

From: Jack Dempsey <jack@jdbooks.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 11:20 AM

To: James Fidler <james.fidler@downtowndetroit.org>

Subject: Re: Capitol Park Project to Historic District Commission - Tomorrow

James, thanks very much for the update and for sharing the design deck. I do see how it attempts to maintain heritage education as a goal, which is vital to a site that is imbued with such a grand and unique history. Of course, the original plan was truly awesome, but the reality of unaffordability presumably has prompted this rethinking and scaling back. I do very much support the continued use of text from the 1837 Constitution as a hallmark of the park.

I have only one real piece of input: behind the State coat of arms/seal underneath the Mason statue are his remains. I don't see that fact reflected. Taking the statue down and placing it on the ground where it can be engaged with seems not inappropriate, and replacement with another sculpture atop the base isn't necessarily inappropriate. Shouldn't, however, the redesign somehow tell people about Mason's final resting place, tastefully and appropriately? I'm sure Public Design can achieve that without undermining the other aspects of the plan. I'm afraid this was a failure of the last plan, resulting in skateboarding across the cement in front of what is really a gravesite. I'd hate to see this kind of history repeated.

Speaking of which, what is to happen with the artifacts removed from the park and placed in storage, the Capitol maquette and the new State historical marker?

Best personal regards,

Jack