

# PRESERVE PIONEER PARK



A resident committee to keep Pioneer Park  
Clean, Green and Serene



<http://geocities.com/preservepioneerpark/>  
preservepioneerpark@yahoo.com

Submitted To: Montgomery Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council at Joint Meeting 3/9/2006

## Re: **Introductory Statement from Resident Committee to Preserve Pioneer Park**

My name is Brett Leonard. I live at 10426 Londonridge Court. The next eight speakers and I represent the citizens group known as Preserve Pioneer Park.

Our group is not an opposition group; it is an advocacy group. Our mission is to preserve the precious, rustic, passive, nature of Pioneer Park and Pioneer Meadow. The meadow represents twenty percent of the original 7.7 acres promised to remain as natural parkland. The intention of voters in November of 1990 was clear when they passed a levy for “the retention of the...existing parkland and green space known as Pioneer Park”<sup>1</sup> and for “Green space preservation purposes”<sup>2</sup>. In no way is this proposed facility in line with that vision.

As far back as nineteen eighty-seven, City Staff and the Parks, Recreation, and Landmarks Committee recognized the natural value of this land. They considered enlisting the Ohio Department of Natural Resources “to aid in establishing a wild life natural area”<sup>3</sup>. The grant was not pursued. The urgency to acquire the land was too great. The stated goal was to establish neighborhood parks to meet the “aesthetic, recreational, and environmental needs of the community...” and “for the active and passive recreation needs of residents”<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Montgomery Council Minutes, January 2, 1991 – Ordinance states the purpose of bond is to pay “cost of developing the active and passive recreation areas of Pioneer Park”.

<sup>2</sup> Initiative Petition presented by residents to Montgomery City Council on May 2, 1990

<sup>3</sup> Memo to City Council from Parks and Recreation Commission, June 25, 1990

<sup>4</sup>Page 2 - Memorandum from Jon Bormet (City Manager) to Juanita Conklin, Chairman, Parks, Recreation and Landmarks Committee, May 13, 1987

More recently, The City of Montgomery Strategic Plan of 2001 states the “need to exercise vigilance in the preservation of the existing open space... to protect the watershed... to ensure that the aesthetic quality, physical characteristics, and accessibility of natural resources...contribute to the uniquely desirable quality of life”. Friends, we do not believe the construction of this type of facility in Pioneer Meadow is at all in line with the current strategic plan of the city.<sup>5</sup>

Now is the time to consider facts and data. Fact: the citizens of this community worked day and night to preserve this park from development in 1990 and approved a tax levy to do it. Fact: The petition signed by 1140 citizens explicitly stated that retention of green space was a primary concern.<sup>6</sup> Fact: All proposals considered by the city preserved the meadow as a passive natural area. Fact: Preserve Pioneer Park has broad-based support to prevent a nullification of the peoples’ will concerning this matter.

If recent strategic vision serves as a guide for decision makers today, the choice is clear; there is no gray. We expect that after examining the data you will agree that it is prudent to exercise vigilance in the preservation of this, one of the last remaining public open green spaces in this city, Pioneer Meadow. We hope that the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council will honor the past and present will of the people and deny this proposal and Preserve Pioneer Meadow. Thank you very much for your time.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

Brett Leonard

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<sup>5</sup> City of Montgomery Strategic Plan, 2001, page 18

<sup>6</sup> Initiative Petition presented by residents to Montgomery City Council on May 2, 1990