PRESERVATION
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of CHARLESTON

March 11, 2026

Jessica Gibadlo
Interim Executive Director
Charleston Parks Conservancy
720 Magnolia Road Suite #25
Charleston, SC 29407

Re: Hazel Parker Playground

Via Email to: jgibadlo@charlestonparksconservancy.org

Dear Mrs. Gibadlo,

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you last week to discuss the "Hazel Parker Playground Reimagined" concept. The plan involves an expanded playground recentering the park as an amenity for neighborhood children, as it has traditionally functioned.

On behalf of the Preservation Society of Charleston, we support this conceptual design to enhance the functionality and beauty of this important place which serves an important role in ensuring the livability of the South of Broad neighborhoods.

Critically, the plan retains the playground function as a centerpiece of the purpose of the park, a function core to the park's purpose since 1933. Originally known as the East Bay Playground, the park was located on land owned by the Port Utilities Commission and built by unemployed workers paid with federal relief funds. It was re-named in 1977 in honor of its longtime supervisor, Miss Hazel V. Parker, who oversaw generations of children during her long tenure which began in 1942.

We look forward to working closely with the Charleston Parks Conservancy to ensure that Hazel V. Parker playground remains an integral part of our city's future.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Turner