



## MEMORANDUM

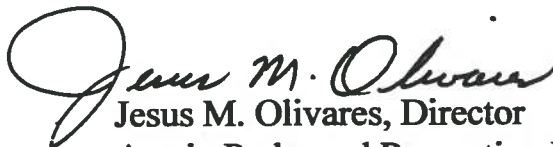
**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

**DATE:** February 9, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Resolution

Attached you will find a resolution concerning bicyclists and pedestrian safety that was passed at the Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting held February 8, 2000.

  
Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

xc: Parks Board Members

Attachment

## **Resolution Concerning Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety**

**WHEREAS, there is increasing vehicular traffic throughout the City of Austin including in and around Town Lake and the City's parks and recreational facilities; and**

**WHEREAS, the increased vehicular traffic has, among other things, increased the safety hazards to pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from and/or using the city's parks and recreation facilities; and**

**WHEREAS, on January 31, 2000 an Austin resident jogging along the Town Lake hike-and-bike trail, then over the Lamar Street Bridge over Town Lake was tragically killed by an automobile running up over the pedestrian walkway on the Lamar Street Bridge; and**

**WHEREAS, increased vehicular traffic in and around such facilities threatens to result in more such deadly incidents; and**

**WHEREAS, City Council approved construction of a new Lamar Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge over Town Lake and in addition, the City of Austin is in the process of developing a Pedestrian Plan for which the stated purpose is "to encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety and enable people to walk to and from transit stops"**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the Austin City Council:**

- **direct that all steps necessary be taken for construction to begin on the new Lamar Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge,**
- **direct the Public Works Department to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to take immediate steps as appropriate, such as traffic calming measures or reducing the number of automobile traffic lanes on the Lamar Bridge, to ensure the safety of the existing Lamar Street walkway until such time as the Lamar Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge is opened;**
- **direct the Public Works Department to work with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Board to provide special provisions relating to parks and recreational areas and to undertake a study of areas in and around such facilities that are especially dangerous and to develop special provisions in the Pedestrian Plan for the protection of these areas,**
- **direct the Public Works Department to give the Parks and Recreation Board's Land and Facilities Sub-committee monthly updates on the progress toward construction and completion of the new Lamar Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge, the steps being taken to ensure the safety of the existing Lamar Street walkway until such time as the Lamar Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge is opened, and the special provisions added to the Pedestrian Plan related to parks and recreational areas.**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

**DATE:** February 14, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Pedestrian Plan Recommendation

Attached you will find the pedestrian plan recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Department Board passed at their regularly scheduled meeting held February 8, 2000.

If additional information is needed please let me know.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jesus M. Olivares'.

Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

xc: Parks and Recreation Board Members  
Peter Rieck, Director, Transportation and Public Service, Public Works  
Department

Attachment

## PEDESTRIAN PLAN RECOMMENDATION

1) First and foremost, the Pedestrian Plan (hereafter called "the plan"), particularly section II, "Facility Recommendations," (page 15) must treat any facility that is administered by the Parks and Recreation Department including Senior Activity Centers, Recreation Centers, Neighborhood, District and Metropolitan parks, Playscapes, Trails, Nature Preserves, Golf Courses, Museums and Art Schools as a type of location deserving special consideration. Issues include movement around and through larger parks as well as neighborhood parks. Parks require direct, convenient access usable by both the very young and very old. Lacking as many through roads, parks have a greater need for mid-block crosswalks and traffic calming on perimeter and through roads.

2) The plan should give more support to mid-block crosswalks at parks. The plan states in section III(F)2(b) (page 27) "For safety reasons, mid-block crosswalks should be discouraged." Thus, since improperly operated motor vehicles cause a threat, pedestrians should be inconvenienced. Instead of discouraging mid-block crosswalks, the plan should address all available means of making them safer, such as traffic calming, signalization, and enforced traffic speed reductions. In pedestrian areas, pedestrian circulation should have priority, even if it slows vehicle movement in the area.

3) Section III(D) "Encroachments" (page 21) should include among its list of sidewalk obstacles malfunctioning irrigation systems that inundates the sidewalk. Such inundation effectively blocks the sidewalk on colder days, and blocks anyone in professional garb.

