



Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

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HPC meeting date: 3/4/2019
Ald. Robert Bauman District: 4
Staff reviewer: Tim Askin
PTS #114696 CCF #181652

Property	929 N. WATER ST.	Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
Owner/Applicant	MILWAUKEE COUNTY %BUSINESS MANAGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 929 N WATER ST MILWAUKEE WI 53202	Hoppe Tree Service 6115 W. Blue Mound Rd. Wauwatosa, WI 53213 Phone: (414) 640-8714
Proposal	Remove four horse chestnut trees due to rot and other damage. The subject trees have been assigned the identification numbers of 26, 37, 38, and 50. They are part of a gridded grove of 4 x 9 trees with 36 total horse chestnut trees.	
Staff comments	<p>It is a rare case that a Certificate of Appropriateness is reviewed during a temporary designation, but it has occurred. It is specifically allowed in the city ordinances in section 320-21-13-f.</p> <p>The horse chestnut is native to Greece and the Balkans. It was introduced to England as an ornamental tree in the 16th century and likely imported to North America from there. It is not clear which specific cultivar of the species these trees are. It is not widespread in the US and has traditionally only been used in designed landscapes with very limited spread to a wild state.</p> <p>The Arbor Day foundation describes the species as follows: "Beautiful, 5"-12" oblong clusters of white flowers with a yellow and red tint at their base characterize this large flowering tree perfect for large areas. Leaves are light green as they unfold, emerging dark green at maturity. Upright-oval rounded form with lower branches hanging down. <u>Bark exfoliates on older specimens exposing orange bark underneath.</u> Plant in moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates many soil types. Full sun or partial shade. Grows 50'-75' high, with a 40'-70' spread. (https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?ItemID=1103)</p> <p>Staff does not have the expertise to evaluate the applicant's proposal in a meaningful way. Staff visited the properties on Wednesday and took additional photos for the Commission. The applicant's own report cites a "low" risk to the public factor, but notes that any actual event of tree failure while a person is nearby would be "severe" due to the size of the trees.</p> <p>It is staff's understanding that the Marcus Center's Arborist will be making a visual presentation with his own additional information.</p>	
Recommendation	Staff recommends a HOLD for a second opinion by a certified arborist that specifically addresses remedial actions that would preserve the trees in place can be safely performed.	
Conditions	1. Replanting of the same species in the same location shall be required if permanent designation is granted for the property. There is no point in requiring re-planting until that issue is settled. If permanent designation is granted, new trees must be planted in 2020. The trunk diameter will be specified at that time based on best arboreal practices and product availability.	
Previous HPC action	Temporary designation granted on February 4, 2019. File 181568	

