

October 6, 1969

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Allen

From: Dan Sweat

Subject: Proposed \$100,000 Park Project

We have been unable to secure what we feel are good recommendations for projects through the usual sources and have, therefore, taken the liberty of making these recommendations ourselves.

In suggesting possible projects we are somewhat at a disadvantage in not knowing the feelings of the donor. For example, is he motivated by charitable considerations which would lend itself to a project in some disadvantaged area? Is he motivated by artistic considerations? Historical considerations? Does he wish the project to be a memorial to himself or his family?

In the event that the City were to receive an unanticipated \$100,000 grant, it would be our hope that these funds could be spent in the downtown area for the benefit and enjoyment of all Atlantans. Our central city is short of landmarks and beauty spots even though we have had a program of beautifying small parcels around the city in recent years. For this reason, we have suggested several projects that would lend character and identification to the downtown areas.

In addition, we have suggested two small park projects to serve specific neighborhoods.

Central City Projects

1. The redevelopment of the Pershing Point Park at the intersection of the Peachtrees. Even though this has been publicly announced, it is unfunded and, considering other priorities, it will probably not be built for

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- s some time. The plans that the Park Engineers have developed are imaginative. This park will be a "Hurt Park" type focal point in what is already a substantial neighborhood of new office buildings, restaurants, etc.
2. Beautification of Five Points. Not just a few trees, but a real effort to convert the area into a landmark area. New sidewalks . . . imaginative redesign of the traffic islands with plantings, etc., new gas light lamps such as those used in Underground Atlanta . . . some sort of statuary or art work that would create the attention (to a lesser degree) as does the Picasso in Chicago. One problem here might be space, but the closing of the short traffic lane between the traffic island and the William Oliver Building and the Bank of Georgia Building so as to create a plaza might be feasible.
3. Purchase and beautify the old filling station site (now, in effect, a traffic island) at Memorial and Central. This intersection is a major entrance into the downtown area, especially the governmental section. This project has been proposed in the five-year capital improvement program, but no provisions have been made for funding the project in the foreseeable future.
4. Conversion of Currier Street. This street is just two blocks long running from Peachtree to Piedmont at the Auditorium and Exhibit Hall main entrance. This could be abandoned as a street and converted to a park-like mall for pedestrian traffic from Peachtree into the Civic Center Complex. The only problem is that this street borders the rear of the property proposed as the new Greyhound Bus Terminal and also the existing parking and service facility for the Atlanta Transit System.
5. Purchase of a historic house for renovation and preservation. Atlanta is short on such historic features. The ante-bellum Judge house on Fairburn Road is a possibility. The Col. L. P. Grant home on St. Paul Avenue, S.E. is probably too far gone. The historical society could recommend one.
6. Beautification of Marietta Street between Five Points and Spring. This wide street has perhaps the best potential of any other street in the central business district and already includes the distinctive Henry Grady monument. An imaginative median could be designed . . . a gas light theme could be continued up from Five Points . . . trees and other plantings could be provided such as was done along Peachtree at Peachtree Center. . . perhaps a fountain.

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7. A focal point such as the St. Louis Arch. Atlanta's could be an artistic conception of the "Phoenix Rising" as is depicted on the Seal. It should be of impressive size and placed in a location that would command attention. Inside or in connection with the Interchange might be a good place if it could be worked out. One other possible place would be the area of the Brookwood Interchange on either the railroad property or on Atlantic Steel property if arrangements could be made.

Neighborhood Projects

1. Development of a small neighborhood park on the property located at White Street and Rose Circle in Southwest Atlanta. This property is just on the edge of the West End Urban Renewal Project, but not major redevelopment in this area is in the plans. Because it is in the redevelopment area, however, the property can be dedicated to the City and all of the funds can go into improvements.
2. Development of a play lot in the Lincoln Homes area of northwest Atlanta. This is on public housing property and can also be dedicated so that all of the donated funds can be used for development.

DS:ja