Ranger Station
at Zilker Caretaker Cottage
Grand Opening Ceremony

Sunday, April 9, 2017
9:00 AM
2105 Andrew Zilker Road
Austin, Texas 78746
PROJECT BACKGROUND:
The cottage was originally designed by architect Hugo F. Kuehne in 1928. Mr. Kuehne, FAIA was an early member of the Parks Board and designed several public buildings in Austin, including the Austin History Center (original Austin Public Library) as well as many residential buildings.

CARETAKER HISTORY
Buster Robinson  1935 - 1961
Jack Robinson  1964 - 1972
Jim Rodgers  1974 - 1983
Sarah Macias  1983 - 1994
Gilbert Lopez  1997 - 2004
John Wright  2008 - 2010

The Zilker Cottage caretakers were each longtime Parks and Recreation Department employees and each caretaker was a lifelong parks and recreation advocate. From serving as the first set of flood control gate operators at Barton Springs Pool, equipping farmers who grew vegetables on the Great Lawn area for market, to managing the day to day operations of Zilker Park, each dedicated themselves to promoting Austin and the park mission.

On December 18, 2008 the Austin City Council passed Ordinance 20081218-047, and the Park Ranger Program as we know it today was officially created. The Austin Park Rangers supplement the Austin Police Park Unit to serve as a roving interpretive force that also enforce park safety. The Park Rangers serve as ambassadors for Austin’s Park System by cultivating stewardship, promoting responsible recreation and preserving Austin’s cultural, natural and historic resources.

Renovation for the residence to transfer use from the Caretaker Cottage to the Park Ranger Station was completed in March 2017. Improvements include: new wood shingle roof; window and door restoration; masonry cleaning and repair; asbestos and lead abatement; interior renovation for office space; plumbing, electrical, mechanical and technology upgrades; and accessibility improvements.

FUNDING:
$400,000.00 – Capital Improvement Project Funding
$152,052.24 – Parkland Dedication Fund