



**CITY of DENTON, TEXAS**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING / DENTON, TEXAS 76201 / TELEPHONE (817) 566-8307

*Office of the City Manager*

March 23, 1993

Mike Cochran  
610 West Oak Street  
Denton, Texas 76201

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns with the Historic Landmark Commission responsibilities. I want to assure you that the City of Denton recognizes the efforts of the Historic Landmark Commission in historic preservation and the many benefits it provides to the community.

Because you specifically mentioned the Civic Center Pool renovation, I wanted you to be aware of the history of the project. Last June, the City Council instructed the Parks and Recreation Department to proceed with renovation of the pool. There was a strong concern that the pool was not providing an adequate standard of service to the community, from both a functional and aesthetic perspective. In its twenty-eight years of public use, the cedar fencing and trellis had deteriorated significantly and the aging plumbing system needed replacement. In addition, the size of the office and bathhouse was no longer adequate for current user loads. Because the City Council did not want to disrupt the swimming season, the Parks Department was also directed to complete the project prior to the opening of the pool season on Memorial Day weekend of this year.

While HLC does not have regulatory authority outside historic districts or landmarks, the Council did take into account the integrity of Ford's great work. After Council's initial review of the project, Council Members asked staff to reconsider some of the architectural elements of the project. In response, the projects was modified to more closely resemble O'Neil Ford's architectural style. The amphitheater-like berm, that is mentioned in the catalog of Ford's work, will remain, along with the bold ceramic light fixtures and the trellis covered deck area. The major departure from the original pool will, of course, be the new bathhouse/concession and office building. The size of these structures had to be increased to meet current standards and codes for public pool support facilities. However, the brick selected

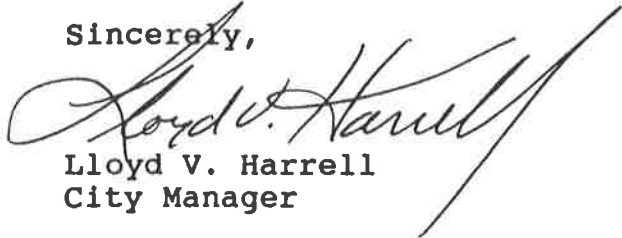
Mike Cochran  
March 23, 1993  
Page 2

for the building will match that which Ford used at City Hall and the Civic Center.

I agree completely that it is appropriate for the HLC to begin the process to designate the O'Neil Ford Civic Complex as a Historic Landmark District based on the criteria you cited in your letter. Staff could begin exploring with HLC the type of HLC review and for what buildings such review should be made. Accordingly, I have asked the Parks and Recreation Director and the Planning Director to report to HLC concerning your letter.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns regarding this issue to my attention.

Sincerely,



Lloyd V. Harrell  
City Manager

LVH:bw  
AMM00278

cc: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Jim Englebrecht, Planning and Zoning Commission  
Judith Abbott, Historic Landmark Commission  
Frank Robbins, Executive Director for Planning  
Rich Dlugas, Director of Parks and Recreation

MIKE COCHRAN  
610 WEST OAK STREET  
DENTON, TEXAS 76201



March 8, 1993

Lloyd Harrell  
City Manager  
City of Denton  
215 E. McKinney  
Denton, Texas 76202

Dear Lloyd,

I have recently become aware of a problem concerning the responsibilities of the Historic Landmark Commission that I think needs your attention.

As you know, the city has begun preparations for a ceremony to honor the naming of the O'Neill Ford Government Center. This is part of a movement to rekindle awareness of the importance of Ford in Denton and help establish for public record the uniqueness of our community.

Ironically, while preparations are underway to honor this native son, the City of Denton has just destroyed one excellent example of his work at the swimming pool. This complex has recently been featured in a published catalogue of Ford's work.

Although it is too late to bring back the swimming pool complex, the lapse in procedure that allowed this to happen without any form of public review (through the Landmark Commission), is unforgivable. I believe that steps must be taken to insure that public landmarks are treated less cavalierly in the future.

It is clearly stated in the Historic Landmark Ordinance 80-30 that it is a matter of public policy that "preservation and use of historic landmarks is a public necessity..." It further states that the Landmark Ordinance exists to "protect

Betty McKean

I've asked Jan to set up meeting  
with Rick and me to discuss report  
to H.C. and a meeting with us, Cochran  
and Judith Abbott before we go to H.C.

Jan is also contacting Corrigan  
to see what we're doing to city hall so  
we can keep Cochran from  
being involved in our internal changes. I said.