



Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

LIVING WITH HISTORY

HPC meeting date: 6/1/2020
Ald. Nik Kovac District: 3
Staff reviewer: Tim Askin
PTS #114965 CCF #191945

Property	3133 E. NEWBERRY BL. Lake Park in North Point North
Owner/Applicant	MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARK DEPARTMENT 9480 WATERTOWN PLANK RD WAUWATOSA WI 53226 Lake Park Friends
Proposal	Construct replacement bridge over small ravine at the north end of Lake Park. The bridge will be constructed primarily of pressure-treated lumber. Size is roughly 10' x 60'
Staff comments	<p>The Commission approved the demolition of a 1970s era bridge at this location in January 2019 with the condition that construction of a new bridge begin within two years. Demolition was completed in March 2019. The 1970s bridge was probably already the third generation at the site.</p> <p>The new bridge proposal is a realistic and acceptable option under current bridge construction standards, modern safety requirements, and current building codes. An exact replica or even close copy of the railings found on the early rustic bridges in the park is not realistic due to the arrangement of the guardrails. While we never typically approve visible pressure-treated lumber, other materials are impractical in this use case of a pedestrian wood bridge. This can be mitigated by following the listed conditions. Wood can be stained to a more natural color to obscure the green hue after treatment. Any treated lumber would have to be oriented such that the pock-marked appearance of the treatment incisions would not be visible.</p> <p>Acetylated wood is a preferable option for the decking as it is typically made from a softwood and never has incision marks. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be manufacture for acetylated round timbers. Images of the original bridges suggest that they were built of local softwoods rather than any strongly rot-resistant species found elsewhere in the country. The 1894 Parks Commission report also implies that local wood was used. Cedar would unfortunately not be appropriate.</p>
Recommendation	Recommend HPC Approval with conditions
Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wisconsin Historical Society review is required pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 44.42 and 66.1111. County must submit proof of WHS approval before the COA will be issued.2. Wood should be dry and pressure-treated material may not have a noticeable change in color from natural wood nor may show any of the incisions from the pressure-treating process. The typical green color of chromated copper arsenate treated wood is not appropriate.3. Provide material samples of wood components to staff for approval.4. Consider acetylated wood decking.
Previous HPC action	180975 approved demolition.
Previous Council action	