



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: April 5, 2018

REPORT NO: 102

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of April 19, 2018

SUBJECT: Re-naming of “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa” to “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park”.

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the re-naming of “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa” to “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park”?

Staff Recommendation – Staff recommends acceptance of the Ocean Air Recreation Council and Area I Committee’s actions as noted below.

Other Recommendations – The following groups have reviewed and considered the proposed action.

- On November 26, 2017, the motion to return the Park to the name of ‘Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park’ failed to get a second. Thus, no action was taken to recommend approval to re-name “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa” at the Ocean Air Recreation Council. (Minutes Attached)
- On January 3, 2018, the Community Parks I Area Committee voted 7-0 (with 6 abstentions) to deny recommending the request to re-name Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa to ‘Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park’. (Minutes Attached)

Fiscal Impact – None.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – The proposed action would not have an impact on any water and energy conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14

Environmental – No Impact.

BACKGROUND

Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa (currently under construction) is located south of State Route 56 on Carmel Mountain Road at the corner of Del Vino Court and Little McGonagall Ranch Road. It is on top of the Del Mar Mesa and is adjacent to the Duck Pond Development and the Del Mar Mesa Reserve. This 3.76 acre passive use park will be maintained by the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department’s Community Parks I Division once it is complete. Park amenities include: a children’s play area, picnic areas, open turf, a half-court basketball facility, a comfort station/restroom, a parking lot and accommodations for equestrians using the Del Mar Mesa trail system. The expected completion date of the park is Spring 2018.

The original request to re-name the park from its original name of “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park” to “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa” was initiated by Dan O’Rourke, neighbor of Ms. Rabbitt and a Del Mar Mesa Resident. The naming is to recognize the numerous contributions made by Ms. Elizabeth Rabbitt to the Del Mar Mesa Community.

On November 15, 2016, the Ocean Air Recreation Council voted unanimously (4-0-0), recommending approval to name Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park to “Elizabeth Rabbitt Park”.

On March 1, 2017, the Community Parks I Area Committee voted unanimously (6-0-0), recommending approval to name Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park to “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park”.

On May 18, 2017, the Park and Recreation Board approved, on consent, the re-naming of “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park” to “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa”.

On October 19 2017, Del Mar Mesa Planning Board Chair Gary Levitt spoke during the Park Board meeting’s non agenda public comment item stating the Planning Board had an issue with the park renaming process (in honor of Ms. Rabbitt). Del Mar Mesa Planning Board Vice Chair Lisa Ross also sent a letter to Parks and Recreation Director Parker describing similar concerns with the re-naming process. Director Parker provided a detailed letter to the Park Board and to the Planning Board on November 13, 2017 describing the process to name the park in honor of Ms. Rabbitt and outlining the process to

change the name if that was desired. (Letter attached) Mr. Levitt and Ms. Ross then began the process to re-name the park from Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa to Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park.

If the current motion is approved, new signage would need be placed at the park site with the new name, “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park”. Cost for signage and installation will be paid for by the proponents. Signage indicating Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa is already in place at the park under construction.

DISCUSSION

As stated in the original naming effort in honor of Elizabeth Rabbitt, Ms. Rabbitt is the former CEO of Sharp Medical Group and is known as one of the early pioneers of the Del Mar Mesa Community. When she first moved to Del Mar Mesa, there were just six homes with dirt roads. Now that number exceeds 160 residents and all roads are paved. When development started in 2001, Elizabeth accepted her new neighbors with open arms; her farm, “Hooterville”, became the central point of the Del Mar Mesa Community. The proponents stated that Ms. Rabbitt epitomized the meaning of living ‘on the Mesa’; these factors were central to the effort to name the park in honor of Ms. Rabbitt. As stated above the request to name the Park in honor of Ms. Rabbitt was approved by the Park Board in May of 2017.

The process followed by the current proponents in their effort to return to the original name of ‘Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park’ has followed the process outlined by Council Policy 900-20 “Naming of City Assets” (copy attached). However, the request of the current proponents to return to the original name was not approved by either the presiding recreation council, or the Area I Committee.

ALTERNATIVES

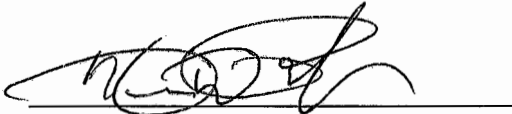
Do not approve the re-naming of the park to “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park”.

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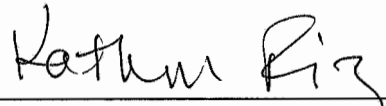
Re-naming of "Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa" to "Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park"

April 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted,



Herman Parker
Park and Recreation Director



Prepared by: Kathryn Ruiz
Deputy Director
Community Parks I Division

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- Attachments:
1. Minutes for Ocean Air Recreation Council meeting held November 26, 2017
 2. Minutes for Community Parks I Area Committee meeting January 3, 2018
 3. Letter dated November 13, 2018 to Gary Levitt and Lisa Ross, Del Mar Mesa Planning Board from Herman Park
 4. City of San Diego Council Policy 900-20 – "Naming of City Assets"

cc: Council District 1 Office