

AGENDA # 3

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRESENTED: 5/9/22

TITLE: 1245 Spaight St - Exterior Alteration in the
Third Lake Ridge Hist. Dist. -
Amendment to previously approved
materials for construction of front
porch; 6th Ald. Dist.

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: 5/13/22

ID NUMBER: 70870

Members present were: Richard Arnesen, Katie Kaliszewski, David McLean, and Maurice Taylor. Excused were: Anna Andrzejewski and Ald. Arvina Martin.

SUMMARY:

Paul Creswell, registering in support and wishing to speak

Emily Reynolds, registering in support and wishing to speak

Bailey discussed the request for an amendment to a previously issued CoA to construct a new front porch. On November 15, 2021, the Landmarks Commission approved using wood for the materials for the new front porch, and the applicants are now requesting to use a wood alternative. She said that on this type of porch, one would typically see wood deck boards facing out with the ends exposed.

McLean said that in reviewing the material samples, he was struck by the depth of the woodgrain texture. On the smooth side of the board, he was surprised by the linear striping and had expected to see a more uniform color tone.

Bailey said that this week she received a new submittal for a different project proposing Azek decking, but instead of the woodgrain texture, it had a wire-brushed appearance to look like painted deck boards. She said that product had more of a smooth appearance as opposed to a faux wood grain.

McLean said that depending on the type of grain of the wood species, wood boards have figuring, but it is more organic and random than what we are seeing on the smooth side of the proposed materials. He said that if we are looking at comparing a substitute product to wood, he is not sure if this is the product to use. He emphasized how linear and geometric the smooth side looks in its striping.

Bailey summarized discussion at the last commission meeting about whether this is an appropriate wood substitute, and commissioners were concerned about the faux woodgrain and what the boards look like in the cross section. Arnesen asked whether the applicants were proposing to use the woodgrain side or the smooth side of the sample. Bailey said that the applicants had previously said the smooth side is too smooth and unsafe, so they wanted to have a woodgrain texture. She looked at the product page for the Azek wire-brushed boards and said there was less of a repeated pattern of the wood texture, so it looks like a weathered wood board. She said the cross section is the same as the proposed boards. She said that the Landmarks Commission needs to assess whether the proposed product is an appropriate wood replacement.

Kaliszewski said that in looking at the proposed materials in person, it wasn't even close to other samples the commission has approved. She said that the woodgrain is so pronounced, and the material was not as good as other samples they have approved.

Taylor said that he liked the proposed product.

Paul Creswell said that the product meets the Landmarks Commission's requirements. They thought the product with wire brushing might be capped on the ends. They said the proposed product is available in tongue and groove, is accessible and affordable, and diverts plastics from the landfill. They asked the commission to consider climate change over aesthetics.

Arnesen asked if the applicant was okay with using either the smooth side of the proposed sample or the wire-brushed boards. Creswell said that they are not okay with the smooth boards because they will be dangerous and slippery, so they want something with texture. They said they might be okay with the wire-brushed finish if it isn't capped.

Emily Reynolds said they were hoping to use materials that were sustainable. Wood would be more maintenance, and a product that lasts longer is important to them.

Taylor asked what McLean thought about the wire-brushed boards. McLean said that without seeing the product in person, he would be nervous to approve it just based on pictures. He said that he would likely prefer it over the proposed product because it doesn't have a faux woodgrain, and he wasn't keen on the strong linear presence of the smooth side of the proposed product.

Bailey said she requested a material sample of the wire-brushed boards and suggested that staff could approve the materials after reviewing in person if it seems like an adequate wood substitute. She will assess whether the color goes through the cross section and any appearance of a woodgrain texture. Arnesen and Kaliszewski said that was fine. Taylor agreed and asked if the applicants could come back before the commission if staff denies use of the wire-brushed boards. Bailey confirmed that the applicants can come back before the commission.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Taylor, seconded by Arnesen, to approve the request for the Certificate of Appropriateness with the condition that staff review and approve the wire-brushed appearance alternative product. The motion passed by voice vote/other.