



[EXTERNAL] Deteoit thermal project opposition

From Biljana Lanier <biljanalanier@gmail.com>

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To Historic District Commission (Staff) <hdc@detroitmi.gov>

Re: Detroit Thermal Application in the Lafayette Park Historic District

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am a resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood. I am writing to state my strong opposition to Detroit Thermal's application for a project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. I oppose the proposed project because it would irrevocably damage my neighborhood's historic landscape, which is a central component of my neighborhood's National Historic Landmark designation.

It seems odd that Detroit thermal has given special consideration and timing on the agenda whereas the rules and timing for submission to the DHC seem much more stringent for everyone else.

Detroit thermal was specifically asked to meet with all stakeholders in Mies subdivision- NOBODY WAS EVER CONTACTED BY DETROIT THERMAL. This does not give anyone a confidence that we are dealing with reputable and honest company that considered damage to the historic neighborhood that will ensure due to their digging .

The supposedly new proposal to DHC is basically the same one that was presented in April , which was fuzzy bird- view -drawing with no details . This time it has a few more details, all indicating tremendous damage to our 60 year old historical landscape that is an integral part of our living space , known to the rest of the world and on the list of significant sites to visit in Detroit.

It is my hope that DHC would NOT accept proposal like that without requesting extremely detailed plans for digging/ damage and remediation ! Accepting this proposal as is would be in contrast to ALL other proposals that were presented at April meeting where commissioners were dissecting every possible most minute detail of every proposal , and rightfully so.

It seems to me that Detroit Thermal may have some advantage over everyone else, given their behavior - not communicating and sliding the project under the radar thinking that it will go unnoticed.

This proposed project would generate a significant adverse effect on the historic landscape of my neighborhood. Detroit Thermal acknowledges that the project will kill and damage mature trees, shrubs, and planting beds that define our landscape. The project plans to convert the most sensitive and most beloved portion of our historic landscape into a work site. The work area impacts dozens of mature trees, dozens of shrubs, countless flowers and ground-covering plants, and raised beds that makeup our community garden. Detroit Thermal's plans fail to provide adequate tree protection. Detroit Thermal's

own plans identify 47 mature trees in the project area and propose removing mature trees, shrubs, and raised beds in our community garden.

The plans submitted for this project by Detroit Thermal demonstrate its lack of understanding and respect for my neighborhood's historic status. This lacking is also demonstrated by Detroit Thermal's work to date in my neighborhood. Despite promising to meet with our neighborhood after the public hearing on May 14th, Detroit Thermal developed and submitted new plans with no input or engagement from me or my neighborhood. Detroit Thermal has been working in my neighborhood for more than nine months. During that time, it has cut down most of a mature magnolia tree, damaged shrubs and flowers, and damaged an original bench near the playground.

I am also concerned that the project could damage the historic character of our neighborhood in other ways, including by installing new steam vents and conducting deep excavation near the foundations of our historic homes. I have no confidence that the impact on our historic neighborhood was considered in the development of these plans.

I am asking that the Detroit Historic District Commission reject Detroit Thermal's application, which is not historically appropriate, to prevent it from irreparably harming the Lafayette Park Historic District.

Thank you kindly for your time and your commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and preserving the city's historic places.

Sincerely,

Biljana Lanier
1416 Nicolet Place
Detroit

Sent from my iPhone