

CITY OF ORANGE

POLICY FOR NAMING OF NEW CITY PARKS

(DRAFT)

I. PARK PLANNING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION

The Park Planning and Community Events Commission (hereafter, “Commission”) was established with several goals including: the implementation of design and development of park and trail components outlined in the Master Plan of Parks and Master Plan of Recreational Trails; acting in an advisory capacity and provide recommendations to the City Council as to the conceptual design of new City-operated park land and amenities; fostering a continued standard of excellence for City-led community events; and encouraging and supporting relationships with volunteer and non-profit organizations, and public and private agencies, regarding City-led community events, and City-operated parks, facilities, and open spaces; and other duties as may be assigned.

Given this role, the City Council finds that the Commission is in a position to review and make recommendations to the City Council on the naming of new City parks pursuant to Orange Municipal Code Section 2.60.020F this duty is assigned to the Commission to the extent provided in this Policy. The City Council has final approval of names. All proposals to name new City parks shall follow this policy.

II. NAMING OF PARKS

A. Criteria

1. In General

In selecting names for new parks, the Commission shall give primary consideration to names that bear a relationship to the geography, topography, history, adjacent street, school or neighborhood of the area in which it is located. The Commission should make every effort to avoid names that are redundant of other public facilities, names that are similar in sound or spelling to other public facilities and names that may otherwise cause confusion.

2. Names in Honor of Individuals

Keeping in mind that the City has limited parks and numerous individuals who have made a significant contribution to our community, the naming of a park in honor of an individual is discouraged, especially if the individual is still living. However, the Commission may recommend that the City Council approve naming of a new park

in honor of an individual if they have no other park or facility named for them and the following factors occur:

- There was a direct substantial financial contribution of that person to the development of the park;
- There was a substantial contribution of that person to the development of facilities and recreation programs on a City-wide basis, financial or otherwise;
- There was a substantial contribution by the person to the Community of Orange in general, financial or otherwise.

3. Name Changes

Changes to names of existing parks, especially those that have received prior City Council approval, are discouraged because of the confusion it may create and the historical and familiarity value in keeping the same name, especially in the case of parks. Name changes should only be considered in extraordinary cases.

B. Procedure

This procedure provides a guideline for collecting public input regarding park naming for new City parks when directed to do so by the City Council. It is realized that the responsibility for park naming is at the discretion of the City Council.

1. Public Input:

- The Department will notice the community of a park naming opportunity via website, social media, QR code in park kiosks, and email. This notice will include park specifications with an invitation to submit recommendations for the park's official name per a given timeline through the City's website, social media, email, and/or public comment.
- Recommendations should include the submitter's contact information and must state the reasons why the proposed name furthers one or more of the listed criteria.
- From these recommendations, staff will compile a list of names that meet at least one of the listed criteria.
- Anyone may submit recommendations for the naming of a new City park, including, but not limited to, a member of the Commission, the City Council or any former member of the City Council.

2. Commission Consideration:

- Recommended names shall be agendaized for Commission review at a formal meeting. Upon receiving public input and upon due consideration, the Commission will discuss and vote to recommend up to three potential names per new park naming opportunity to the City Council for final approval.
- If needed, family members of any potential namesakes will be contacted, if available, by staff prior to final recommendation to City Council to ensure their support of the recommendation.

3. City Council Consideration

Notice of the City Council's consideration of the name recommendations shall be agendaized and may be reviewed by the City Council at a formal meeting. The naming of a new City park after a person currently seated as a City Council member, Commissioner, or City employee or has held such a position in the past five years, shall not be considered.