



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: November 4, 1993

SUBJECT: Swim Passes at Barton Springs Pool

I am requesting authorization to issue passes to those individuals who, at the age of 85, still love and enjoy the waters at Barton Springs Pool. Precedent has been established with the City recognizing these citizens who are "devotees" of Barton Springs by granting them free lifetime swimming privileges. This has occurred approximately half a dozen times in the last thirty years. Since waiver of a City fee is involved, City Council approval has been required in each specific instance.

A pass good for 50 swims costs \$25 for senior citizens. The 50 swims may be taken at any time, at the discretion of the purchaser. Since no multi-swim pass covers a specific time frame, it is difficult to specify the exact fiscal impact of this action. However, the cost is believed to be negligible with no negative consequences to the Parks and Recreation budget anticipated.

Your approval of this policy change is recommended.



Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

MJH:kvw



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: November 4, 1993

SUBJECT: Hillside Theatre Concept

The August 8, 1992 Bond Election included funding to renovate the Zilker Hillside Theatre which has, for the last 30 years, provided outdoor entertainment for the community. Countless families have spread their blankets on the grassy slope to enjoy an evening of homegrown talent. The theatre is in need of repair and must be brought into compliance with the current City Code. Every year the structure has received temporary repairs but, after this summer's theatre season, a comprehensive renovation is planned. The renovation will be complete for the 1995 summer season.

Following the Parks Board's design review procedure, I am submitting for your approval the concept of renovating the Zilker Hillside Theatre. The conceptual plan is to repair the stage, dressing areas and backstage facilities with \$350,000 approved by the voters. An architectural consultant has been hired to complete a feasibility analysis and master plan. A needs analysis has been conducted to determine the physical requirements of the performing users groups. Although the master plan and user needs envision a full renovation, the current budget will be adequate for repair of the stage and limited dressing room space. Accessibility improvements for the slope and full replacement of the second story loft will be funded in future bond elections.

The renovation will not expand the current area of impervious cover and all Code precautions, including the SOS Ordinance, will be observed to prevent impacts to the surrounding park and pool.

In later meetings, I will present for your review the more detailed schematic plan and design development plan.

I recommend your approval of the concept of renovating the Zilker Hillside Theatre.


Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: November 4, 1993

SUBJECT: Dedication of Library Site at Dick Nichols Park

The August 1992 Bond Election included funding for the acquisition, design and construction of the Oak Hill Branch Library. Sale of the library bonds has not been approved in the Capital Budget, but there has been an interest in securing land for the library site. A 12 acre site in Dick Nichols Park is proposed for the library.

The size of the library site is determined by the new provisions of the Land Development Code. The library will be approximately 8,000 square feet, with future expansion to 15,000 square feet; additional space is required for parking. In order to comply with the limitations on impervious cover, a maximum of 15% in the Edwards Recharge zone, approximately 12 acres is required.


As illustrated in the attached map, Dick Nichols Park is a 156 acre tract that is regular in shape, except for a narrow northern panhandle. The panhandle is separated from the main body of the park by a constricted neck of land, which is further separated by a berm forming the a detention pond in the northeast portion of the park. All the park facilities which are planned or in development are in the southern area of the park. The proposed library site in the northern panhandle, which will not be an integral part of Dick Nichols Park.

The park has access from Beckett Road on the western boundary and, in the future, will have additional access when Davis Lane is built. The northern panhandle has access on Convict Hill Road.

The Parks and Recreation Department has worked with Library Department planners and architectural consultants to determine that sufficient impervious cover credit will remain for all future park development, after dedication of a library site. Following construction of the new pool, with bathhouse and parking, there will be approximately 3 acres of allowable impervious coverage for future development.

Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code provides that dedicated parkland may be used for other public purposes upon a finding that there is feasible and prudent alternative, and that the project includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land. Additionally, a public hearing must be held to consider local preferences on the issue. On November 18, 1993 the City Council is scheduled to set a public hearing to be held on the suggested date of December 16.

I recommend approval of the dedication of approximately 12 acres of land in Dick Nichols Park for library purposes.



Michael J. Heltz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Convict Hill

PROPOSED OAK HILL BRANCH LIBRARY

THE VILLAGE AT
WESTERN OAKS

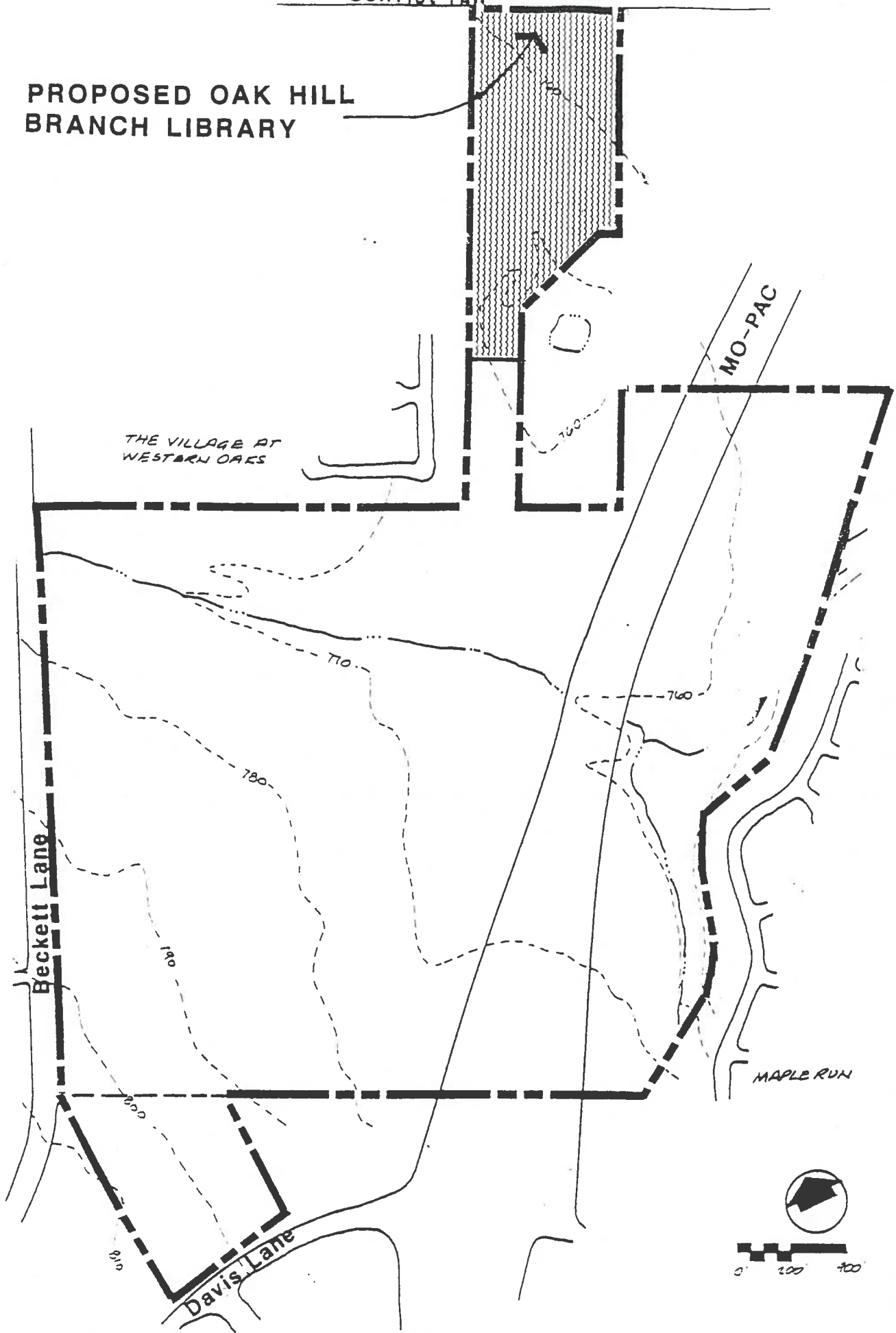
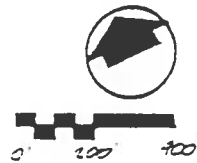
MO-PAC

DICK NICHOLS PARK

Beckett Lane

Davis Lane

MAPLE RUN





M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Parks and Recreation Board

FROM: Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: November 4, 1993

SUBJECT: Proposed Skateboard Park

On October 18, 1993 the City Council Economic Development Subcommittee reviewed a proposed ordinance prohibiting the use of skateboards, roller skates and similar devices on sidewalks of East Sixth Street, West Sixth Street, Congress Avenue in the downtown business areas, and on Guadalupe Street near the University of Texas.

The ordinance was drafted in response to complaints from businesses and pedestrians who report skateboards and rollerblades are a problem on congested sidewalks in shopping areas. There have been collisions between pedestrians and skateboarders, and plate glass windows broken by loose skateboards. The University of Texas has regulations prohibiting skateboards and rollerblades on campus due to similar hazards on crowded sidewalks.

Although the Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for street sidewalks, I endorse regulating recreation activities that conflict with safe, prudent use of public sidewalks.

