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December 6, 2021

Erin Hart, CPRP, CPSM, CPO
President, Texas Recreation and Park Society
18593 FM 1431
Jonestown, Texas 78645

Dear Ms. Hart,

As Executive Director of Preservation Austin, a nonprofit that exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation, it is with great enthusiasm that I support the nomination of Givens District Park as a Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) Lone Star Legacy Park.

Givens Park opened over sixty years ago as a much-needed district park large enough to accommodate Austin's Black citizens. Since 1959, the park has played a special role in preserving the culture of East Austin and serving as an important space for gathering, socializing, and creating community. While the preservation field tends to focus on the built environment, the focus on preserving the traditions and history of East Austin at Givens Parks is just as important. There are historic buildings in the park that require stewardship, but the preservation of these buildings alone does not uphold the unique culture this park represents. From Miss East Austin to the car culture get-togethers, this park has played an exceptional part in sustaining the culture of a rapidly gentrifying East Austin.

Givens District Park is a remarkable part of Austin's cultural heritage, and we look forward to celebrating that legacy with the designation of Givens Park as a Lone Star Legacy Park.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Derrington
Executive Director, Preservation Austin