



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: August 8, 2011

REPORT NO: 101

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of August 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Naming of a Baseball Field at Canyonside Community Park in memory of John Huston (deceased)

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the naming of Field #2 at Canyonside Community Park in memory of the late John Huston?

Director's Recommendation – The Department does not take a position on facility naming requests.

Other Recommendations –

- On September 1, 2010, the Rancho Penasquitos Little League voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming a baseball field at the Canyonside Community Park after Mr. John Huston.
- On July 28, 2011, the Penasquitos Rec Council voted unanimously recommending approval of naming baseball field #2 at the Canyonside Community Park after Mr. John Huston.
- On August 3, 2011, the Community Parks 1 Area Committee voted unanimously recommending approval of naming baseball field #2 at the Canyonside Community Park after Mr. John Huston.

Fiscal Impact – None. The signage will be paid for and maintained by the Rancho Penasquitos Little League.

BACKGROUND

John Huston was a tireless and dedicated volunteer for Rancho Penasquitos Little League from 2001 to 2009. John died tragically while on vacation in Hawaii in August of 2010 in a snorkeling accident. John's death was a shock to all who knew him. John volunteered as the director of uniforms, fall ball, equipment, and fields during his eight year volunteer commitment to the league, along with being a manager or coach during each of those seasons. John helped the league put on multiple district tournaments and also volunteered as an umpire after his son had completed his league eligibility.

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John touched countless families in his time with the league and was a mainstay in the community, helping guide Rancho Penasquitos Little League. He focused his attention on all of the kids on his team, not just his star players, and was an excellent coach. His focus was always on teaching, not winning. The true measure of a youth coach is the number of kids that return the next season to play. John was proud that in his eight seasons as a manager and coach in Rancho Penasquitos Little League, all of his boys returned to play the following season.

John Huston is an excellent example of the kind of person we want leading our leagues and teaching our children, and his legacy within the baseball community will continue for years to come.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Huston spent countless hours coaching and fulfilling his many roles on the Rancho Penasquitos Little League Board. His commitment and contributions to the youth and Rancho Penasquitos community are worth recognition and remembrance.

The naming of the field in honor of John Huston is in compliance with Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001, "Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities" (copy attached).

ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve the naming of a field in honor of John Huston.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Bingham
Deputy Director
Community Parks I Division

Prepared by: Mike Rodrigues
District Manager, District 40
Community Parks I Division

CB/mr

Attachment: 1. Location Map – Canyonside Community Park
2. Park and Recreation Board Policy #101 – Naming of Parks
and Recreation Facilities

cc: Council District 1 Office

No. 1001
(Revised:11/15/01)PARK AND RECREATION BOARD POLICY

- SUBJECT:** Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- BACKGROUND:** The public sometimes suggests that parks and recreation facilities be named after persons, living or dead.
- PURPOSE:** To provide a systematic procedure for the naming of parks and recreation facilities which will assist in their location by the citizenry, and to develop a method for the retention of names of historical or fiscal significance.
- POLICY:** As a general policy, parks and recreation facilities should be named to identify their locations. Especially for parks, the name of the community area, the names of nearby geographic features, the names of adjacent schools and street names should be given first consideration. However, they may also be named for individuals, living or dead, who are of historical significance to the local area or who have made major financial contributions in the opinion of the appropriate Recreation Councils and/or other advisory bodies, Board committees and the full Board. Facilities within parks; (such as buildings, gyms, courts, etc.) are more appropriate for naming after individuals than are parks.
- Renaming a facility for a person, when that facility is already named for a person, should only be undertaken with the utmost consideration. Every attempt should be made to contact the person or heirs of the person for whom the facility is currently named, to present their views verbally, or in writing, at a public hearing.
- PROCEDURE:** The Recreation Council effected by the proposed name change, shall hold a public hearing to review the request and the supporting documents and information, and shall make recommendations to the Area Committees and the Park and Recreation Board on any and all recommended changes to the renaming of existing facilities.
- SUBSTANTIATION:** Park and Recreation Board Minutes of 6/16/83 (page 2469)
Park and Recreation Board Minutes of November 15, 2001 (page 4).