



City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs
51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, 498-9076

To: Jill Herold

Date: April 28, 1986

From: Paul Ryder 

Reference:

Subject: City Council Order - Skateboard Ramps

In regard to Councilor Wolf's Council Order of March 3, 1986, regarding the feasibility of skateboard ramps, I would like to bring the following information to your attention:

1. Liability Insurance - Although the City of Cambridge is self-insured, additional Liability Insurance would be required. The City of Virginia Beach, which has skateboard ramps in operation, stated in the attached correspondence that they are "unaware of any insurance company that will write insurance for skateboard ramps at the present time".
2. Frequency of Accidents - City of Virginia Beach
 - A. Lynnhaven Skate Ramp - in a 12 month period, 12 minor and 5 major accidents. Major accidents included 1 fractured leg, 1 fractured ankle, 1 broken finger, 1 broken collar bone and 1 broken elbow.
 - B. Mount Trashmore Skate Ramp - In a 14 month period, 22 minor accidents and

Community and Youth Services
498-9037/9072
Council on Aging/Elderly Services
498-9039

Recreation
498-9028
Community Learning Center
547-1589

Jill Herold, 4/28/86

2. (cont.)

11 major accidents. (Please see attached sheet.)

In addition, I have contacted two Insurance Agencies in regard to Liability Insurance for Skateboard Ramps. Both companies - Francis Curtin Agency and Sullivan, Garrity and Donnelly - stated that they would not carry Liability Insurance for Skateboard Ramps and were unaware of any agency that would.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9020

LAW DEPARTMENT

RUSSELL B. HIGLEY
CITY SOLICITOR

MICHAEL C. COSTELLO
ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR

SEVERLIN B. SINGLETON, III
BIRGE ALBRIGHT
DONALD A. DRISDELL
LEGAL COUNSEL

March 31, 1986

Robert W. Healy
CITY MANAGER

RE: Skateboard Facility

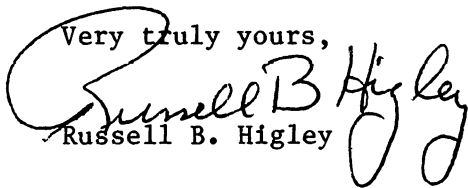
Dear Mr. Healy:

In response to a City Council order of March 3, you have requested my opinion regarding the feasibility of the City's building and maintaining a skateboard ramp facility for use by Cambridge young people.

The material you submitted from Virginia Beach, Virginia where they have several skateboard ramps, suggests to me that the building of such a ramp here would greatly increase the City's exposure to tort liability. I refer particularly to the statistics regarding accidents on the ramps, and to the memorandum from Mr. Esenberg (Risk Management Department), dated 11/4/85, in which he states, inter alia, that "We are unaware of any insurance company that will write insurance for skateboard ramps at the present time."

In view of the increasing number of claims which are now being made against the City, I suggest that it might be imprudent to assume this liability at this time.

Very truly yours,


Russell B. Higley

RBH/a



M. JACK JENNINGS
COUNCILMAN
LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH

City of Virginia Beach

925 WINTHROPE DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452
HOME PHONE 804 - 340-6623
OFFICE PHONE 804 - 424-6600

December 9, 1985

Mr. Jonathan Knight
93 Fayerweather Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Knight:

Thank you for your letter requesting information concerning our skate ramps in Virginia Beach.

We are currently operating five ramps, two located at Mt. Trashmore, one at Lynnhaven Park, one at Red Wing Park, and one portable ramp. Our carpentry crew constructed all of the ramps except the small ramp at Mt. Trashmore which was donated by a private citizen and is mainly used by the younger skaters.

The ramps are all wood and cost of materials for the permanent ramps was nearly \$7,000 per ramp, which was absorbed by the operating budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The City of Virginia Beach is self-insured and had to contract additional liability insurance for the ramps. Fortunately, we have had only a few reported accidents involving broken bones to date.

Since their inception, the skate ramps have operated very smoothly. We did encounter a few maintenance problems, however, the biggest being a rapidly-deteriorating skating surface. We feel this was due to the large number of skaters using the ramps. Fiberglass has now been applied to the skate ramps and the surface is working very well.

