

20 August 2012

MEMORANDUM

From: KENNETH CLEIN, AIA LEED AP

To: AARON SEAGRAVES, ADMINISTRATOR
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

RE: **DREISEITL SCULPTURE PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION
ANN ARBOR MUNICIPAL CENTER**

Subject: *Project Status Update*



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Despite some weather, technical and personnel challenges in late spring and early summer, the sculpture has been operating consistently since early July and is essentially complete.

The remaining work items include:

- Installation of LED lighting on sculpture (voluntary addition to the project scope)
- Minor punch list items
- Providing the operations & maintenance manual
- Training of the designated City maintenance staff

I fully understand and share the PAC's frustration in completing the artwork and will not make excuses. It should have been completed by now, but I will offer some explanation for the benefit of the PAC, City and Community to understand the delay.

We are pushing to complete the work and turn over the sculpture to the City in the next thirty days.

Weather

- Last winter it was agreed that our team couldn't make progress on the sculpture until spring of 2012, when water could be flowing without worry of freezing. While we were all surprised by the early warm weather, we did not have confidence that it would remain above freezing until late March Early April (this is Michigan after all).

Subsequently, once water was flowing, the region's draught conditions and high temperatures were causing the fountain to run dry, sometimes in a matter of days.

Technical Difficulties

- Due to the unanticipated water loss, the Design-Fabrication Team, in consultation with the City analyzed the anticipated evaporation rate. We also reviewed the construction for potential leaks and discovered a couple of minor areas that required resealing.

Along with redirecting more rain water flow from Justice Building roof, this seems to have alleviated the issue with drying out. However it should be noted that Herr Dreiseitl, intentionally designed this as a rainwater sculpture, with the understanding that it would be dry at times.

- Our team also replaced all the pumps and filters that serve the blue glass pearls to address a problem with debris accumulating in the flow-way and getting drawn into the water supply. These small pumps and filters were becoming clogged with the filter material from cigarette butts and causing the system to shut down.

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The new larger bore pump has only one filter to clean and replace (instead of 6) and does not clog as easily. A manifold was installed in the sculpture to allow control of individual flows to each pearl. Since this upgrade was completed the flow to the pearls has been working well.

- Several minor modifications to components of the sculpture have been made to aid in the on-going maintenance. These include adding handles and reworking the attachment of some pieces to facilitate easier access to the equipment and reservoirs.

Personnel

- Our Team's locally based water and lighting technology sub-consultant, CAE, is very knowledgeable, but has a very limited number of staff capable of completing this project. While this is an ongoing management challenge for the Team, we are getting much better performance and are just about there.



END OF MEMORANDUM