



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
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# ADVISORY REPORT

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| <b>ISSUE DATE:</b><br>05/10/2007  | <b>DOCKET #:</b><br>07-5921 | <b>CRA #:</b><br>CRA 07-8282     |                                 |
| <b>ADDRESS</b><br>CENTRAL PARK<br><br>Central Park Zoo<br>SCENIC LANDMARK |                             | <b>BOROUGH:</b><br><br>MANHATTAN | <b>BLOCK/LOT:</b><br><br>1111/1 |

To the Mayor, the Council, and the Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

This report is issued pursuant to Sections 3020 and 854 (h) of the New York City Charter and Section 25-318 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which require a report from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for certain plans for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition of any improvement or proposed improvement which is owned by the City or is to be constructed upon property owned by the City and is or is to be located on a landmark site or in a historic district or which contains an interior landmark.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, at the Public Meeting of May 8, 2007, following the Public Hearing of the same date, voted to issue a positive report for a proposal for the construction of a Snow Leopard habitat within the Central Park Zoo, as put forward in your application completed on April 12, 2007.

The proposal, as approved, consists of removing an existing River Otter habitat, including a pool and artificial rock outcroppings; and creating a new Snow Leopard habitat and related service areas within the western section of the zoo, including constructing open-air animal viewing enclosures, featuring black wire mesh netting and wood posts; two wood-clad viewing pavilions; a one-story, wood-clad holding building; and open-air animal holding enclosures, with black chain link fencing. The approved work also includes installing wood fencing, separating the public areas and service areas, and pathways, with wood chip, stabilized stone screening and concrete paving. The proposal was shown on twelve presentation boards, labeled CP-1 through CP-11 and CP/PP 1 by the Commission staff and dated (presented) May 8, 2007, all presented at the Public Hearing and Public Meeting.

In reviewing this application, the Commission noted that the zoo is located within the southeastern section of Central Park, an English Romantic style public park designed by Olmsted and Vaux in 1856; and that the zoo was remodeled from a menagerie in 1936 and remodeled again during the 1980s.

With regard to this proposal, the Commission found that the removal of the River Otter habitat will not eliminate any original features of the zoo or park or any significant later alterations; that the proposed holding building, pavilions, fencing, netting and paving will be installed within the existing exhibit and service areas of the zoo, thereby not encroaching on any surrounding parkland; that the proposed holding building will be screened by grade changes and existing and proposed vegetation, therefore only a small portion of this building will be visible from public areas within the zoo and surrounding parkland; that the dark-colored finishes of the proposed holding building's wood cladding and the exhibit and holding enclosure's netting and fencing will help these installations to blend in with the surrounding landscaping and recede from view; that the proposed pavilion will be well scaled to the exhibit area; that

the rustic style of the pavilion will be harmonious with the naturalistic character of this section of the zoo; that the fencing will be simple in design and compatible with the existing fencing throughout the zoo; that the wood chips, stabilized stone screening and concrete paving will be in keeping with paving throughout the zoo; that the work will maintain a predominance of green space, a significant feature of this Scenic Landmark; and that no significant features of the Central Park Scenic Landmark will be eliminated or concealed by the proposed work. Based on these findings, the Commission determined that the work is appropriate to the site and voted to issue a positive report.

PLEASE NOTE: The Landmarks Preservation Commission requests that the final filing drawings for this work be submitted to the Commission staff when they become available.

This permit is issued on the basis of the building and site conditions described in the application and disclosed during the review process. By accepting this permit, the applicant agrees to notify the Commission if the actual building or site conditions vary or if original or historic building fabric is discovered. The Commission reserves the right to amend or revoke this permit, upon written notice to the applicant, in the event that the actual building or site conditions are materially different from those described in the application or disclosed during the review process.

All approved drawings are marked approved by the Commission with a perforated seal indicating the date of approval. The work is limited to what is contained in the perforated documents. Other work or amendments to this filing must be reviewed and approved separately. The applicant is hereby put on notice that performing or maintaining any work not explicitly authorized by this permit may make the applicant liable for criminal and/or civil penalties, including imprisonment and fines. This report constitutes the permit; a copy must be prominently displayed at the site while work is in progress. Please direct inquiries to Bernadette Artus.

Robert B. Tierney  
Chair

cc: Caroline Kane Levy, Deputy Director of Preservation/LPC; Ted Hinz, Goldstone & Hinz Architects P.C.