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To: [Ojeda, Felicia](#)
Cc: [Schooler, Larry](#)
Subject: letter for Visitor Impact Task Force
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 4:41:10 PM
Attachments: [winmail.dat](#)

Dear Visitor Impact Task Force Members:

On several occasions, Mayfield Park has been recipient of funds from the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) for preservation of its house and grounds. We are quite grateful for this, as it has aided us in maintaining this historic asset, which is a delight for visitors from all over the world as well as for a great many Austin residents.

The funding has been allocated from Austin's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), as allowed by State law. The law allows up to 15% of HOT revenues to be allocated to historic preservation, but we are aware that only a tiny portion of this potential allocation has been used city-wide to this end.

Austin is rich with historic lands, structures, and traditions, all of which contribute to the City's attraction of visitors, and all of which require significant expense to maintain. Austin's parks alone are home to many of these assets: Zilker Park with Barton Springs Pool, the Sunken Garden, and Eliza Springs; the Norwood residence; Hancock and Lions Golf Courses, the four original downtown parks; among many others. Many other very special assets are in private or State hands. All contribute greatly to Austin's tourism economy and are visited by millions annually. Yet many of these precious assets are falling into decay for lack of adequate maintenance funding. Some are being allowed to deteriorate to ruin.

Why, then, when the law endorses such significant expenditures from the HOT tax, should the City not allocate the full 15% annually to the things that define Austin's heritage and make Austin an especially attractive place, both to tourists and residents?

As you consider how Austin can best utilize its HOT tax revenues, please recognize that Austin's historic legacy is a major contributor to Austin's tourism industry, and that it contributes to the cultural richness not only to visitors' experiences but to the lives of its own citizens. Please fund preserving this legacy to the full extent that the law allows.

Karen Cannatti
President -- Friends of the Parks of Austin, a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving Austin's parks since 1985