

Rice, Andrew

From: Fred McGhee <fmcghee@flma.org>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Sadowsky, Steve; Bertron, Cara
Cc: Susana Almanza; Dave Cortez; Georgia Steen; Lisa Patricia Goddard; Anita Villalobos; Hensley, Sara; Monica Allen; Cronk, Spencer; Oaks, Brion; Galindo, Mary - BC
Subject: Montopolis Community and Recreation Center
Attachments: The_War_on_Poverty_in_Austin_A_Brief_Dis.pdf

Good Morning,

I'll be testifying at tonight's meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission regarding the demolition of the Montopolis Recreation Center and would appreciate this item's removal from the consent agenda.

Staff did a poor job of background research regarding this property, which represents an important aspect of the working class and minority history of our city.

I am the author of the book "Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood" and am an African-American pioneer in the field now known as "cultural resources management" or historic preservation. But nobody from the city staff took the time to reach out to me. Given my well known public profile, I can only surmise that the decision to do so was both willful and deliberately discourteous. As someone who has been pointing out inequities inside our city's administration of historic properties for over two decades, I remain disappointed and saddened at the city's ongoing perpetuation of such institutional racism.

Please see the attached presentation, which was presented at the Community Development Commission in 2015 and has been freely available online for over three years, to learn more about why the Montopolis Community and Recreation Center is easily eligible for landmarking for its community value and historical associations.

My non-opposition to the demolition of this property is a matter of record. The new center will better serve our present community needs. But the claim by the staff that this pillar of the community is non-historic and unremarkable is an unfortunate example of both unprofessional as well as racist malpractice.

Regards,

flm