



City of Austin

Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78704

July 1, 2010

Ms. Mimi Quinn
1031 E. 44th Street
Austin, TX 78751

Dear Ms. Quinn,

Thank you for your letter dated March 7, 2010 regarding the Austin City Historic Land Mark designation for the Hancock Recreation Center and Golf Course.

I apologize for the delayed response, as this request required review by the City of Austin Legal Department. While we support the purpose of securing the Hancock site in perpetuity, I have concerns with supporting a formal Historic Designation at this time.

Historical Designation can result in additional burdens for the City. If the Recreation Center is designated historic, the City would need to go before the Historic Landmark Commission to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness and in some cases be required to seek approval for minor changes to the exterior and interior, including but not limited to: replacement of windows, doors, exterior siding, roofing repairs and simple exterior lighting improvements. Modifications or changes to the golf course layout or use would be an additional burden for the City. This can result in a lengthy process for simple maintenance and repairs which are not uncommon with our aging facilities.

The entire Hancock property is currently recognized as dedicated park land and, as I understand, altering the use as a park purpose would require voter approval. I feel confident this will protect the current use and purpose of the Hancock Recreation Center and the surrounding park property.

I sincerely appreciate your commitment to educating your community regarding the historical importance of the Hancock area as well as your efforts to obtain a Historic Landmark Designation for the Hancock Recreation Center and Golf Course. However, at this time, I cannot support this request to grant permission to move forward with this process. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, at 974-6714.

Sincerely,

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

cc: Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Kevin Gomillion, Division Manager, Golf and Tennis Division