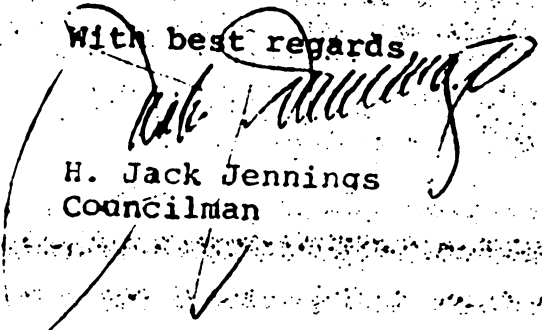
Unfortunately, I have no blueprints available to send you. We were given some very rough plans to go by which required a great deal of improvisation by our construction team. I have enclosed photographs of the facilities, a list of operating pro-

December 9, 1985

cedures, rules and regulations, and a materials and personnel cost breakdown.

I hope this information is helpful in your presentation. If you have additional questions, please let me know. <

With best regards


H. Jack Jennings
Councilman

HJJ/RDH/mkm
attachments



City of Virginia Beach

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

4433 RECREATION DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23456

LYNNHAVEN SKATE RAMP ATTENDANCE

ACCIDENTS

<u>Month</u>	<u># of Users</u>	<u>Avg./Day</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>
* Nov.	214	7.1	0	Fractured leg
Dec.	634	20.5	0	" ankle
Jan. 1985	346	11.2	4	0
Feb.	429	15.3	4	0
March	441	14.2	0	Broken Finger
April	707	23.6	1	0
**May	215	19.5	0	Broken collar bone
June	913	30.4	1	0
July	761	24.5	1	0
Aug.	583	18.8	1	Broken elbow
Sept.	482	16.1	1	0
Oct.	488	15.7	0	0
Nov.	390	13.0	0	0

TOTAL 12

5

12 months

* Opened on 11/21/85

** Closed for fiberglassing from 5/1/85 to 5/19/85



City of Virginia Beach

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

4433 RECREATION DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23466

RED WING SKATEBOARD RAMP ATTENDANCE

<u>Month</u>	<u># of Users</u>	<u>Avg./Day</u>	<u>ACCIDENTS</u>	
			<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>
*August 1985	287 /12	23.9	0	0
Sept.	460	15.3	1	0
Oct.	424	15.7	1	0
Nov.	352 /23	15.3	1	0
TOTAL			2	0

* Opened 9/20/85

City of Virginia Beach

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

4433 RECREATION DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23456

MOUNT TRASHMORE SKATE RAMP ATTENDANCE

<u>Month</u>	<u># of Users</u>	<u>Avg./Day</u>	<u>ACCIDENTS</u>	
			<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>
Sept. 1984	613	20.4	0	Laceration
Oct.	530	17.1	0	0
Nov.	374	12.5	0	2 Possible broken arm; " arm & shin
Dec.	1,010	32.6	2	0
Jan. 1985	269	8.7	0	0
Feb.	301	10.8	0	0
March	574	18.5	0	0
April	848	28.3	3	0
May	857	27.7	0	0
June	869	28.9	0	2 Broken wrist; " collarbone
July	*517	64.7	2	0
Aug.	580	18.7	5	Compound fracture of arm
Sept.	611	20.4	2	Broken fingers
Oct.	670	21.6	7	2 Possible broken ribs; Knocked unconscious
Nov.	459	15.3	1	2 Possible broken wrist; " " thumb

* Closed 8/9/85 to 9/1/85
for fiberglassing

TOTAL

(22)

(11)

/ 14 + months

City of Virginia Beach

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: 11-4-85

TO: John Coates

DEPARTMENT: Parks Division

FROM: Robert W. Esenberg *RWE*

DEPARTMENT: Risk Management

SUBJECT: Insurance for Skateboard Ramps

In order to assist you in responding to requests for information regarding the operation of our skateboard ramps, we are pleased to provide the following information which you may wish to include in future correspondence:

1. In 1984, when it was first decided to construct the ramps, we approached more than 20 insurance companies either directly or through wholesalers. The insurance companies approached included companies that write specialty type insurance for such activities as amusement parks, water flumes, mechanical bulls, etc.

2. Because of the self-insured retention on the city's overall liability program, it was our desire to obtain coverage for the skateboard ramp risks at a lower deductible level.

* 3. All but one insurer refused to write the risk, and the single insurer that agreed to write the skateboard ramps did so as a favor to our broker, and only agreed to write it on a trial basis. We are advised that this underwriter would not agree to write this risk in today's market either for the City of Virginia Beach or for any other city.

4. At the present time, the city has included the skateboard ramps under our general insurance program, and is self-insured for the first \$50,000 of any one occurrence. It is anticipated that our self-insured retention will at least double in March when we renew our insurance.

* 5. We are unaware of any insurance company that will write insurance for skateboard ramps at the present time.

