

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Lion and Tiger Information Kiosk
3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

September 27, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the construction of a new Lion and Tiger Information Kiosk at the National Zoological Park, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 2.00(38.00)42373.

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The Smithsonian Institution (SI) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of a new “Lion and Tiger” Information Kiosk located near the lower zoo entrance on Olmsted Walk across from the Mane Restaurant Outdoor Picnic Pavilions and the entry to the Kids Farm Exhibit. The existing shed, which is operated by the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ), provides maps and rents strollers to visitors entering the zoo from parking lots D & E. This shed-type facility has been identified by the National Zoo as being in need of major repairs and /or replacement.

This proposal is to replace the existing shed with a more durable, upgraded structure to better serve the needs of the National Zoo and its visitors. The current building is 500 square feet and is a simple rectangular shed with a fenced area for the storage of the rental strollers that is exposed to weather and airborne debris. Architecturally, the shed construction is inconsistent with the historic fabric of the National Zoo and Olmsted Walk aesthetic. In addition, the curbed approach and building do not meet handicapped accessibility requirements.

The replacement structure will be on the same site as the existing structure. This proposed 730 square foot building will consist of a 200 square foot staff room (101 SF currently); 95 square foot FONZ storage (40 SF currently); 300 square foot stroller storage (277 SF currently, uncovered); and a new 135 square foot table storage room for special events. Access to the service window will be ADA compliant. The rental strollers will be kept cleaner and protected from weathering and excessive sun exposure. The new kiosk will use materials similar to surrounding buildings, such as cedar shake roofing and carder rock cladding. A concrete floor slab utilizing frost-protected shallow foundation construction techniques will be used to minimize site disturbance. The style, materials, details and finishes were selected to match the existing Mane Restaurant and pavilions, the closest permanent buildings contributing to the “Historic District” of the National Zoo. The preliminary and final site and building plans have been evaluated by

the DC SHPO for Section 106 review with a determination of “no adverse affect” signed August 23, 2007.

At the September 12, 2007 Coordinating Committee, this project was forwarded to the Commission with the statement that the project had been coordinated by all agencies participating.

The applicant, the Smithsonian Institution, is not a federal agency for purposes of National Environmental Policy Act review, however, the Smithsonian Institution provided an environmental review of the site locations and their prior disturbed nature.

This project is categorically excluded from further environmental review under NCPC’s Categorical Exclusion Section 8.C, Item 21. The project is small, exists within the disturbed site of prior construction, and the scale and nature of the new building conforms to the context of the zoo area. Moreover, there are no extraordinary circumstances present and the proposal adheres to all conditions of the categorical exclusion.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director