

APPROVED
MAR 20 2013
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-074

DATE March 20, 2013

C.D. 4,12,15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SUNNYNOOK PARK, TORRANCE DENKER PARK, PECK PARK AND ALISO CANYON - NAMING OF VARIOUS FEATURES WITHIN CITY PARKS

R. Adams _____ K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____ *M. Shull [Signature]
V. Israel _____ N. Williams _____

*as amended
see attached*

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the naming of a river walk trail located at Sunnynook Park as the Lewis MacAdams River Walk Trail;
2. Approve the naming of the playground located at Torrance Denker Park as the Janet Shour Playground;
3. Approve the naming of the hiking trails at Peck Park as the Ray Patricio Hiking Trails;
4. Approve the naming of a trail and pavilion at Aliso Canyon as the Dianne Kartiala Trail and the Christine Smith Outdoor Pavilion; and,
5. Instruct Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to install the appropriate signage.

SUMMARY:

RAP receives requests on occasion to name park features in honor and/or in memory of community members who have made a significant contribution to the local community within which the park is located. The evaluation of these requests follows the existing adopted naming policy Instruction which states in part:

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III.E. The naming of a park or recreation center after a living person is prohibited except when included as a condition precedent of a deed or grant.

When possible, the naming of facilities or other features, such as buildings, lakes, groves, trails, stadiums, pools, etc., which are located within park boundaries, is considered as a means of recognizing the civic contributions of either living or deceased persons.

RAP has received several of these requests which are described below. The referenced Instruction is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Sunnynook River Park – Riverwalk Trail

Sunnynook River Park is located between the I-5 Freeway (west boundary), the Los Angeles River bike path (east boundary), the Glendale-Hyperion Viaduct (south boundary) and the Sunnynook pedestrian bridge (north boundary). Caltrans owns an approximately four acre parcel, of which the project is utilizing and developing approximately two acres and the remaining two acres of the property will be left in its natural state to provide a buffer along the I-5 Freeway. The Department of Water and Power (DWP) owns the remaining 0.96 acre parcel which is located immediately adjacent to the Los Angeles River Bike Path. RAP has entered into a thirty (30) year agreement with both Caltrans and DWP for the maintenance and operation of this park.

Sunnynook River Park has been designed and built by the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) as part of RAP's 50 Parks Initiative. The park, scheduled to open in April 2013 includes amenities such as a picnic area, benches, educational signage and art. The park will provide a vital pedestrian connection to the Los Angeles River featuring a walking path, interpretive signage, enhanced habitat, and water quality improvements.

On December 5, 2012, Councilmember LaBonge of the 4th District introduced Motion 12-1890 which was heard by the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee on January 15, 2013, requesting that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners consider naming the walking path located within Sunnynook River Park in honor of Lewis MacAdams.

Lewis MacAdams co-founded the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) in 1986, a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat through inclusive planning, education and wise stewardship. Mr. MacAdams currently serves as FoLAR President and Chair on the Board of Directors and has committed over 20 years to ensuring the preservation of the Los Angeles River. As Sunnynook River Park is located adjacent to the Los Angeles River and will further the mission of FoLAR in surrounding the river with recreational facilities while enhancing the

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river's natural habitat, it would be appropriate to name the walking path in honor of Mr. MacAdams in recognition of his efforts within the community.

~~This proposal was discussed at the March 6, 2013 Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting where it received an unqualified recommendation for approval.~~

Denker and Torrance Pocket Park - Playground

Denker and Torrance Pocket Park is located at 1490 West Torrance Boulevard in the Harbor Gateway community of the City of Los Angeles. The ownership of this parcel was transferred to RAP from the Department of Public Works for development at part of the 50 Parks Initiative (BR 13-025). The development of this pocket park will include site furnishings, playground equipment, irrigation and landscape and lighting.

The Harbor Gateway community of the City of Los Angeles has traditionally lacked a sufficient amount of park space and was a focus area for the 50 Parks Initiative. Location of a parcel of land suitable for park development was a challenge for RAP. RAP efforts were aided through the efforts of local community member Ms. Janet Shour. Ms. Shour was instrumental in outreach to the community and repeatedly opened her home for the facilitation of public meetings throughout the park location and design process. Without her assistance the development of Denker and Torrance Pocket Park would have been far more time consuming and costly.

RAP has received a request to name the children's playground at Denker and Torrance Pocket Park the Janet Shour Playground. ~~This proposal was discussed at the March 6, 2013 Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting where it received an unqualified recommendation for approval.~~

Peck Park- Hiking Trails

Peck Park is located at 560 North Western Avenue in the San Pedro community of Los Angeles. Peck Park is a community facility which includes facility features such as a pool, auditorium, lighted baseball diamond, indoor and outdoor lighted basketball courts, children's play area, lighted football field, picnic area, jogging path and hiking trails. Peck Park also provides a variety of recreational programming including sports programs, arts and crafts programs, teen programs and senior programs.

