

Askin, Tim

From: Jeff Bentoff <jeff@bentoff.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 9:05 PM
To: Historic Preservation Commission
Cc: Kovac, Nik
Subject: Letter in Opposition to 200433 Resolution re: Bradford Beach

As a resident of the East Side, I am writing in opposition to 200433 Resolution relating to a Certificate of Appropriateness for constructing a semi-permanent bar and an enclosed seating area, at 2400 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, the Bradford Beach Pavilion, in the North Point North Historic District, for Milwaukee County and Dock Bradford LLC.

This proposed permanent addition of four shipping containers to the pavilion's second level is not in keeping with its historic nature and design features. It is certainly not a temporary addition as cranes are needed to install the containers on the upper deck. This proposal should be reviewed as a permanent addition.

The application says that four 20-foot high-cube containers will be installed on the second floor. Such containers weigh 2.6 tons empty. Adding four containers means 10.4 tons of containers will be installed empty on the second level of a historic structure.

HPC needs to ensure that this historic structure can handle this very significant amount of added weight, in addition to the weight of equipment and people. Ironically, Milwaukee County has closed two historic pedestrian bridges in the area, including one that provides access to the Bradford Beach Pavilion itself from Wahl Avenue over Lincoln Memorial Drive, because of alleged concerns that people walking on the bridges could harm those structures. Those claims are questionable at best (for example, the county refuses to accept the report by Lake Park Friend's engineers, who say the closed Ravine Road Bridge could handle people now). Yet the county sees no problem to adding more than 10 tons of permanent weight to this historic structure.

Given the county's lack of preservation stewardship over these two historic pedestrian bridges -- allowing the structures to allegedly deteriorate to the point they feel they need to be closed -- HPC needs to ensure that the county doesn't harm the pavilion through this plan.

If HPC is inclined to allow this major addition to the historic pavilion, I encourage HPC to condition such a decision on a requirement for submission of engineering plans that would prove the pavilion can handle the added weight being proposed. HPC should have professional staff, such as the City Engineer's office, confirm the accuracy of such information provided.

I also ask that the HPC take action to compel the county to make any repairs that may be necessary to the pavilion pedestrian bridge over Lincoln Memorial ASAP. It is critical that that the county isn't allowed to keep the historic pedestrian bridge closed without making any needed repairs. By doing so, the bridge could deteriorate further if it is truly in need of repairs and ultimately need to be demolished because of the county's neglect.

Thank you,

Jeff Bentoff