

July 8, 2020

Jennifer Swanson
City of Minneapolis – Public Works
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

RE: Peavey Plaza Mitigation, 1111 Nicollet Mall

Jennifer Swanson,

On June 11, 2020, the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department received the 100% Design Development Package for Peavey Plaza as part of the agreed upon mitigation measures in 2018. As a consulting party, CPED staff and a member of the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) have reviewed the documents included on the City's website and can provide the following comments. The interpretative documents overall are very helpful. The HALS documentation is a robust improvement from fifteen years ago.

More specifically regarding the interpretative signage:

- Although the imagery selected for the east patio wall mounted graphics is engaging, graphics alone without any sense of historic context is neither interpretive nor fully accessible. Digital interpretation integrated into this exhibit would be helpful, tied to a city web page with a QR code or something similar. The digital narrative (accessible to screen readers) should describe the images, when they were taken, and why these themes are important to Peavey Plaza's history. If hosted along with digital narratives tied to the reader rail exhibits on the Nicollet Overlook, Peavey Plaza's significance will be accessible to a much broader audience. This is especially important considering the degree of alterations made to historic fabric to accommodate access to the historic property.
- Instructions for care and maintenance of the stainless steel, high-pressure laminate, and bronze used on all of the interpretive elements should be incorporated into the Operations and Maintenance Manual either by reference or, preferably, as an appendix. Information about care and maintenance of the panels can be found in the interpretive manual (see page 17 of the PDF or page 12 of the printed document).

Regarding the Operations and Maintenance Manual:

- Cleaning of historic concrete (page 146 of PDF or page 125 of the printed document) needs to more strongly recommend against abrasive and chemical treatments unless done by a preservation/conservation professional. This could be as simple as adding a bolded sentence into each of these bullet points.
- If the City does not already have a standard form for documenting recommended inspection, cleaning, and maintenance, a form specific to Peavey Plaza should be included as part of this Operations & Maintenance Manual. Not only will it provide adequate documentation that the work has been completed but maintaining these records (and holding property stewards responsible) demonstrates the City is committed to preserving the historic property.

Finally, we have a few concerns at the use of "Peavey Park Plaza" and "Peavey Plaza Park" from both a historic perspective and its inconsistency.

If you have any questions, please let me know at 612-357-8104.

Sincerely,



Andrea Burke
Supervisor, Historic Preservation
Development Services Division

Cc: Barbara Howard, HPC Vice-Chair