

CITY OF

Liberty Hill

P.O. Box 1920 • Liberty Hill, Texas 78642



May 88, 2008

Cynthia Long
Commissioner, Precinct 2
350 Discovery Blvd., St. 201
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Jim Rodgers
Director Parks and Recreation
350 Discovery Blvd.
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

RE: Support for Liberty Hill Parks

Dear Commission Long and Mr. Rodgers;

On behalf of the City of Liberty Hill Parks Board and the community of Liberty Hill, I would like to thank you both for your assistance and support of our efforts to acquire and develop parks for our growing community.

As with all of Williamson County, our area has experienced rapid growth. The school district, for example, has seen a 30 percent increase in student population just since October of 2004. With this growth, of course, comes the expanded need for services. This growth has had an impact on the county as a whole; however, as you are aware, small municipalities such as Liberty Hill are particularly feeling the strain to provide services.

The City of Liberty Hill ask~~ed~~ that you consider the immediate needs of Liberty Hill Parks and Recreation and award available grant funds to the City of Liberty Hill for enhancing Liberty Hill City Park (LHCP). Williamson County is blessed with wonderful parks and recreational areas, such as the Williamson County Regional Park and Lake Georgetown, to name only two. Still, there is the need to provide recreational opportunities at the local level. Here, I've listed a couple of our most pressing priorities, according to the Parks Board:

TOP PRIORITIES:

I.

In 2004, the City acquired LHCP, a 22.867 acre park, adjacent to CR 200, and the railroad tracks. Since its acquisition, the City has adopted a plan for the park which includes 6 soccer fields, hiking trail, 2 basketball ball courts, 1 baseball field, 1 playscape, and a restroom/pavilion. The Liberty Hill Pop Warner Football Association (LHPWFA) has a pressing need for a football field and the Association, in an effort to get the field ready by fall of 2009 has made substantial contributions to LHCP. Michael G. Wilson Jr. with HL Chapman Pipeline Construction Inc. has contributed approximately \$138,000 for the football field development. Another \$55,000 worth of time and materials has been donated on top of the HL Chapman contribution. HL Chapman has surveyed part of the property and determined that the large drainage area in the middle of the park may limit enhancement for parts of LHCP. The Soccer Association and LHPWFA lease the property from the City and have agreed to maintain their respected areas of LHCP. However, even with the significant community support and contributions directed to LHCP, there are major financial obstacles. One, we need a restroom for the LHCP. The most recent estimate we have for the construction of a restroom is a conservative \$90,000. Second, the LWPWFA needs a water well to grow grass on the football field. Furthermore, there are safety concerns as the fields abut a busy roadway and proximity to the railroad tracks. Again, our conservative estimate for fencing along the front-side of LHCP is \$54,000. The estimated cost for lighting the fields and constructing the parking lot is approximately \$210,000. We have relied heavily on the voluntary labor of the community; however, it may be necessary to undertaken grading and drainage engineering of the property. At this time, the City is preparing the proposed budgets for the next fiscal year. Currently, the City has budgeted \$35,000 for the construction of the restroom at LHCP. The City has also budgeted \$5,500 dollars for maintenance. We estimate that the City needs an additional \$200,000 to develop the park.

II.

The City would like to engage the services of professional grant writers to assist the City in obtaining available grants, such as those available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the LCRA. In order to progress with the projects hoped for in the City's Master Plan, it will be necessary to obtain grants through agencies like the ones mentioned above.

III..

While youth organizations in the Liberty hill area and their friends and supporters are eagerly awaiting the completion of the LHCP, there are other parks and recreational needs in the community. As reflected in the most recent Parks Master Plan, prepared in May 2006, there is a pressing need for additional park land and open space, supporting a community swimming pool, hiking trails, community tennis courts and an indoor recreational facility. In order to realize these goals, the Liberty Hill Parks Board has

authorized me to request that the City be considered in the allocation of the Small Community Parks Grant funds available through the County.

The City is requesting a Small Community Parks Grant in the amount of \$300,000, with \$200,000 to be used toward the construction of improvements at City Park and the retention of grant-writing professionals, and the remaining funds toward the acquisition of additional park land. Thank you for your consideration and attention to our proposal. I have attached our Parks Master Plan. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mel Yantis
City Administrator