

From: [harvey smith](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: Plans to demolish clubhouse/recreational building at 2720 Hillegass Avenue
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November 3, 2022

City of Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
Fatema Crane, Landmarks Preservation Commission Secretary
LPC@CityofBerkeley.info

Subject: Plans to demolish clubhouse/recreational building at 2720
Hillegass Avenue

To: Landmarks Preservation Commission

I am speaking tonight on behalf of Zach Stewart who could not attend this meeting via Zoom. Zach and I have collaborated on many projects. I am author of *Berkeley and the New Deal* and have also worked as an environmental educator so I am very familiar with Berkeley parks and the critical need for parks.

Zach Stewart was hired to do the Willard Park Clubhouse design because the first architectural design created a big structure in the middle of the park. The Willard neighbors noticed this and told the architect of that design to never come back—they wanted open space! So the City asked Zach Stewart to do the project. Zach had just completed the Shore Bird Park Project in the Berkeley Marina. Zach emphasizes that the neighborhood wanted open space!!!! — not a massive club house.

Zach has said, and I quote, "Frederick Law Olmsted would suggest that open space is way more important than buildings, and I agree."

Zach emphasizes his experience working with the neighbors—responding for their deep, deep desire for green open space—how he and his partner listened to their concerns and crafted a modest clubhouse and a whimsical "well and pump" at the corner of Hillegass & Derby

Zach also says this is "about the city clearing the Willard Park site years ago to create precious open space for the neighborhood-----and then arousing the neighborhood by planning to put a building in the middle of the newly created open space. This was avoided then and should continue to be avoided now."

Berkeley 1986 Measure L is also invoked by Zach. The Public Parks and Open Space Preservation Ordinance requires the Berkeley City Council to preserve and maintain the public parks and open space which exists in

Berkeley. The attainment of the minimum standard of two acres of public open space per 1,000 persons is jeopardized by continued loss of public open spaces. The ordinance also requires the City to submit to a popular vote all proposals to withdraw from recreational use public parks or public open space.

This history is critical to the understanding of how Willard Park was created and is totally relevant to any plans for redesign today.

Zach Steward would be willing to answer any questions the commissioners may have.

Sincerely,

Harvey Smith

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Here is a link to my book - <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9781467132398/Berkeley-and-the-New-Deal>. Follow the National New Deal Preservation Association and the Living New Deal by signing up to receive occasional updates. [Join LND's Email List](#). The latest or previous newsletters are at each website - www.newdeallegacy.org and www.livingnewdeal.org. Join us in pushing for a *New* New Deal!