



City of Lawrence

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CITY COMMISSION

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April 29, 2015

Lawrence City Commission
6 E 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: Clinton Park Land Transfer

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The Lawrence Historic Resources Commission (HRC) at our meeting on April 16, 2015, received communications from the public about the proposed land transfer of a portion of Clinton Park. This item was on the City Commission consent agenda on April 14, 2015. The HRC voted unanimously to voice concerns to the City Commission over this proposed transfer.

Clinton Park is a significant historic resource in the City of Lawrence. It was one of the three parks originally platted in the city. The original park has been owned by the City and has consistently been used as an open recreation space for the community since at least 1858. While Pinckney School has used the park property for some time, the use as a playground area is consistent with the park setting and active recreation use. The continued use of this area for a school playground does not pose a threat to the historic significance of the park.

The HRC is of the opinion that Clinton Park is eligible for listing in the Lawrence Register of Historic Places. The Commission is concerned about the transfer of the property without provisions that will protect the park. The HRC recommends that the City initiate the process for designation as a landmark immediately and complete the designation prior to the transfer of the property to the school district. In addition, the Commission would recommend additional protection measures for the park such as an easement to prevent the construction of structures or a large parking lot on the property.

The HRC appreciates the commitment of the City Commission to preserve and protect our valuable historic resources and is pleased to serve the Commission as an advisory board.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Foster, Chair
Historic Resources Commission

