



City of Huntington Beach
Community Services Commission

PARK NAMING AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 1, 2015
Civic Center, Meeting Room B-7
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Committee Members Present: Bridget Kaub (acting ex officio), Michael Couey, Albert Gasperian, J.D. Miles, Roy Miller

Committee Members Absent: Jay Kreitz (ex officio - excused)

Staff Present: David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Election of Committee Chair – Miller nominated moved to nominate Couey as Committee Chair and Gasperian seconded the motion. Couey opposed. Miles, Miller and Gasperian voted in favor. Couey accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations the motion passed.

Public Comments

Brenda Garenger spoke on behalf of over 200 Lamb Elementary alumni, who would like to see the park at the old Lamb Elementary School named after Frank Seurer, Sr. for his dedication to youth sports. Ms. Garenger listed Mr. Seurer's numerous qualities, included that he was a great mentor to the neighborhood children and a good dad. Chair Couey thank her, and she thanked Committee for their time.

Park Naming of Arevalos Park, Wardlow Park and "Lamb" Park -

Chair Couey asked if any written communications were received. Dominguez responded that Committee has copies of the correspondence in the agenda packets of the emails received regarding the naming of the three parks. The majority of the emails were in support of naming the parkland at the old Lamb Elementary after Frank Seurer.

Dominguez gave a brief overview of the park naming process and explained that notices went out to the residence within 500 feet of the subject parks, in addition to being noticed in the local newspaper. Committee will come up with recommendations and submit them to Commission as a whole, and ultimately to City Council for approval. Dominguez said that included in Committee's agenda packet is a copy of Resolution No. 2004-90. The criteria addresses naming parks after an adjacent school, however, in the case of Wardlow and Lamb, the schools are no longer standing. Additionally, in the case of "Lamb", when the school was there, no park existed. The City bought part of the school turf back in 2005 for park purposes, but it is just now being developed.

Therefore, Committee is being asked to consider an official name for this park as it was never part of Lamb Elementary School.

Arevalos School is there in parts, but the Fountain Valley School District sold the property to a private school, which is now Pegasus School and private property. The City has licensed the adjacent park property from Southern California Edison since the early 1970s, so there was a history in the past.

Wardlow is a 2 acre park that fronts Magnolia Street and has been there since the 1970s. The remainder was purchased in 2005. Recently, the residential developer gifted an additional .68 acres to the City for the parking lot and snack bar, which is now consider part of the park.

As background, Dominguez noted that staff researched the names of those for whom the adjacent schools and/or parks were named and discovered that Fountain Valley schools are named after founding-fathers.

Committee was also provided with a chronologic list of Huntington Beach Mayors. Prior to the resolution change in 2004, the resolution required parks be named for past mayors, starting with the oldest living mayor. However, the language was broadened in 2004 to include other significant individuals or events in addition to mayors. It is one more piece Committee can consideration in the naming of these parks. Dominguez opened the topic for discussion.

Commissioner Miller addressed the criteria listed in the resolution being restrictive of those who are currently on Council. Dominguez agreed and added that it also restricts those who have already had a park named for them. Dominguez stated that there needs to be a concurrence of both Commission and City Council for approval.

Commissioner Kaub noted that only one email respectively was received in support of Arevalos and Wardlow, both asking that the names be retained. Dominguez responded that in researching, staff found that only Mr. Wardlow donated an acre of land to be used as a school, while the other two schools were named after prominent citizens within the Fountain Valley community.

Commissioner Gasparian asked if all of the schools were within the Fountain Valley School District and Dominguez responded yes, and that although they are within Huntington Beach city limits, all three schools were within the FVSD. Commissioner Gasparian said that in his opinion that makes it less of a reason to retain the names since the history belongs to Fountain Valley and not Huntington Beach. Discussion continued.

Chair Couey asked Dominguez to clarify the goal of the Committee. Dominguez said they have many options including considering the continuation of honoring Fountain Valley's founding fathers, consider Huntington Beach founding fathers or mayors, take the public comments into consideration, or any variation that meets the criteria they agree upon. However, they don't need to make a decision today. This meeting is to look at the criteria and determine how they want to approach the naming of the parks.

Chair Couey led an in-depth discussion regarding the criteria Committee will use in the naming process. They discussed that the criteria should reflect a personage or thing of significance in the City of Huntington Beach. Chair Couey asked Dominguez how many other parks remain to be named. Discussion continued on the additional park naming opportunities. Dominguez informed Commission that the City is running out of parks to name as the final stages are reached, which leaves about four to seven parks including these three. Committee continued to discussion the importance of the criteria for naming the remaining parks.

Commissioner Miles noted that there are parks within the city that have been named after a place or thing in addition to a person, such as Discovery Wells and Triangle Park and asked that they too be considered. After further discussion that included significant individuals, places, and themes within the City and their qualifications, Committee agreed that they need more time on this subject to allow for additional community input.

Chair Couey asked if all are in agreement that if considering a person, they should be a resident of the City, have had a positive impact, made a significant contribution to the City as a whole, and be widely recognized. All stated that they are in agreement. Dominguez suggested that Committee look at Item #4 of Resolution 2004-90 and consider adding that the person must be a resident of the City. This will accomplish what Committee has listed as desired criteria. Dominguez noted that once the committee has a recommendation, that their recommended action or actions would be brought back to Commission.

A discussion continued on how the meeting was noticed and if it provided significant notice. Dominguez said that staff can re-notice, widening the radius, and post notices within the parks.

Motion: Chair Couey called for a motion to proceed with a second meeting to solicit input based on the criteria. Commissioner Gasparian made the motion with Commissioner Miles seconding. All in favor.

Dominguez said that staff will re-notice by posting in the parks as well as public meeting requirements of posting in the newspaper and on Channel 3.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Gasparian. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez
Secretary
Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary