

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> June 25, 2018
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>58</b> <b>Roll Call No.</b> <b><u>18-1120 18-1121</u></b> <b>Communication No.</b> <b><u>18-321</u></b> <b>Submitted by:</b> <b>Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Hearing on the designation of the Walker Playground Shelter, currently known as Columbus Park Shelter, as a local landmark and on the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations to the shelter.

**SYNOPSIS:**

- The Park and Recreation Department is seeking landmark status for the shelter at Columbus Park in accordance with Chapter 58 of the City Code.
- The Landmark Review Board (LRB) and the Plan and Zoning Commission recommend approval of the nomination.
- The LRB recommends conditional approval for issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow exterior alterations to the shelter.
- Staff recommends approval of designating the subject building as a local landmark and issuance of an issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations to the shelter subject to the conditions recommended by the LRB.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The subject building sits along Indianola Avenue in the southwest portion of the park. Built around 1931, the building consists of two (2) masonry “cubes” separated by an open breezeway, spanned by a common hipped roof.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is planning improvements at the park including renovation of the shelter. The scope of work for the shelter includes: 1) converting the breezeway to a four-season assembly space; 2) repairing the roof, fascia and eaves; 3) restoring window openings; and 4) installing an energy efficient climate control system. Much of the original building materials would be exposed within the interior spaces. The project would create a space with a 60-seat capacity that would be available for rent. The estimated project cost is \$450,000. Construction is anticipated to start this summer and finish in the fall of 2018.
- The Columbus Park Shelter was the first park shelter constructed by the City of Des Moines Playground Commission (predecessor to the modern-day Parks and Recreation Department). As such, it served as a prototype for subsequent park shelters built throughout the City.

- Columbus Park (formerly Walker Playground) was the City of Des Moines' first park with a planned playground. Prior to this time, the City's playgrounds were informal gathering spaces, lacking in equipment for recreational use. In the case of the Walker Playground, the land was originally used as a lumberyard and was owned by prominent local citizen Buffon Stewart (B.S.) Walker. For reasons unknown, the lumberyard gradually shrunk in size and by the 1920s the vacated land was already in use as a playground. This predated the City's formal acquisition of the property in 1929. Following the City's acquisition, planning of a formal park began. Original plans show the shelter in its current location; additionally, it is the only remaining structure in Columbus Park from this period.
- Columbus Park and the shelter have been a gathering place for residents of Des Moines' south side and were instrumental in the development of Des Moines' Italian-American community.
- The Columbus Park shelter was one (1) of Des Moines architect Amos Emery's earliest commissions. Throughout his career, Amos' work and civic contributions had a substantial impact on the City of Des Moines as it exists today.
- On May 8, 2018, the Landmark Review Board (LRB) unanimously approved a recommendation that the "Walker Playground Shelter" be designated a local Landmark. The Board is comprised of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Urban Design Review Board. The Board meets as needed to review nominations and proposed alternations to landmarks not located within a local historic district.
- The LRB also reviewed the proposed renovations and recommended by a 11-1 vote, that the City Council issue a Certificate of Appropriateness subject to the following conditions:
  1. A 6-over-6 divided light window pattern shall be used as illustrated in the original drawings of the building.
  2. Windows and doors shall utilize clear, non-reflective glass.
  3. The existing soffit material shall be evaluated to determine if it consists of a beadboard design or "V" groove design.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 11, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-0989](#)

Action: [On](#) the designation of the Walker Playground Structure, currently known as Columbus Park Shelter, as a local landmark and on the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations of the shelter, (6-25-18). Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Landmark Review Board

Date: May 8, 2018

Resolution Number: 20-2018-4.01

Action: Recommend designating the Walker Playground Shelter at Columbus Park a local landmark, by a vote of 12-0; and issuance of a certificate of appropriateness to allow renovation of the shelter subject to a 6-over-6 divided light window pattern being used as illustrated in the original drawings of the building, the windows and doors utilizing clear non-reflective glass, and the existing soffit material being evaluated to determine if it consists of a beadboard design or “V” groove design, by a vote of 11-1.

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: May 17, 2018

Resolution Number: 20-2018-4.01

Action: Recommend designating the Walker Playground Shelter at Columbus Park a local landmark, by a vote of 11-0.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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