4) Section III "Design Guide" (page 17) should define provisional or temporary facilities installed in response to construction. Three cases must be considered:

a) Construction that requires blocking vehicular access to a street must make every effort to provide for safe and accessible pedestrian traffic. Please provide details of how such accessibility will be provided by the contractor or city crew.

b) When construction blocks just the sidewalk but not the whole street, temporary facilities must be maintained to allow for safe through pedestrian travel. This includes, but is not limited to, blocking off road surface for pedestrian movement.

c) Construction that blocks off-road trails must be marked well enough in advance to direct pedestrians to an alternative route, and an alternative and safe route must be determined and provided. The plan should detail the means by which this is done.

5) Section III(F)2(c)(ii) "(crosswalk) crossing intervals" must address

adequate intervals for people of all physical ability to cross a given crosswalk. Additionally, a maximum wait time must be established. Wait time is defined here as the time in which a pedestrian must wait for a "don't walk" signal after pressing the crossing button, or the length of the "don't walk" signal if the intersection is on a timer. Pedestrians' wait time at stressful and hazardous major streets should be minimized, even if vehicle traffic flow is affected.

6) Section I(C)2(a) "Traffic law enforcement" (page 10) should be struck entirely or re-written to be more inclusive. The sentence as written is unnecessary and does not include a complete inventory of the possible causes of traffic accidents.

7) Lastly, while this plan does not deal directly with enforcement issues, we will stress that much of our existing sidewalk network is degraded by motor vehicles driving on or parking on sidewalks. Police must be brought to consider motor vehicle parking on sidewalks an offense requiring immediate citation. In general, the city must put forth the message that motor vehicles on sidewalks are not to be tolerated. Service vehicle and delivery trucks must be considered as well, as they are frequent violators of this. Both commercial and residential situations must be considered as well.



*An employee-owned company*

January 21, 2000

Ms. Alice Glasco, Director  
Development Review and Inspection Department  
City of Austin  
301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Barton Springs Pool Improvements  
Planning Commission Consolidated Site Plan  
Engineer's Summary Letter - Revised  
PBS&J Project No. 440128.00

Dear Ms. Glasco:

PBS&J hereby submits for review and consideration for the issuance of the Development Permit the attached Site Plan for Barton Springs Pool Improvements, Phase II.

In consideration of the Barton Springs Pool area as a significant recreational feature and attraction for the City of Austin (City), the City has taken significant steps in protecting, preserving and managing the use of this historical landmark. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) listed the Barton Springs Salamander (BSS) as an endangered/threatened species in May 1997, and began to coordinate with the City in developing a plan to allow for the salamander's protection and the continued recreational use by residents. Known habitat for the BSS is centered around Barton Springs and the springs associated with Eliza Springs and Sunken Gardens. Because of the listing of the BSS as an endangered/threatened species, a FWS Section 10(a) Permit was developed to provide a means of protecting the salamander. PBS&J was retained by the City to provide specific design and permitting services associated with a plan of improvements developed by the City and FWS to respond to the requirements of the FWS 10(a) Permit. PBS&J has not been retained to evaluate the effectiveness of the City/FWS plan of improvements in protecting the BSS or to investigate alternate forms of compliance.

In an effort to comply with this permit's requirements and improve the functionality of the pool facility, the City has proposed the following modifications to the facility be made:

1. In the Eliza Springs area, the runoff water from the parking areas drains over the retaining wall on the North side of Eliza Springs. The City proposes to remove and relay some of the flagstone walkway on the north and east sides of Eliza Springs and create a drainage swale that would carry the runoff water to a proposed inlet located on the northwest point of the walkway. This proposed inlet would drain through a storm sewer to the existing Barton Springs Pool by-pass tunnel. On the west side of Eliza Springs, the City proposes to regrade the grassed areas to drain south toward the Barton Springs Pool.
2. The off-site flow from Barton Hills Drive and Robert E. Lee Road currently causes flooding into Barton Springs Pool. There are two drainage channels that convey water around the Barton Springs Pool site. These channels are located along Barton Hills Drive and Robert E. Lee Road. The existing storm sewer that outlets into the Barton



