



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

PARK NAMING AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

5:30 p.m., Wednesday July 27, 2016
Senior Center in Central Park
Park View Room A
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members Present: Michael Couey, Albert Gasparian, J.D. Miles,
Roy Miller
Committee Members Absent: None
Staff Present: David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez

Committee Chair, Commissioner Couey, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Chair Couey welcomed the audience and announced that Committee has been asked to consider criteria for park naming, and the naming or renaming of three parks, including Arevalos, Wardlow, and the former Lamb School site. He called for public comments, instructing speakers that they are limited to 3-minutes and no action can be taken on anything today that is not on the agenda.

Public Comments

Rocky Ciarelli spoke regarding the naming of a park after his father, Frank Ciarelli. He said one of his father's unique aspect was his involvement in youth sports and mentoring youths; he was a City inspector in the 60's and developed the weed abatement program for kids, some of whom went on to for the City themselves.

Debbie Tinoco spoke on behalf of the Arevalos family. She said that her great-grandfather was one of the first agriculturists in Huntington Beach and they would like to see the Hispanic culture kept alive in Huntington Beach.

Cindy Arevalos Garcia, also representing the Arevalos family spoke about Andres Arevalos and the family values he instilled that has been passed down for generations. In addition to the park, she would like to see a bench named in his honor.

Dann Dibb, a member of the Fountain Valley Historical Society and the Orange County Historical Society spoke on the importance of the early families and parks in general. He said that City boundaries were changed, but at one time Lamb did own land that was part of Huntington Beach. He asked that the City teach history, not re-write it.

Tony Ciarelli spoke on behalf of his father, Frank Ciarelli. He contributed the term "Surf City" to his father. His father was an avid waterman and there had been a LIFE

Magazine cover of his father surfing. He talked of his father's years as a lifeguard, his contributions to the City's recreation department, and that he was part of the "Boys of '55".

Mary Urishima introduced herself as the Chair of the Historic Wintersburg Task Force. She is also a member of the Huntington Beach Historical Society. She stated her displeasure that the City would consider changing the names of these parks given their history.

Couey thanked the public for their comments.

Dominguez gave background on the task before Committee which is to consider the official naming of the new park that has been developed on what was the former Lamb School site. He reminded Committee that there had never been a park in that location when the school was in existence. Additionally, Committee's task is to decide whether to recommend the renaming of Wardlow and Arevalos parks or to retain the names. He referred Committee to items in their agenda packets, which included a report from the Historic Resources Board (HRB) as asked of them at the last meeting, and a matrix prepared by staff, which lists the criteria used, some of the names to be considered, along with the names of the gentlemen for which the parks are currently named.

There was discussion about the HRB report and criteria, in addition to the matrix. Commissioner Miller pointed out that the HRB suggests keeping the names of Arevalos and Wardlow due to community recognition, and that Lamb has never been a park and should be officially named – to which he agrees. He also discussed the possibility of other naming opportunities.

Commissioner Gasparian said that there has to be a compelling reason to change the name of a park. He feels there needs to be a system for naming and a priority list created so that Committee will not have to go through this process again in the future. There was discussion of future naming opportunities, with Dominguez replying that future park naming opportunities are limited.

Motion: Commissioner Miles moved to recommend the name retention Arevalos Park. Miller seconded the motion.

Ayes: Couey, Gasparian, Miles, Miller

Noes: None

Committee continued to discuss the process and the possibility of future naming opportunities. Committee concurred that the naming process should take precedence before addressing the naming of fields and other opportunities. Commissioner Miles suggested that they begin with prioritizing the matrix list. He further suggested the Delbert "Bud" Higgins be made first on the list.

Gasparian asked if the old senior center (Rogers Seniors' Center) would be a naming opportunity. Dominguez responded yes and that re-use options for that site will go to Commission in September.

Miles asked about the beach tot lot being named. Dominguez responded that it could be named.

Motion: Gasparian moved to recommend the naming of the park at the old Lamb School site after Delbert "Bud" Higgins Park, and to change the name of Wardlow Park to Frank Ciarelli Park. Miller seconded the motion.

Ayes: Couey, Gasparian, Miles, Miller

Noes: None

Commissioner Gasparian suggested that Committee continue to meet to create the priority list for future naming opportunities. Dominguez suggested that it be brought up at a Commission meeting for direction from Commission as a whole.

There being no further business, Commissioner Miles moved for adjournment and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO COMMITTEE:

Information pertaining to William D. Lamb, printed from the O.C. History Roundup by Chris Jepsen: <http://ochistorical.blogspot.com/2016/03/pioneer-william-d-lamb.html>

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary