



MEMORANDUM

To: Parks Board Members

From: Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Temporary Steam Train Ticket Booth at Brush Square

Date: May 11, 1999

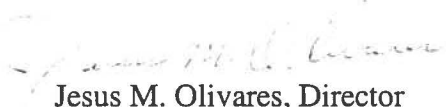
The Austin Steam Train Association operates the steam train through east and north Austin from 4th Street and Sabine. Currently tickets are sold at this location from a small portable metal building. Anticipating the expansion of the Convention Center, the railroad tracks have been extended to 4th Street and Trinity, that is the south side of Brush Square. The steam train will be operated from the new location in June so the ticket booth must be moved.

The Association requests permission to place a new ticket booth on the southwest corner of Brush Square. The 10' x 12' wooden booth, a replica of a small historic railroad building in Bertram, temporarily would be placed next to the existing sidewalk. The Association would pay for the building and will maintain the adjoining area.

The corner is not occupied by park improvements and is isolated from the remainder of Brush Square by the Fire Station parking lot. Placement of the ticket booth will not adversely impact the park activities and would be compatible with the O. Henry Museum theme.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Land and Facilities Committee on May 4.

Recommendation: I recommend approval of the temporary placement of a wooden, historic replica ticket booth on the southwest corner of Brush Square. If you have additional questions contact Stuart Strong at 499-6766.


Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



Austin Steam Train Association

Box 1632

Austin, Texas 78767-1632

(512) 477-6377

April 5, 1999

Mr. Jesus Olivares
Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

DATE: 4/14/99 TO: Stuart
Please handle
✓ Response for my signature
Provide copy of your response
For Your Information
NLT 4/19/99
Thank-you!
Jesus M. Olivares - Director
Parks and Recreation Department
Janne

Dear Mr. Olivares:

I am writing on behalf of the Austin Steam Train Association. At the urging of the City Council, the Downtown Alliance, the Friends of the O'Henry Museum, and other downtown related interests, we are planning to begin regular operation of the train from the intersection of 4th and Trinity Streets where it will be more convenient to convention center groups, and other downtown patrons. This operation will begin the 1st Sunday in June, and continue until the last Sunday in October. It is being facilitated by the extension of the railroad track in 4th Street from Red River to Trinity Street, two blocks to the west. This is being done by the Public Works and Transportation Department with funds generously appropriated by the City Council and with assistance of our volunteers.

To adequately serve the people of Austin, we will need some sort of structure which can serve as a ticket booth, and "depot". The only feasible location for it is the northeast corner of 4th and Trinity Streets, close to where the locomotive itself was displayed for many years. What we propose is a replica of some appropriate, small, period railroad structure be built which would be in a turn of the century related style and reflect the historic context of the vicinity. It is presumed that this would be a temporary situation due to the prospect of considerable development and change on 4th Street including the expansion of the convention center.

Until recently, we used a rather plain rented metal portable building sited near the intersection of 4th and Sabine Streets. However, in the future we would like to utilize a more attractive structure to give the train some identity and presence in downtown. Under consideration for a while was a small unused victorian style kiosk owned by Capital Metro and formerly used to sell commuter bus tickets. However, they have recently decided to re-use it within their own organization.

Our volunteers are presently completing the restoration of a historic depot in Bertram, Texas which greatly enhances the historic context of the train as well as the appearance of the town itself. They have proven themselves quite capable in handling the task such as what we propose for 4th Street.

on Land & Facilities 5/4

Mr. Jesus Olivares
April 5, 1999
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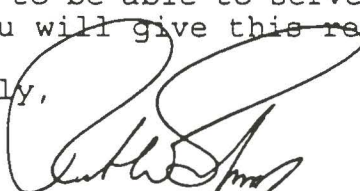
We have such a building, albeit committed to another purpose, at our maintenance and repair facility in Cedar Park which can be replicated easily. It is small and attractive. Having it handy for measuring would simplify the process of replicating it. It is too fragile to relocate downtown, and as mentioned before, is committed to another purpose.

★ We are essentially requesting the permission of the City of Austin to temporarily locate such a structure on the northeast corner of 4th and Trinity, adjacent to the inner corner of the two sidewalks where they intersect on what, it appears, is designated park land. The building we propose would be frame, 10'x12', and capable of being easily moved and relocated in response to significant changes which are likely to impact the area. In other words, it would be portable, and require minimal foundation. This replicated building would be strengthened in whatever way necessary to ensure its portability without harming its appearance.

This would greatly enhance our ability to conveniently serve Austinites as well as visitors, especially convention attendees. The Austin Steam Train Association has an excellent track record of benefiting the Austin community with a close and positive relationship with the City which, after all, owns the historic steam locomotive 786 which we operate. We raised the \$1,000,000.00+ funding for the rehabilitation of thirty miles of city owned rail line between central Austin and the surrounding countryside as a gift to the city. We have gratefully benefited from the help of numerous city agencies including the Parks and Recreation Department, The Public Works and Transportation Department, Capital Metro, The Austin Convention Center, and The O'Henry Museum to name but a few. The result has been an institution which is nearly unique among large cities in the creation of something of which all Austinites can be proud.

We hope to be able to serve the community even better in the future, and that you will give this request serious consideration.

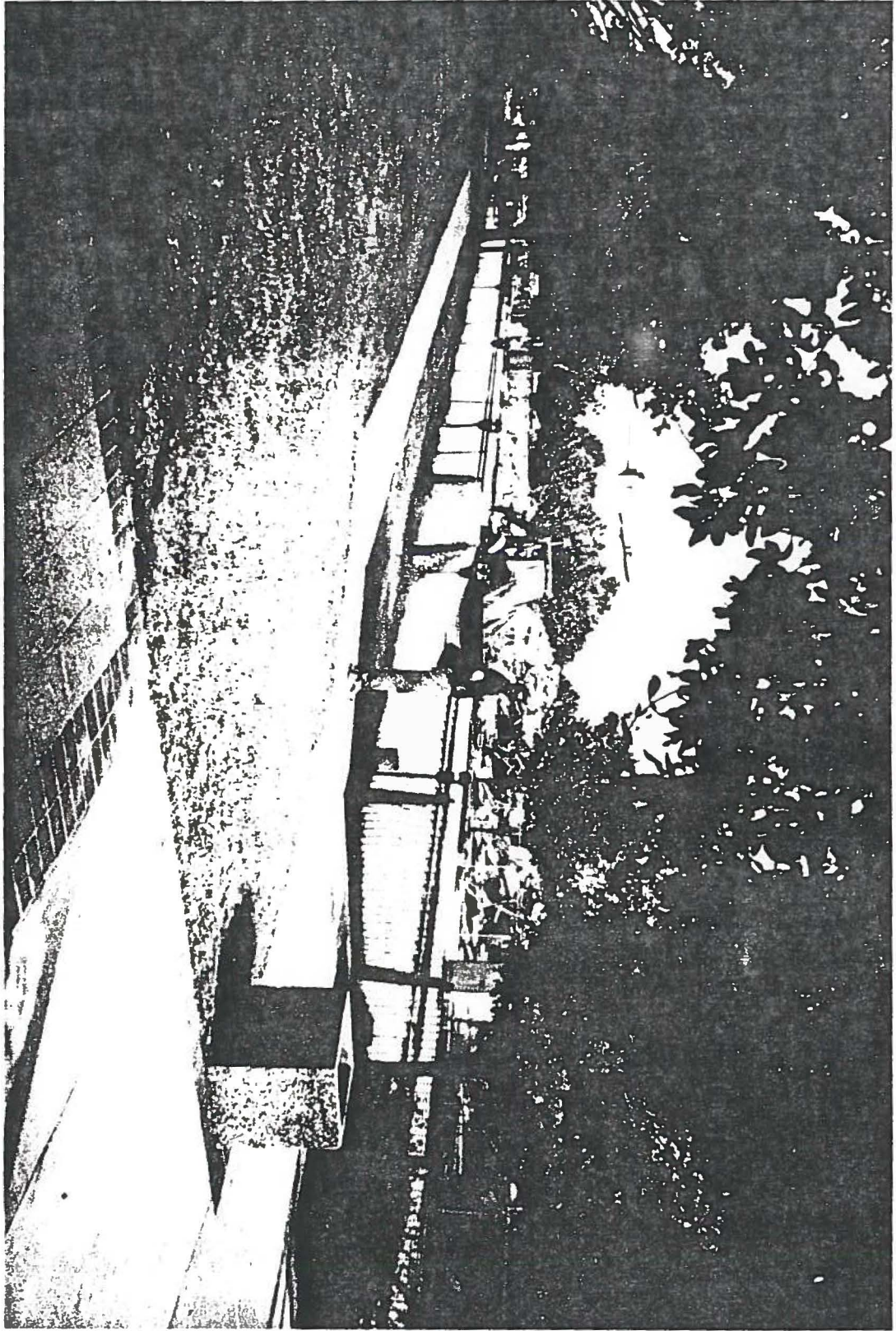
Sincerely,

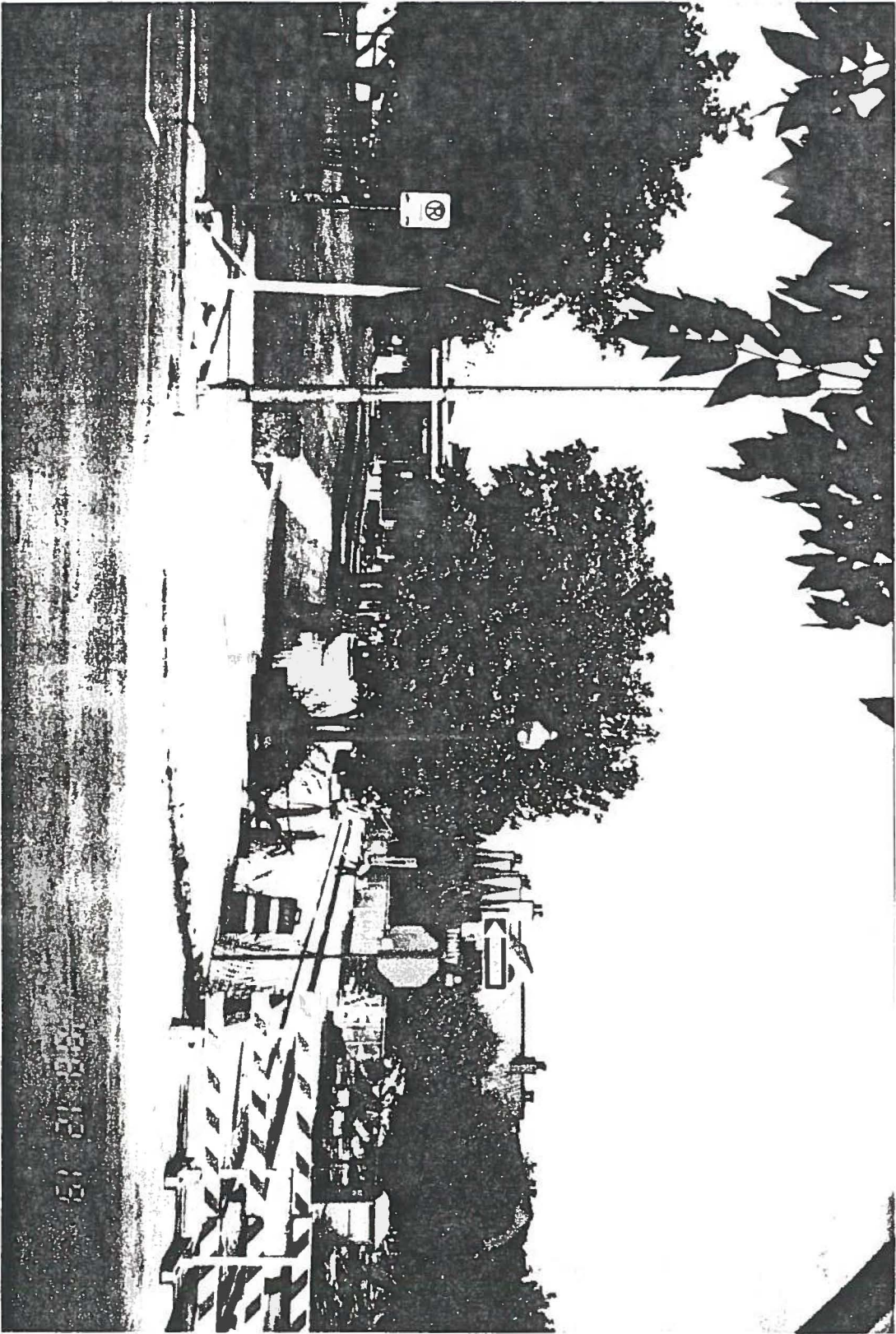


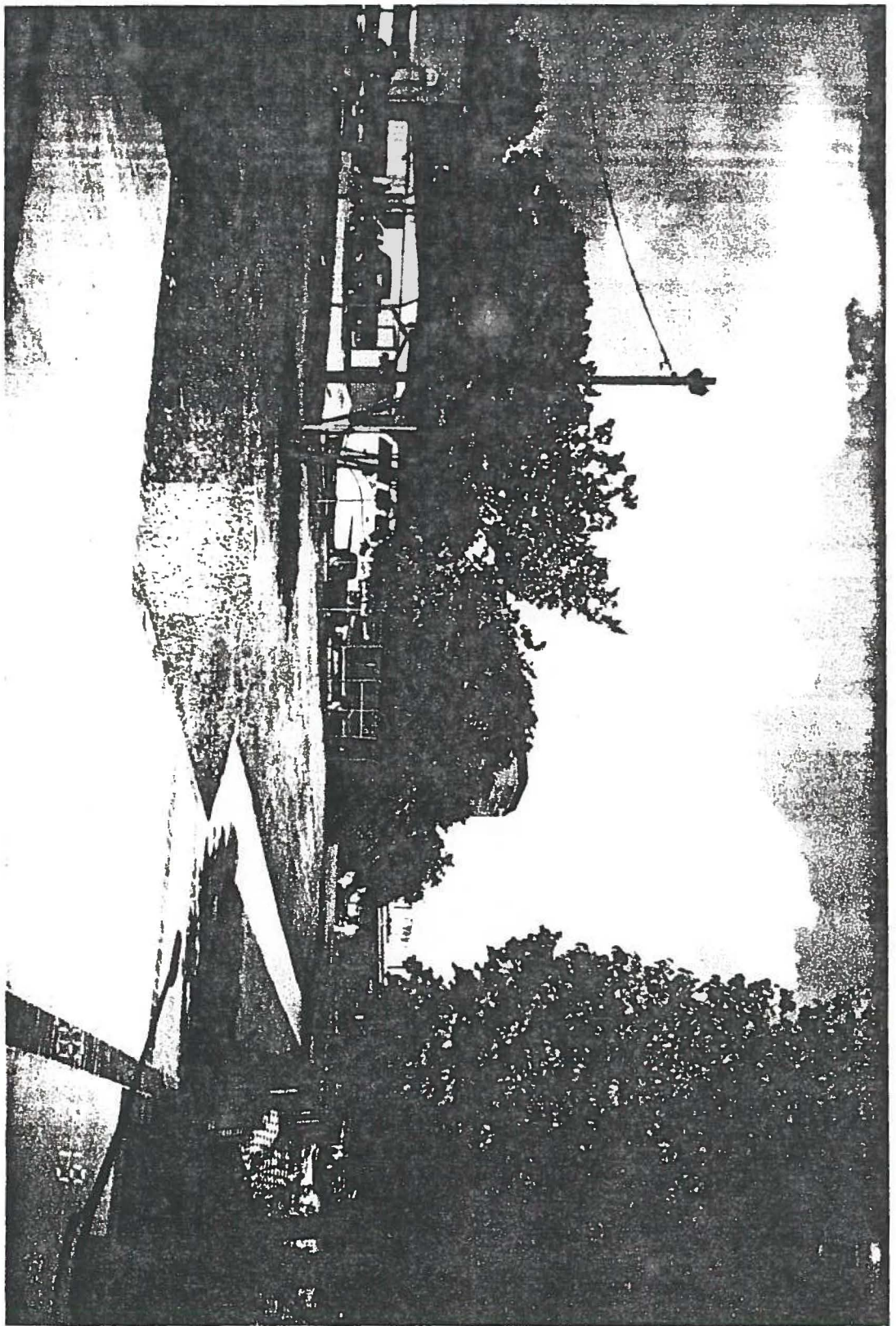
Robert W. Schoen, Jr., M.D.
President
Austin & Texas Central Railroad
Austin Steam Train Association

RWS:mwb

Enclosures







Trinity Street

scale 1/8" = 1 ft.

curb cut

street light

paved walk

brick & concrete

24' rad.

curb cut

flower tree bed 5'x12'

turf

sidewalk

5'

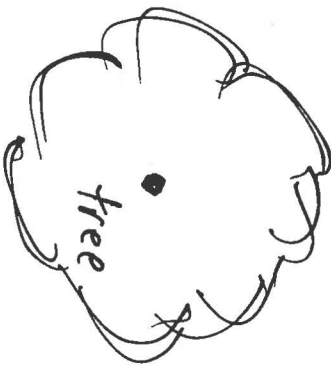
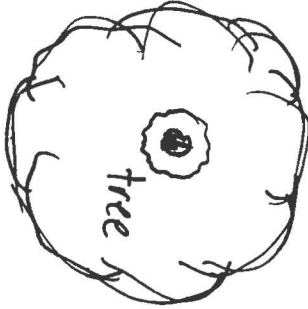
turf

curb

angle

parking

East Fourth Street



NE corner 4th & Trinity Streets
site of proposed steamtrain ticket office

North

