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December 11, 2013

Attention: Matthew E. Huber

Rizzetta & Company
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Tampa, FL 33614
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Dear Matthew,

Reference: Final Inspection of Golf Cart Bridges for The Groves Golf & Country Club

On Thursday, December 5th 2013, I conducted my follow-up final inspection of the subject bridges. The purpose of the inspection was to verify the recent maintenance work done on the bridges were per our recommendations as specified in our past report dated 12/14/12, a copy of which I have attached for reference. The following are my observations:

1. Only a fraction of the recommended deck planks and curbs identified as severely checked were replaced. (e.g. Approximately only 5 of the recommended 375 boards on bridge No. 6 were replaced) Major portions of the deck planks that we believe are a hazard remain in place.
2. Bridges 4, 5 and 6, which we listed as high priority for deck plank replacement, were given low priority when installing new deck planks.
3. None of the new deck planks and curbs has been sealed to protect them from the sun/moisture cycle, which is what necessitated the replacement of the original planks.
4. The wear deck planks on bridge No. 6 were removed as recommended.





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5. Based on Rich Unger's verbal assurance, 4.5" long screws were used to fasten the new 3" thick deck planks. This allows the proper embedment length necessary of 1.5" into the supporting member below. The majority of the screws were installed correctly; however, some screws were left too high, causing a tripping hazard, and others were counter sunk, creating a pocket for water to pond. This may cause the screws to rust.



6. Some of the new deck planks were butted up against each other tight. The planks, however, will shrink over time, widening these gaps which will allow proper drainage.



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7. Our recommendation of pressure cleaning, sanding and grinding, and application of an oil based preservative sealant on the exposed surfaces was not done. Lack of an on-going maintenance program (i.e. cleaning and sealing every 2 to 3 years) has led to the current condition of the deck surface which is caused by the cyclical exposure to moisture and ultra violet rays from the sun.
8. Overall, the condition of the deck planks has worsened since our last inspection 1 year ago, with major checks and splits in the deck visible. We strongly encourage the Board to revisit our report dated 12/14/12, and obtain price quotes from a qualified timber bridge restoration contractor for each of the 4 alternatives we provide.





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Regards,

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Bridge Engineer
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Attachment: Golf Cart Inspection and Evaluation Report, Dated 12/14/12

c. Rich Unger, The Groves CDD Operations Manager