed on valued green space rather than the existing footprint.

In designating the landmark, most preservation board members said that even though the field house isn’t grand, it represents the early history of modern recreation in the District. Furthermore, they said, it was carefully designed both to fit in with its surroundings.

Latham Hotel redevelopment proceeds

By MARK LIEBERMAN
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The Latham Hotel site in Georgetown is now slated to be restored as a new hotel, instead of the residential project that a previous developer won approval for a few years ago.

The 3000 M St. NW property — the hotel facing 30th Street and retail storefronts along M — has stood vacant for several years after suffering severe water damage in 2012. Neighborhood leaders and residents are generally receptive to the latest plans despite concerns about elements like a large rooftop deck and a loading area.

Developer Thor Equities purchased the property for more than $50 million earlier this year and subsequently announced plans for a renovated 82-room hotel with several floors of above-ground retail on the street. Current designs include 24 parking spaces accessible by car elevator and a valet parking pro-

gram. The developer also hopes to incorporate a small bar or lounge on top of the hotel, which will require a special exception from the Board of Zoning Adjustment, to be decided at a hearing June 21.

ORIGINAL OVAL OFFICE

As part of the Tudor Place Bicentennial, the historic Georgetown estate hosted a replica of Gen. George Washington’s Revolutionary War Tent, made of similar materials to those Washington would have used on the battlefield. The event began with a sneak peek Friday night and an open-house-style viewing on Saturday.