

From: [Elmer, Linda](#)
To: [MacDonald, Terry;](#)
CC:
Subject: FW: Comments on Public Art Project / Harp Lights
Date: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 8:13:10 AM
Attachments:

From: Carroll, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2009 9:23 AM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: FW: Comments on Public Art Project / Harp Lights
Importance: High

[Linda:](#)

I'm forwarding to you comments I received from Jennifer Burkel of Gilbert, Arizona regarding the Wisconsin Avenue public art project (File #081630). She would like her comments to be included in the file.

[Thanks](#)

Jim Carroll
City of Milwaukee
Legislative Reference Bureau
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From: Jennifer Burkel [mailto:jburkel@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 7:40 PM
To: Carroll, Jim

Subject: Comments on Public Art Project / Harp Lights

Importance: High

I have some comments which may benefit the committee. These comments are based on my formal art background which consists of B.A. in Fine Art and Graphic Design, and twenty years of professional design and marketing experience.

This is an incredibly creative and important project, but, I'm not impressed with the kiosk housing on the harp lights. They are obviously awkward and cumbersome, which in turn takes away from the linear beauty of the harp lights and streetscape. The boxy kiosks look antiquated and unsophisticated. A new housing would ensure the complete success of this project.

I have no problem with the visuals inside as discussed at committee. The visual in the kiosk or "the flapping" as mentioned "is an old" technology. Arguably it is the first depiction of moving signage or the fore-father of the video. The artist has chosen to utilize this vehicle in her project it seems for a very specific reason.

In my mind, the artist is focusing on movement while integrating the Milwaukee community. (i.e. walking being a mode of movement and transportation.) As we know this was the primary purpose of this artwork back in the 1980's when it was solicited. (Getting people walking) The artist was very creative in her message here.

Since this project first initiated in the 1980's, I would imagine there are other solutions available today to ensure a contemporary housing. If you use an old way to look at new things, it is vital that it include a contemporary component. This is especially important when featuring our city.

I believe today, in the year 2009, the kiosk housing could be revisited, and this could be a real win for modern art in the City of Milwaukee.

No one wants to see old done old. Especially in this age of technology when you are trying to showcase our city in the best light possible.

Show the slickest technology to depict the grandfather of technology, now that has real significance. If this amazing project could be tweaked just a bit, it could make all the difference to the art world and the city of Milwaukee.

I respectfully submit these comments for serious consideration of this project. Going the extra mile to do this project due diligence is vital to all those who live, work and visit our city. It could be the difference between a "that's nice" and "that's phenomenal". A memorable difference!