



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: April 10, 2019 REPORT NO. 101
ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of April 18, 2019
SUBJECT: Naming of New Playground at Bonita Cove West in Honor of Maruta R. Gardner

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.

Staff Recommendation – Approve naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.

Other Recommendations – On April 2, 2019, the Mission Bay Park Committee unanimously approved naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.

Fiscal Impact – The cost of design, fabrication and installation of the proposed commemorative plaque/sign will be underwritten through public contributions. The current project design consultant for the City may be utilized to assist in the design. The cost of long-term maintenance will be borne by the City of San Diego.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – Not applicable

Environmental – No Impact

BACKGROUND

The Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund (MBPIF) is one of two capital improvement project funds to receive Mission Bay Park leasehold revenue generated in Mission Bay Park. The other fund is the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund (RPIF). The two funds were established by voter approval of Proposition C in 2008, which added Section 55.2 to the City Charter. It became effective July 1, 2009, with the start of Fiscal Year 2010.

Per the City Charter and Measure J, the first \$20 million of Mission Bay leasehold revenue goes into the City's General Fund and may be used for any municipal purpose. Of the remaining revenue, 35% or \$3.5 million (whichever is greater) goes to the RPIF and 65% goes to the MBPIF or remainder of lease revenue, if less than 65%.

The first project funded by the MBPIF was the Mission Bay Navigational Safety Dredging project at a cost of \$10 million. The construction phase was completed in 2018.

The next project scheduled is the replacement of the Bonita Cove West comfort station and playground. The aging restroom was constructed in 1961 and the 23,000 sq. ft. playground was last upgraded in 1995. Schmidt Design Group is the City's consultant. The goal is to complete the project by Memorial Day 2020.

DISCUSSION

Maruta Gardner was a long-time resident of Mission Beach and former principal at Mission Bay High School. Ms. Gardner was tragically struck and killed by an impaired driver three years ago while painting out graffiti in South Mission.

One of her most passionate endeavors was "Play by the Bay", an effort by the Mission Beach Women's Club to replace the playground at Bonita Cove West.

Initially, funding for the replacement of the 23,000 sq. ft. playground was a private initiative but development of projects funded under the 10-year allocation plan for the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund incorporated both the Bonita Cove West comfort station and playground.

At the time of Ms. Gardner's passing, Mayor Kevin Faulconer pledged the City's support to name the playground in her honor. That support continues today.

Ms. Gardner served as President of the Mission Beach Women's Club from 2010-2012, President of the Mission Bay Rotary Club from 1994-1995, and chaired the Mission Beach Town Council's Graffiti Patrol beginning in 1990.

She combined 38 years of experience in public education that included roles as teacher and administrator at the middle and high school levels, Assistant Superintendent for the San Diego and Poway Unified Districts and Executive Director of the Juvenile Court and Community Schools for the San Diego County Office of Education

As Executive Director of the Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Ms. Gardner improved the academic achievements of the most at-risk students in San Diego County through intensive staff development and training.

Throughout her career, Ms. Gardner earned many accolades, including; "Woman of Achievement" Award from the San Diego Council of Administrative Women in Education, "Distinguished Leader" Award from the San Diego Administrators Association and "Volunteer of the Year" from the Mission Beach Town Council.

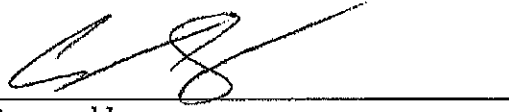
ALTERNATIVE

Do not approve naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.

Respectfully submitted,



Approved by:
Herman D. Parker
Director
Parks and Recreation Department



Prepared by:
Casey Smith
Deputy Director
Developed Regional Parks Division