We hope this information will be helpful to you, and should you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

RWE/stc

SKATERAMP RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) All skaters must have a registration card.
- 2) All skaters must provide their own equipment.
- 3) Safety equipment must be worn at all times.
- 4) Only one (1) skater on the ramp at a time.
- 5) No food or beverages allowed inside the fenced area.
- 6) Extreme recklessness will not be tolerated.
- 7) No destroying or defacing public property.
- 8) Any infraction of the above rules will result in loss of skateboard card and all skating privileges.
- 9) Only three skaters on the platform at one time.

**COST OF CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION
LYNNHAVEN PARK SKATEBOARD RAMP PROJECT**

	<u>MATERIALS COST</u>	<u>LABOR COST</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Skateboard Ramp	\$6,850.57	\$6,484.72	\$699.09	\$14,034.38
Fence	1,147.53	795.72	144.10	2,087.35
Signs	358.66	167.44	24.00	550.10
Bleachers (3 sets)	1,003.65	313.52	44.00	1,361.17
Table/Umbrella	93.59	96.36	2.50	192.45
Bicycle Racks	137.00	133.32	2.50	272.82
Walkie Talkies	<u>388.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>388.05</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$9,979.05</u>	 <u>\$7,991.08</u>	 <u>\$916.19</u>	 <u>\$18,886.32</u>

**COST OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
LYNNHAVEN SKATEBOARD RAMP PROJECT
FOR THE PERIOD 11/21/84 - 04/12/85**

	<u>MATERIALS COST</u>	<u>LABOR COST</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
October 1984	\$ 20.76	\$ 89.92	\$14.00	\$ 124.68
November 1984	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
January 1985	93.90	158.60	3.75	256.25
February 1985	178.96	317.70	9.75	506.41
March 1985	210.98	456.43	13.50	680.91
April 1985	<u>14.18</u>	<u>22.97</u>	<u>1.50</u>	<u>38.65</u>
TOTAL YEAR TO DATE	<u>\$518.78</u>	<u>\$1,045.62</u>	<u>\$42.50</u>	<u>\$1,606.90</u>

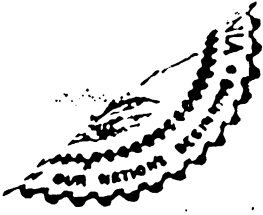
Annual maintenance/repair costs can not be projected since skateboard ramp has only been in operation for 4½ months and peak season maintenance/repair costs have not been experienced.

	<u>NO. OF HOURS PER DAY</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS PER WEEK</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>	<u>PAY PER WEEK</u>	<u>FICA COSTS</u>	<u>TOTAL SALARY & FRINGE BENEFITS</u>
Park Aide	10	7	\$3.60	\$252.00	\$17.77	\$269.77
1 Park Aide	6	2 (Weekends)	3.60	<u>43.20</u>	<u>3.05</u>	<u>46.25</u>
Total Weekly Cost of Supervision				<u>\$295.20</u>	<u>\$20.82</u>	<u>\$316.02</u>

Total Annual Cost of Supervision - \$16,433.04

Total Average Monthly Cost of Supervision - \$1,369.42

* Hours reported are the average number of operating hours. Weekly figures increase in summer when park operating hours are extended and decrease due to down time for repairs and inclement weather.



City of Virginia Beach

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

4433 RECREATION DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23466

MEMORANDUM

June 20, 1985

TO: Richard Branich, Parks Administrator
FROM: Ray Emerson, Asst. to Administrator/Parks
SUBJECT: Cost Estimate for Operation of Portable Skateboard Ramp

1 - VHF Portable Radio (2-way) for Rescue & Emergency Calls	\$ 670
1 - Desk-top Battery Charger	55
1 - Speaker Microphone	60
1 - Spare nicad Rechargeable Battery	44
3 - Park Aides To cover hours from 8:00 a.m. - Sunset, 7 days a week for summer operation. Would cut back to afternoons and weekends after school starts, so personnel cost would drop considerably once summer is over.	3,025
1 - Portable Restroom @ \$50 per month	150
1 - First Aid Box	25
Miscellaneous items such as cash box, registration cards, first-aid supplies, umbrella, table, brooms, squeegee, etc.	250

\$4,279 Total

FIC:

RE/d1

= 10
34,537





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

April 28, 1986

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 6 regarding the feasibility of the city installing a skateboard ramp, I submit the attached reports from the City Solicitor and Recreation Director. Both responses advise against a municipal skateboard ramp primarily due the likely increase in the City's tort liability. I concur with these recommendations and therefore have not included funding for such a purpose in the FY87 budget.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 6
on the feasibility of installing a skateboard
ramp.

In City Council,

April 28, 1986

Placed on File