On August 13, 2012, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to pass a motion to request naming of Peck Park Canyon Trails in honor of Ray Patricio. The Motion as passed by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council reads as follows:

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Whereas Ray Patricio, one of the original members of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, passed away on July 31, 2012, and

Whereas it was Ray's vision and love for the Peck Park Canyon that led to the rehabilitation of the Canyon by the City, and

Whereas the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council previously requested that the trails be named after him, but withdrew the request at Ray's insistence, and

Whereas Ray later acknowledged that he would like to have the trails named after him and his family supports the idea,

Now Therefore the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council respectfully requests that the trails in the Peck Park Canyon be renamed the Ray Patricio Trails.

Subsequent to the Motion passed by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, the office of Council District 15 provided additional information regarding Ray Patricio in support of the request to name the Peck Park trails. According to Council District 15, Ray Patricio was a long and active supporter of Peck Park and served on its Park Advisory Board for many years. He advocated for improvements at the park including the pool, field renovation and programming. He brought goats to the Peck Park Canyon to help with brush clearance. Most recently his advocacy and vision resulted in the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council getting involved and working towards the refurbishment of the Canyon and the Canyon trails.

~~This proposal was discussed at the March 6, 2013 Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting where it was found to have sufficient nexus between the contribution and park to receive a recommendation by the Task Force to move the proposal forward to the full Commission.~~

Aliso Canyon Park- Trail and Pavilion

Aliso Canyon Park is located within the Porter Ranch community in the North San Fernando Valley of the City of Los Angeles. While the majority of the sixty-nine (69) acre park is undeveloped, RAP is completing improvements to a six (6) acre portion of the park which include equestrian trails, a meadow area, an equestrian staging area, an outdoor pavilion, arena and picnic area.

RAP has received a request from the Office of Council District 12 to name one of the trails located in the developed portion of the park the Dianne Kartiala Trail and the outdoor pavilion the Christine Smith Outdoor Pavilion. Per the request by the Council Office, both Ms. Kartiala

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and Ms. Smith were instrumental in the planning and community outreach necessary for the successful completion of this development project.

This proposal was discussed at the March 6, 2013 Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting and is now forwarded to the Commission for review without action or recommendation of the Task Force.

Staff has determined that the four (4) subject projects are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

RAP staff has reviewed these proposals and found no objections.

Council Districts 4, 12 and 15 are in support with the recommendations as set forth by the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The projects would not have a fiscal impact to the RAP's General Fund.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.

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|  DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS | INSTRUCTION | | INSTRUCTION NO. 510 |
| | SUBJECT: NAMING PARKS AND RECREATION CENTERS | | DATE 1-1-79 |
| | | | DIST. ORIGINATOR D. P&D |
| | | | PAGE 1 2 |

Reference: Board Report #701, June 13, 1974
 Board Report #381, July 22, 1976

I. PURPOSE

This Instruction establishes the procedure to be used in the naming of all parks and recreation centers. The Department makes an effort at all times to be responsive to the needs, ideas and suggestions of the community.

II. NAMING COMMITTEE

A Park and Recreation Center Naming Committee made up of the Assistant General Manager of Planning and Development, the Assistant General Manager of Parks, and respective Recreation Area Supervisors, shall utilize the following outlined procedure in arriving at a recommended name for each park and recreation center site in question.

The recommendation is reviewed by staff and submitted to the Board for consideration. If approved, the name becomes official and can be changed only through the same process.

All future correspondence and communications shall use the officially adopted name when referring to the subject site.

III. GUIDELINES FOR NAMING PARKS AND RECREATION CENTERS

- A. A concerted effort is made to contact the public with regard to naming of parks and recreation centers in their community.
- B. Whenever possible, streets or prominent geographic features are considered as potential names.
- C. When possible, and avoiding duplication, the name of the community itself is considered as a possible name.
- D. The naming of a park or recreation center in memory of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community, City, State, Nation or humanity, may also be considered.

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- E. The naming of a park or recreation center after a living person is prohibited except when included as a condition precedent of a deed or grant.

When possible, the naming of facilities or other features, such as buildings, lakes, groves, trails, stadium, pools, etc., which are located within park boundaries, is considered as a means of recognizing the civic contributions of either living or deceased persons.

- F. The Planning staff designates temporary names for proposed or newly acquired sites for purposes of administration and accounting. These names are used only until formal naming can be made.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2013

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SUNNYNOOK PARK, TORRANCE DENKER PARK, PECK
PARK, AND ALISO CANYON PARK – NAMING OF
VARIOUS FEATURES WITHIN CITY PARKS

Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch amended the report to replace language throughout with the following sentence:

“This proposal was discussed at the March 6, 2013 Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Meeting where it was reviewed and then forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for review.”