Hills Channel is undersized for the drainage area it serves. The City proposes an additional 60-inch storm sewer to be constructed adjacent to the existing 60-inch storm sewer. This proposed 60-inch storm sewer would require new headwalls both the upstream and downstream ends of the pipe, as well as erosion protection measures within the channel. Three additional curb inlets are proposed on Barton Hills Drive to divert the storm water from overtopping Barton Hills Drive. These new inlets are proposed to drain through a proposed 36-inch storm sewer to the Barton Hills Channel. A new headwall is proposed on the two (2) 60-inch storm sewers under the main entrance to the Barton Springs Pool Parking Lot. This headwall would replace the existing headwall which has sagged, and would extend slightly further upstream. An earthen berm with a 6-foot wide hike and bike trail is proposed at the general location of the existing dirt path along the west side of the Barton Hills Channel to minimize future erosion in this area. A second earthen berm is proposed near the intersection of Barton Hills Drive and Robert E. Lee R road. This proposed berm would serve to divert runoff that flows outside of the upstream channel and across the road into the Robert E. Lee Channel. In addition, vegetative maintenance in the Barton Hills and Robert E. Lee Channels should be performed along with maintenance to the existing 60-inch storm sewers. Appendix A contains the Engineer's Summary Letter from Raymond Chan & Assoc., our subconsultant with this project.

3. In order to control runoff waters from running into the Sunken Gardens, the City proposes to seal the drainage holes in the perimeter rock wall, and to create a drainage swale around the Sunken Gardens to drain the runoff water away from the site.
4. Four kiosk signs are proposed, providing educational information for the spring's geology and history and the BSS's physiology and habitat. One kiosk sign will be located at Eliza Springs, one at Sunken Gardens, one near the diving board location, and one mounted to the Bath House.

These proposed improvements to Barton Springs Pool will assist the City in addressing the FWS Section 10(a) Permit requirements concerning the BSS compliance, and increase the effectiveness of pool maintenance and operations procedures. The impacts/effects of the proposed modifications have been considered and evaluated by the City and FWS as the overall approach to satisfying the 10(a) permit was developed. The City's Watershed Protection Department is also obtaining a Federal 404 Permit, a Texas State Parks and Wildlife Permit and a TNRCC Permit for this project.

The proposed project falls within the City Limits of Austin and is located in the Barton Creek Watershed, which is classified as the Barton Springs Zone and will be developed, constructed and maintained in conformance with the terms and conditions of Chapter 13-2, Article V and Chapter 13-7, Article I of the Land Development Code. The above-referenced improvements will require the approval of a limited adjustment to the Save Our Springs (SOS) ordinance to allow development or construction in the Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ) and within the required setback of an identified Critical Environmental Features (CEFs). The project's acreage, as determined by the limits of construction, is approximately 2.4 acres.

Critical Environmental Features (CEFs) within or close to the project include Barton Springs, Eliza Springs and Sunken Gardens. These CEFs will be protected at all times by maintaining all construction activities as far away as possible, keeping these downstream from the proposed construction/staging areas, and by establishing erosion/sedimentation controls where

Ms. Alice Glasco, Director  
Development Review and Inspection Depart.  
City of Austin  
Friday, January 21, 2000  
Page 3 of 3

necessary. Attached to this report is the Environmental Assessment which has attached to it the FWS 10(a) Permit and the Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan prepared for the 10(a) permit. There are no underground storage tanks within the vicinity of the project.

Since most of the proposed improvements are either in the streambed or underground, with limited proposed drainage improvements, there is a negligible impervious cover increase. The existing character of the surroundings will be preserved, existing drainage patterns will not be affected, and no water quality improvements/systems will be required. No changes in the existing floodplain requiring modifications are being proposed under this project.

The locations of the access routes/entrances and the construction storage/staging areas have been selected to minimize disturbance to existing recreational, natural, and landscaped areas. Temporary erosion/sedimentation controls include rock berms, silt fences, tree protection, and stabilized construction entrances. No on-site storage of spoil material will be allowed for Eliza Springs and Sunken Gardens. There will be on-site spoils allowed for the south parking area construction. The attached plans show the location of these controls. Construction Specifications for the project shall include the City of Austin Standard Specifications applicable at the time of submittal. Construction review shall be performed by representatives of the City of Austin, the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, and the Engineer.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can call me at 327-6840, Ext. 9534, or Gary Kosut, P.E., the City's project manager, at 499-3390.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Trainer, P.E.  
Project Manager

JST/lah

p.c.: Duke Altman, P.E. – PBS&J  
Terry S. Reynolds – PBS&J  
Gary Kosut, P.E. – City of Austin  
George Oswald, P.E. – City of Austin  
Robert Hansen – City of Austin



# Decker Lake Golf Course

## History

Land at Decker Lake reserved for future golf course development.

