



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 28, 2019
TO: Mission Bay Park Committee
FROM: Casey Smith, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 201--Naming of New Playground at Bonita Cove West in Honor of Maruta R. Gardner

SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Mission Bay Park Committee:

1. Recommend approval of naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner?

Department Recommendation:

1. Recommend approval of 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.

BACKGROUND:

A long-time resident of Mission Beach, and former principal at Mission Bay High School, Maruta 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 recommend approval of naming the new playground at Bonita Cove West in honor of Maruta R. Gardner.

Respectfully submitted,



Casey Smith
Deputy Director