

63

May 27, 1969

Mr. Don O. Gamel
2623 Rex Avenue, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

Dear Mr. Gamel:

Thank you for your letter concerning recreation facilities in Atlanta. When a citizen takes the time to write a letter of this nature, you may be sure that it is read with sincere interest, and any suggestions made are given full consideration.

Your comment on gymnasium facilities is pertinent. Our goal as the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Atlanta is to provide well-developed, accessible parks and a balanced, adequate recreation program. To do this we should reach all ages -- pre school, elementary school, teenagers, adults and senior citizens. Our facilities should be available six or seven days a week, during the day and evenings. However, funds for these goals have been diverted for other equally important programs. It is unfortunate but true that Atlanta does not have the parks system and recreation program it needs and deserves.

You are correct in stating that few adults in Atlanta make use of the existing recreation facilities. This is possibly due to the fact that in most instances knowledge of the basic recreation programs never reaches the public.

It is not within my power to speak for other agencies such as the School Department and the YMCA, but you may rest assured that we in the Parks and Recreation Department are making a definite, feasible effort to improve existing conditions of our parks and recreation facilities. Enclosed you will find our projection of improvements, first steps of which have already been initiated with completion date set for 1983. Also you will find an even more tangible report of what we plan to do this summer in our expanded Summer Recreation Program. As these reports show, we are trying to correct the very problems you have outlined in your letter.

May I suggest a few parks in your area and some activities in which you might be interested. West Manor Park located on Sewell Road, S. W. has outdoor and indoor sports activities for adults Monday through Friday nights. Ben Hill Center, located on Old Fairburn Road, S. W., has adult basketball on Wednesday nights, and skilled and unskilled games for adults on Monday and Thursday nights. At Adamsville Center, 3404 DelMar Lane, S. W., a program of men's athletics is conducted from 7:00-9:00 p. m. each Wednesday.

I hope that you might be able to avail yourself of these adult athletic activities offered. For further information on activities offered in your area, you might contact Mr. Fred Morgan at 758-8739. Mr. Morgan is the Area Recreation Supervisor for the Southwest section of Atlanta, and he will be happy to talk with you about Recreation Programs in your area.

Once again, thank you for your interest in the City of Atlanta Recreation Department.

Very truly yours,

Virginia Carmichael
Director of Recreation

VC/pah

cc: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓
Mr. Fred Morgan