1984 - Jay Morrish, Golf Course Architect designs a 36-hole complex. (\$180,000 paid by Golf Fund)

Mid 80's - Project delayed due to slump in Austin economy.

1996 - University of Texas expresses interest in participating in this project to provide a home for UT Golf Teams.

UT expresses need for golf team practice areas and hotel space to host NCAA golf events.

Golf Staff investigates feasibility of revised concept to meet UT needs. This concept provided for the funding of the golf courses by UT and the Golf Fund with the potential for private funding and development of a hotel facility.

Golf Staff discusses with UT a 36-hole "public complex"(funded and operated by the Golf Fund) to address their needs.

1998 - UT decides to pursue a "member only" golf course operation.

1999 - Funds approved (\$200,000) to update the golf complex design with intent to fund, develop and operate Decker Lake Golf Courses as a municipal facility by the Parks and Recreation Department.

2000- Hotel developer proposes funding, development and management of a 36-hole golf course and hotel complex.

## Advantages/Disadvantages of Hotel Proposal

Advantages to the Golf Enterprise Fund include:

Establishment of a guaranteed, risk-free revenue source that can be used to reduce the future cost of golf.

The private sector can develop the Decker Lake golf courses 2 to 3 years faster than the City.

Disadvantages

Use of dedicated park land by a private, for profit operation.

Must go to voters for approval.

Sets precedence for commercialization and taking of parkland.

If the proposal for hotel and golf course development is not approved, the Golf Enterprise Fund is prepared to fund, develop and operate the Decker Lake Golf Courses within the structure of the Parks and Recreation Department.

# THE SUTTON COMPANY

115 EAST FIFTH STREET • SUITE 200  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701  
(512) 494-1221 • FAX: (512) 494-1220

February 17, 2000

Parks and Recreation Board Members  
Via Fax # 499-6774

Re: The Plaza Lofts request for height variance across from Republic Square Park

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

Thank you for allowing us to present our variance request to the Parks and Recreation Board on Tuesday, February 22. This variance, if approved, will allow the project to be accessible to more people as well as accommodate eight additional residential units in downtown Austin, a targeted Smart Growth initiative.

This request is to increase the height of our building from the 120 feet allowed under Park Overlay zoning to a maximum of 140 feet. The Park Overlay zoning, as we understand it, was designed to prohibit a canyon effect that might result if tall buildings surrounded the Park. In this case, we feel the existing and planned projects surrounding the Park will have no chance of allowing this to occur. Two sides of the Park, the U. S. Post Office and the Austin Museum of Art, will not create any canyon effect because of their low-rise design and will therefore assure an abundant supply of open space for generations to come. On the west side of the Park, Museum Park has received a height variance of up to 155 feet. In addition, Southern Union Gas currently stands at 128 feet.

Our project covers less than one-eighth of the property surrounding Republic Square Park, as is shown on the enclosed map. We feel our request will not endanger any part of the Park's feel, and in fact, we will bring more vibrancy to the area with more residents creating a neighborhood environment at the Park. Although these height restrictions are part of the Park Overlay ordinance, it is appropriate to note that the City of Austin allows potential variances when the situation warrants. This request is part of that due process.

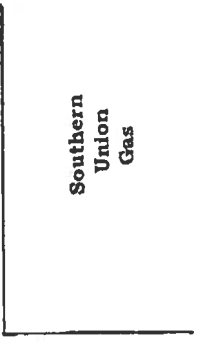
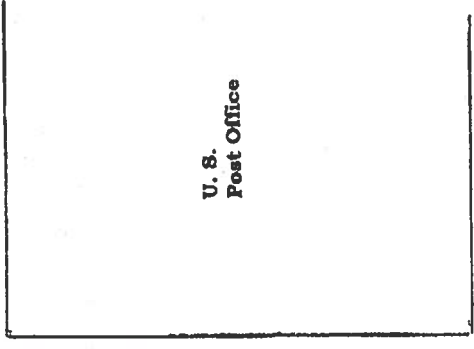
With this request, we would agree to participate as "good neighbors" in the future Park improvements. We understand that the design is not complete; however, we would like to participate in some reasonable way with those improvements to the park at the appropriate time.

