

INTRA OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Collier Gladin, George Aldridge, Pierce Mahony, Dan Sweat
From: Eric, Bob *E H BA*
Subject: Southern Railway's Planned Expansion of Storage Facilities in the Pittsburgh Neighborhood
DATE

DISPOSITION

Distribute

Hold

File

Info. Only

November 18, 1969

On Tuesday, November 4, Stan Martin of the Parks & Recreation Department informed Eric that Southern Railway was planning to acquire a portion of Pittman Park in order to expand their storage facilities which are now located just to the east of McDaniel Street.

Previous to this date, representatives of Southern Railway met with Mr. Charles Leftwich to explain their expansion plans. They told Mr. Leftwich that they wanted to acquire approximately 4.2 acres of the northern section of Pittman Park for the storage of railroad cars. In return they will purchase approximately 4.8 acres to the southeast of the park and give it to the Parks Department and build new facilities for any facilities which they acquire. In addition to the park, Southern Railway also plans to expand southwesterly into the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and will acquire 50 structures between McDaniel Street and Pittman Park.

On Wednesday, November 5, the day after Stan Martin informed Eric, Reinald Dersch of the Parks Department brought a map of the park and showed Eric and Bob Southern Railway's plans with regard to the park (but not Southern's complete plans). At this time, Eric telephoned Jim Wright to inform him of what the Planning Department had learned. Eric requested that a meeting be held as soon as possible with representatives of Southern Railway, Model Cities, Parks and Recreation Department, Housing Authority and the Planning Department. This meeting was set by the Parks Department for the following Monday.

On Monday, November 10, a meeting was held in the conference room of the City Hall Annex to discuss Southern Railway's plans. People attending the meeting included:

Howard Grigsby - Housing Authority
Lou Orosz & Jim Wright - Model Cities
Jimmy Mimms, Virginia Carmichael, Betty Yarborough, Molly Waggoner - Recreation Staff
A. P. Brindley, Reinald Dersch - Parks Staff
Stan Martin - Parks & Recreation Department

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Horace Ward - City Attorney's Office
Bob Helget - Planning Department
C. Richard McQueen - (attorney from Grenne, Buckley, DeRienx & Jones)
representing Southern Railway
J. R. Oglesby - Southern Railway

At this meeting Reinald Dersch of the Parks and Recreation Department discussed the Railway's plan, the effect on Pittman Park, and some solutions to this problem. The land that Southern Railway wishes to give the Parks Department in return for what they purchase includes a portion of the brick yard east of the present Park and the block bounded by Delevon Street, Fortress Avenue, Fletcher Street and West Avenue. This block contains 30 structures (residential).

The greatest concern of the Parks and Recreation Department is that the park proposed by Southern Railway would be long and fairly narrow. The block with 30 structures is quite isolated from the majority of Pittsburgh residents and therefore, the resulting park would not well serve the residents. These problems were discussed and then the Recreation Staff members left.

Mr. McQueen, representing the Railway, then presented Southern Railway's entire plan to the remaining members. The total plan extends from McDaniel Street on the west to Fortress Street on the east. Fifty structures would be acquired west of the park and thirty structures would be acquired for the new Pittman Park, for a total of 80 structures (all residential). Approximately ten structures have already been acquired west of the park on scattered sites.

Lou Orosz told Mr. McQueen what Model Cities is trying to accomplish and stressed the importance of citizen involvement. Mr. McQueen stated that Southern Railway needs this storage yard immediately. They do not wish to get involved with court suits nor are they fond of meeting with the citizens.

Bob Helget stated that maps would be needed by the Planning Department and Model Cities showing the planned acquisition so that the full impact of the proposed could be studied.

The above mentioned maps were received on Thursday, November 14. We are now proceeding to put this information on Model Cities maps. Model Cities and the Planning Department will obtain information on the condition of structures involved, number of families to be located, and other pertinent information.

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On Monday, November 17, Johnny Johnson is meeting with the legal representatives of Southern Railway to get firsthand information. At this time no additional meetings are scheduled.