



NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK
ASIA TRAIL PHASE II, REVISED
3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director
February 24, 2006

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I comment favorably on the revised concept site and building plans for the proposed revised Asia Trail, Phase II, at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 2.00(38.00)-41964.

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The Smithsonian Institution has submitted concept site and building plans for a revised Asia Trail Phase II, originally reviewed by the Commission in 2004. The submitted modified concept returns to the consideration of renovating the existing Elephant House and adjacent habitats as originally proposed by the Asia Trail Project. The design concept includes the renovation of the existing Elephant House and a small 5,000-square-foot addition located to the northwest of the building. Also developed would be a variety of elephant habitats connected with visitor, keeper and animal pathways. The existing facility is comprised of the 22,000-square-foot Elephant House built in 1937.

The existing facility and habitats are in the north central area of the zoo, directly adjacent to Asia Trail Phase 1, along the Olmsted Walk. The entire project site includes 8 acres. The building renovation and addition is intended to infuse continued viability into the existing historic structure while retaining the character and significance of the original building. The addition is a discrete expansion for key functional requirements of animal care and keeper management objectives dealing with the exhibition of an elephant herd of eight animals.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed this revised project at its meeting on February 8, 2006, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated by all agencies participating.

The Smithsonian Institution is consulting with the DC State Historic Preservation Officer. On January 24, 2006, Smithsonian Institution staff met with the DC SHPO to discuss the proposal further. The meeting concluded with the understanding that the undertaking would have an

adverse effect on the Elephant House, and that the DC SHPO would work with the Smithsonian Institution to identify issues and approaches to mitigate the effect and to develop a satisfactory Memorandum of Agreement following further project development, to be submitted to the Commission at the preliminary design stage.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP

Executive Director