Thank you for considering our proposed variance and we look forward to making our presentation on Tuesday

Respectfully submitted,



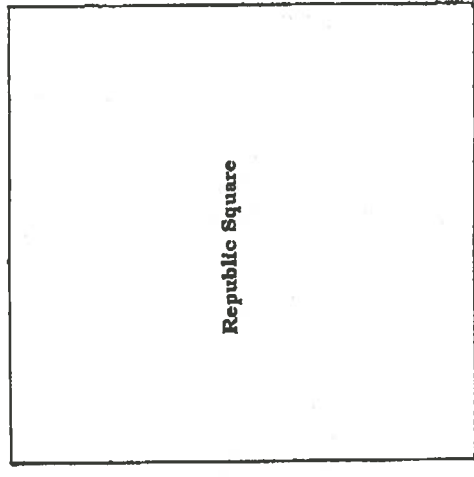
H. M. (Mac) Pike, Jr.  
President



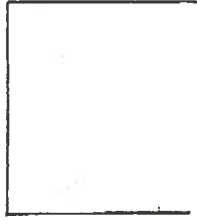
Fifth Street



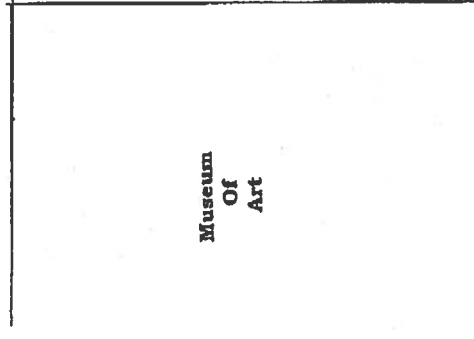
San Antonio



Guadalupe



Fourth Street



Museum  
Of  
Art



## MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Board

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

Date: February 22, 2000

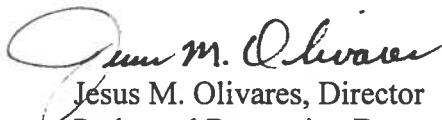
Subject: Construction of Pizzitola Boat dock at 3113 Brass Buttons Trail  
File No. SP-99-2082DS.

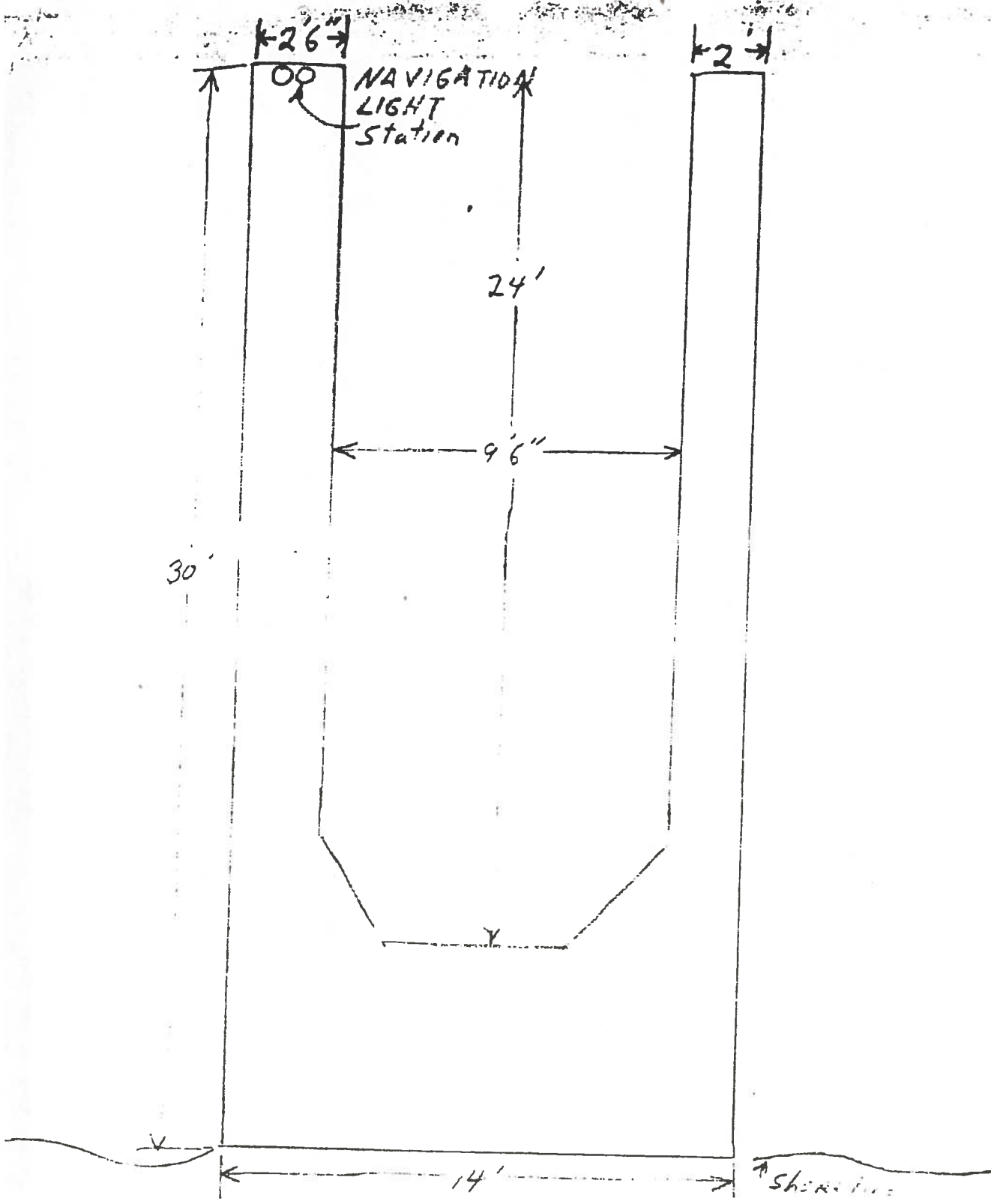
A request has been received from Signor Enterprises on behalf of Don Gibson to construct a boat dock at 3113 Brass Buttons Trail on Lake Austin.

