

To Neighbors adjoining and near Haskin Park....If you are not aware of what is being built in Haskin Park I wanted to share the following letter I have emailed to Councilman Gallagher and Mayor Taylor.

I have attached a drawing with a rough sketch of the impact on our neighborhood park and would ask that you contact your councilman and the mayor regarding this abuse of the city of San Antonio's power. My letter provides a brief outline and feel free to contact me if you wish. They are planning on pouring the slab today and hauling in the prefab 80,000 lb building early next week.

Thank you. John Whitsett 210-386-7164

- 07/21/16 at 12:04 PM

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Re: Condemnation/Destruction of Children's play area and give away of Haskin Park by City of San Antonio to Google

To: Councilman Gallagher

CC: Mayor Taylor

I am a resident of Oak Park-Northwood and have just discovered how the City of San Antonio is allowing Google, a private/public company, to destroy Haskin Park for the neighborhood children. As I can see from your website bio you are very familiar with Neighborhood issues and Homeowner concerns. The City is always preaching more parks for the children yet they are allowing a existing park to be destroyed.

I do not know what you knew about this under the table deal that the city staff and city manager cut with Google but I am extremely disappointed in the efforts by your office to stop them

from destroying Haskin Park for the neighborhood children. No property owner surrounding the park was informed by the City as to their plans and the only reason we found out was through discussions with the Contractors.

This condemnation/private taking of Haskin Park should have been viewed like a zoning case where the Neighborhood Association was notified along with notices to all of the neighbors who front the Park, with the planned use then going before the Planning Commission for approval.

I do not know if you have personally been out to the site..... but the location of the building with a fenced 50 x 30 area in the middle of the Park located under the one (1) Heritage Cedar Elm in the park has essentially cut a narrow but deep park in half. They could have located the building to the rear and not so greatly impacted the neighborhood children's use of the park for T-Ball and Soccer.....a use that is now negated because of the design and location of the building.

In addition the city staff granted Google a variable 15 to 30 foot wide road easement when an existing 15 foot alley runs all the way through the park on both the north and south ends. It is my understanding that lease the city signed with Google for the Park without notifying the neighbors allows Google to build and pave with gravel a new road next to the existing alley, further destroying Haskin Park's green space and usability . In addition the 50 x 30 pad and building area will be surrounded by a solid wood privacy fence. This will create an unsafe environment for the children using what will be left of the park by offering dark places to hide for those looking to create trouble.

It is unfortunate that the city of San Antonio has abused their power and taken away open green space from the neighborhood children. Our Neighborhood Association president has been extremely frustrated to no end by the lack of care and concern about the children of this neighborhood by the City and it's staff. Since I feel his hands are tied and I have no political concerns I have been talking to all of the neighbors I can regarding this issue and none of them are happy about the building location and the lack concern for the neighborhood and it's children and the total lack of transparency by the City.

I understand Google is fast tracking this deal and is planning on pouring the foundation sometime this afternoon with plans to install the building early next week. This use of the park for this purpose without negotiations with the affected property owners and the location of the building is unacceptable.

I am all in favor of Google coming to town and getting service but not at the expense of the children in the neighborhood and the destruction of Haskin Park, a dedicated city park.

Thank you for your time. I can be reached at 210-386-7164.

Sincerely,

John Whitsett
203 Haskin Dr

210-386-7164

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