

[EXTERNAL] People Mover Lighting project in Grand Circus Park Historic District

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To: Garrick Landsberg <landsbergg@detroitmi.gov>

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Dear Garrick – Thank you again for taking the time to discuss the DPM lighting initiative with Kristine and me last week. While I was sharing my thoughts with you both from the perspective of the Grand Circus Park Conservancy on the wider project plan, I thought it would be helpful to memorialize the issues specific to the David Whitney, on behalf of its ownership, as well as the overall understanding we have reached with the DDP relative to the installation there. Please feel free to share this into the record for the benefit of the Commission members and staff. I would have come to speak on my own behalf but have an unavoidable conflict on the evening of the 10th. That said, Kristine can appear at least remotely.

As we discussed, we understand that the HDC's sole criteria in evaluating this or any project like it is whether it is historically appropriate in accordance with the NPS standards as applied to our district. As such, while we appreciate that this evaluation across the wider section of the People Mover track that runs through the GCP historic district may relate solely to the standards applied to public infrastructure generally, we believe an additional consideration must be applied to the portion of the system that is in front of – and indeed physically connected to – the David Whitney Building. Specifically, we view the Grand Circus Park People Mover Station as so physically integrated into the façade of the David Whitney, that any modifications or enhancements to that station or the portion of the guideway and supports that are directly in front of it, must be evaluated with a view to what impact they would have to the overall appearance of the David Whitney Building itself.

It is with this standard in mind that we raised concerns with DPM management and staff, as well as with the DDP about the plans to add column downlighting to the two columns that are between Woodward and Washington Blvd on Park Avenue, that essentially flank the front entrance to the building. Our concerns go to the degree to which any such lighting program might detract from or significantly alter the carefully planned (and HDC approved) lighting and canopy program for the David Whitney, for which we recently completed the installation. Both DPM and DDP have been very understanding of this concern, and based on numerous discussions, we have reached an agreement relative to this installation that our ownership can support. Specifically,

- The light fixtures to be installed on these two columns (and ideally throughout the historic district) will have a lower overall profile and scale than those used on the Financial District columns to account for the much shorter distance between the guideway and the sidewalk in the Grand Circus Park district.
- At each of the two columns in front of the David Whitney only three lights will be installed, with those lights facing Grand Circus Park as well as the East and West faces of the columns. No lights placed on the David Whitney facing side of the columns.
- All lighting will be at or below 3000k soft white
- Lighting will not change colors or in any way pulsate.
- The columns themselves will be cleaned and cracks sealed before being lit including the removal of all bird droppings.
- All current gaps which all birds to perch will be sealed off, and the light fixtures themselves will be placed high and close enough to the guideway to prohibit birds from perching on them.
- Installers will devise a way to more adequately conceal the wires that run from the guideway itself to the underside with conduit or some other appropriate means.

In addition to the foregoing, the DDP has offered that we view the installation on these two columns within the district as what amounts to a temporary installation, pending review of the final product, and that if in spite of the

foregoing measures, either the HDC or ownership of the David Whitney has material concerns with the overall effect, they would be prepared to remove them from the columns in question.

Obviously it is our hope that with the foregoing measures, that later removal will not be necessary. That said, we very much appreciate this accommodation and on the basis of it and the other above measure, are supportive of the application. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

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