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff has reviewed plans for the proposed project and finds they meet the requirements of Article XIII, Section 25-2-1176, (Regulations for the Construction of Boat Docks) of the Land Development Code.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend approval of the above request as detailed in the attached site plan.

  
Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department







## MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Board

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

Date: February 22, 2000

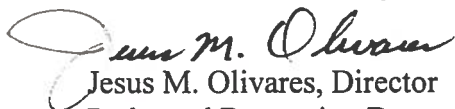
Subject: Construction of Jeffries Boat dock at 3106 Rivercrest Drive  
File No. SP-99-0198DS.

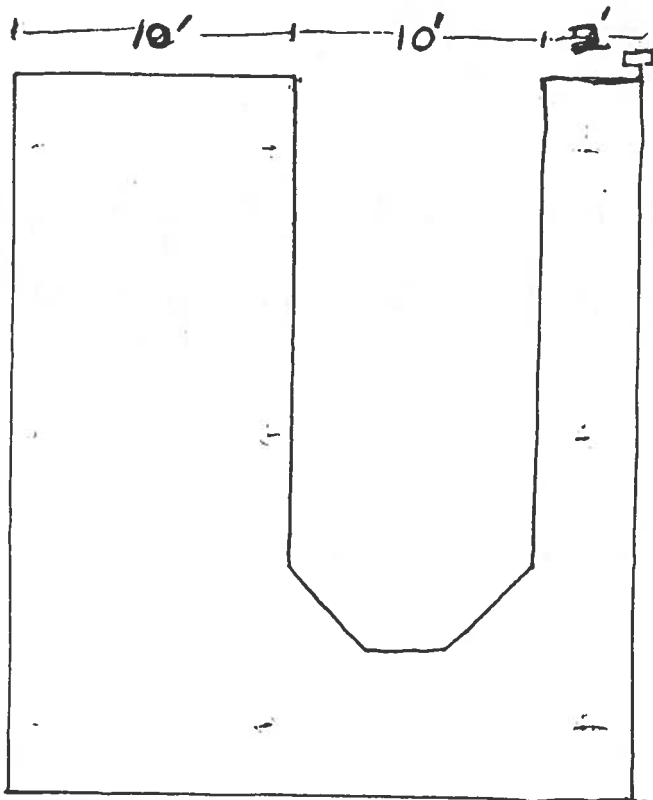
A request has been received from Signor Enterprises on behalf of Lynn Jefferies to construct a boat dock at 3106 Rivercrest Drive on Lake Austin.

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff has reviewed plans for the proposed project and finds they meet all the requirements of Article XIII, Section 25-2-1176, (Regulations for the Construction of Boat Docks) of the Land Development Code.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend approval of the above request as detailed in the attached site plan.

  
Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department



NAVIGATION  
LIGHT

