



**MAIN STREET
PROGRAM**

MEMORANDUM

**To: Mayor and City Council Members
Douglas G. Faseler, City Manager**

From: Kyle Kramm, Main Street and CVB Director

Subject: Landmark Application – Golf Club Pro Shop

Date: March 26, 2018

A local landmark application has been submitted for the W. A. Lefty Stackhouse Memorial Club House located at 650 River Drive West inside Starcke Park. Per the landmark designation ordinance, the application has been reviewed by the Seguin Conservation Society, the Guadalupe County Historical Commission, and Historic Design Review Committee, all recommending approval. A recommendation on the application from the Historic Design Review Committee is required to go before City Council for approval of the landmark application.

The golf club house was constructed in 1938 through FDR's New Deal, where Seguin was able to take advantage of the discovery of the Darst Oil Field to provide the matching monies for several projects. Robert Hugman, designer of the River Walk, was the designer/architect of Starcke Park and Hugman would select Seguin native Marvin Eickenroht to design club house and John Bredemus to design the course (first golf course designer in Texas).

The design is art deco style with a balanced design, simple lines and minimal décor. The building is constructed out of concrete. There have been limited additions to the building, including a front porch. Several of the original windows had to be replaced after the 1998 flood.

A variety of characters have been regulars at the club house over its lifetime. W. A. Lefty Stackhouse founded the left handed golfers tournament that was held at Starcke Park for many years until it out grew the park. Stackhouse played in the PGA and coached numerous Seguin students.

Clarence Little would start as a caddie, the only way African Americans and Hispanics were allowed on the golf course. Little found a love for the game and would travel to Austin to play every Sunday at the only integrated golf course in Texas. After getting to church late on numerous occasions, the pastor went to the Mayor requesting that Starcke

Park Golf Course be integrated, and the Mayor agreed, leading to Seguin's Starcke Park Golf Course being one of the first integrated courses in the state. Little would then become the City's first chairman of the Golf Advisory Board.

Staff recommends approval of the local historic marker.