From:	Hatala, Carlen
To:	Elmer, Linda
Subject:	FW: Statement from Donna Pogliano forr Sept 15 HPC meeting, re: Pryor Well agenda item.
Date:	Tuesday, September 08, 2015 7:07:54 PM

Please add this to the file on the Pryor Avenue Well.

Carlen

From: dpogliano@vzw.blackberry.net [mailto:dpogliano@vzw.blackberry.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 5:45 PM
To: Hatala, Carlen
Subject: Statement from Donna Pogliano forr Sept 15 HPC meeting, re: Pryor Well agenda item.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: RKnepper@aol.com
Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2015 12:45:51 -0400
To: <rknepper@aol.com>; <dpogliano@vzw.blackberry.net>
Subject: For Sept 15 HPC meeting.

My name is Donna Pogliano. You may remember that in 2014, I received a Cream of the Cream City Award for the restoration of the Pryor Avenue Iron Well. Paul was instrumental in nominating the project because he was so proud of what he and I and the people of Bay View were able to accomplish together.

I am here to ask that the Commission refuse to approve the COA application of the Bay View Historical Society to put their landmark plaque on the iron door of the well. My reasons are these:

1. Any signage on the well, on the paving, or near the well area will destroy the historic accuracy of the restoration.

I was talking with Paul Jakubovich by email on June 13, 2014 in regard to what, if any, kind of historic marker we should put on the well.

We had just decided to replace the bubbler backsplash with a custom made bronze cast piece, which would conform to the outline of the scar on the unrestored north side of the well monument which indicated that a backsplash used to be there. We decided it should simply identify the well by name and year, "Pryor Avenue Iron Well 1882."
We had briefly considered a State historical marker which would display the history of the well, but fianancing it was a problem and anything above ground would require permits and an organization to commit to maintain it in perpetuity, and none of the local non-profits I contacted, including the Bay View Historical Society, would agree to that, so we abandoned the idea. Paul mentioned that he was involved in working on a citywide historic marker program similar to those in London, although he said he wondered if any marker for the well in addition to the bubbler backsplash was really necessary at that point, and I said:

"I think not. We just got rid of a whole bunch of signage at the well. And I think it would be somewhat redundant to have two markers that say basically the same thing."

And Paul said: "Agreed."

I wrote back: "I like the idea of putting something back that used to be there rather than adding something new that was never there. I think that's the right thing to do."

And Paul said: "Yes. And keeping the site uncluttered is important because that's the way it was for most of its history."

So it seems clear to me that if Paul were here, he would oppose putting anything on or near the well that is extraneous and unnecessary, nothing that wasn't originally there.

2. The inside of the well door, which is a historically accurate part of the well, repainted, but not altered in any way, bears hand written raised lettering inside, representing the ironworkers who made the door and proudly signed their work. It reads: "Iron Workers 11/13/94." Drilling holes and placing screws will destroy the authenticity of the well door.

3. Any marker bearing the name of any organization sets a precedent for future signage for other organizations, such as non-profit donors or others who would seek also to be recognized.

Furthermore, the City of Milwaukee's landmark status goes all the way back to 1987, not 2013 (as does BVHS's), and the City never put a plaque on the well, nor should they.

If any organization gets the right to put up signage, how could the Commission deny that right to any other organization, and if they all get the right to put up signage, we'll be back where we started before the restoration began, with too much signage. It would break my heart to see all our painstaking work, everything Paul and I went through to do a historically accurate restoration DESTROYED after more than two years of hard work, planning, decision-making, negotiating, arranging financing, worry and stress.

4. The proportionate footprint of a BVHS landmark plaque on the well door is considerably larger than such a footprint on a building such a store, theatre or church. Rather than an unobtrusive small marker in a large space, it will be a disproportionately large visual focal point, distracting from the simplicity and beauty of the well's design.

5. I think Tony Zielinski is uninformed as to who restored the well and where the money came from. I think that if he understood that the Bay View Historical Society played no role in the restoration except to act as the non-profit fiscal agent at no cost to them, and the restoration was actually paid for by other community non-profits, such as the Bay View Neighborhood Association and the Bay View Community Fund out of the profits of the Bay View Bash, and by a large number of private donors representing the people of Bay View, he might reconsider his unconditional support of the Bay View Historical Society's request.

I understand his desire to support his constituents, but the people who work with the Bay View Neighborhood Association and who put on the Bash are constituents too, and they're going to wonder why an organization that contributed zero dollars gets to put their name on the well, landmark identification notwithstanding, while they contributed to the effort and their names are nowhere on the well.

6. I am a charter life member of the Bay View Historical Society. They aren't "the other guy" and this is not adversarial. The reasoning that ALL the sites designated by the BVHS as landmarks get a plaque affixed is simply unreasonable given the relatively large footprint it will make on such a small structure. BVHS wants to be identified with the well but they refuse to take any responsibility for it. I have served on the board, donated thousands of dollars to BVHS and worked tirelessly as a volunteer for decades for the historical society, running events, getting money and furniture donated by others, arranging for the replacement of the picture window in the kitchen with the historically accurate design that I suggested, working with friends to scrape and paint the Beulah Brinton house and finally, at their insistence, paying a contractor over $6000 to finish it out of my own pocket, yet when I asked them to contribute to the well fund as other Bay View non-profits were doing, they declined to do so.

I have been taking care of the well since the restoration, weeding the paver area, sweeping the leaves and debris out of the curb, adjusting the bubbler flow, and taking personal responsibility for the appearance of the well area. But I won't be able to do these chores forever. Seeking a stable organization to look after the well, I felt the Bay View Historical Society, with their proximity to the well

and the fact that it was one of their landmarks, was a logical choice.

I emailed all the BVHS board members asking that the organization take responsibility for maintaining the grounds around the well and asking that they cover the cost of cleaning and re-waterproofing the well every two years at a cost of $500 per cleaning, and they ignored my request. In early August, I finally had the work done by Advanced Restoration, and paid $450 of the cost myself.

7. Historic preservation and historic accuracy should trump political correctness. The alderman should have said "no", Milwaukee Water Works should have said "no" despite the alderman's uninformed and unconditional support of the BVHS, and now the Commission, which is charged with the responsibility of preserving architectural history needs to say "no."

Thank you.