At an October 26 meeting of the University Area Partners, the ordinance was discussed by the Austin Police Department, the United Austin Skateboard Society, business owners and the public. One of the recommendations suggested by the Skateboard Society was for the City to build a skateboard park. The Economic Development Subcommittee requested that the Parks Board discuss the skateboard park idea, make recommendations within 45 days, and be prepared for a presentation at the December 21st Subcommittee meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Department has received no skateboard park proposal, so no specific location or design is available for review. PARD is familiar with skateboard parks in other municipal park systems and the private sector. Skateboard facilities vary from a few paved walkways used by both pedestrians and skateboarders, to exclusive skateboard parks with specialized ramps and slopes to test the user's acrobatic skills.

Previous suggestions to build skateboard facilities were reviewed for feasibility and available funding, as are all requests for new types of recreational improvements.

There is no Capital Improvement Program funding to build a skateboard park, but the project may be considered with all other new development ideas in the next CIP process.

Feasibility has been analyzed in terms of projected demand for the service and potential liability. Although there is no survey data to compare popularity of skateboards and rollerblades with other more standard public park services, it appears the rate of participation is relatively low and is concentrated in the young male population. Females and other age groups participate at a lower rate. Although skateboards are relatively inexpensive, rollerblades require a higher investment capability.

In previous skateboard park requests, the element of greatest concern has been safety. The entire recreation profession, both public and private, is increasingly affected by safety concerns. PARD has systematically removed categories of play structures demonstrated to be unsafe. Although Austin has had no skateboard facilities in its public parks, park departments across the nation have tended to exercise great caution with this activity due to accidents and consequent liability. Few skateboard structures developed over the past ten years remain today. A similar trend is evident in the private recreation industry.

I do not recommend endorsement of the skateboard park proposal, without full examination of the potential liability, development cost and other competing needs.



Michael J. Heitz, AIA, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



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- Manuel Justiz
- Ted Whatley

October 29, 1993

Mike Heitz
Director
Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 1088
Austin, Tx 78767

Dear Mike,

We appreciated the opportunity to ask the Parks Board to clarify the status of the City's long-standing invitation to locate our new museum in the Town Lake Park area designated for cultural facilities. It has become clear that this invitation will not be reextended within our timeframe for expansion, so we withdraw our request. There is no need to hold a public hearing in December.

We thank you and your staff for your efforts to help us. We will let you know of our location selection and are disappointed that it will not be a part of the City parks system.

Yours,

Deborah Edward, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Jackie Goodman, Max Nofziger, Stuart Strong, Eleanor McKinney,

ZARAGOZA RECREATION CENTER: SOUTH SITE LOCATION STUDY
ANALYSIS OF BUILDING LOCATION TO SOUTH OF BOGGY CREEK AT ZARAGOZA PARK

PRO	CON
1. Utilizes underused area of park with many fine trees.	1. Eliminates softball field.
2. Ground elevation is better suited for sewer connection; does not require pump system, which Parks & Recreation strongly opposes.	2. Separation of activities by Boggy Creek.
3. Preserves existing stage and slab on north side of creek, as well as parklike relationship around pool, stage and volleyball.	
4. Is closer to neighborhood's originally preferred site at Western Auto.	
5. More land area available for possible use of ground loop air conditioning system.	
6. Site is almost flat allowing easy entry from all sides and ease in construction.	
7. Parking is closer to building; better accessibility for disabled & all users.	
8. Better visibility from street.	
9. Better outdoor play area for small children.	

10-14-93

ZARAGOZA RECREATION CENTER:

NORTH SITE LOCATION STUDY

ANALYSIS OF BUILDING LOCATION TO NORTH OF BOGGY CREEK AT ZARAGOZA PARK

PRO

CON

1. Consolidates park activities –
Combines existing pool and pool house with new facilities.
2. Preserves a portion of the existing softball field.

1. Creates tight spaces between buildings – thus creating security problems.
2. Creates crowded land use and encroaches upon major trees.
3. Probably will lose existing stage and concrete slab.
4. Locates buildings very close to existing houses which limits activities around building.
5. Creates large mass of buildings at edge of creek and close to houses.
6. Parking separated from building by Boggy Creek.
7. Slope of site would require building entry to be 5 to 6 feet above grade. Not easily accessible for disabled and limits connection to Park.
8. Building access difficult and not close to street.
9. Construction more difficult in tight site.
10. Present drainage problems between residential and Park will be increased.
11. Limited vehicular access would require new bridge for fire truck access or sprinkled building.
12. Site would require pump lift station for waste water.

10-14-93

1135 West Sixth Street, Suite 124

Austin, Texas 78703

(512) 472-5132



Land and Facilities Committee
November 9, 1993
5:00 p.m.
PARC Conference Room

1. Library at Dick Nichols Park
2. Williamson Creek Wastewater Interceptor
3. Skateboard/Rollerblade Ordinance
4. Spicewood Springs Neighborhood Park Improvements *(Bring to Dec 14 meeting)*