

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: August 8, 2011 REPORT NO: 102

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board

Agenda of August 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Naming of a Softball Field at Canyonside Community Park in memory of

Briana Williams (deceased)

SUMMARY

<u>Issue</u> – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the naming of Softball Field #5 at Canyonside Community Park in memory of the late Briana Williams?

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

Other Recommendations -

- On July 28, 2011, the Penasquitos Rec Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming softball field #5 at the Canyonside Community Park after Ms. Briana Williams.
- On August 2, 2011, the PQ Girls Softball Association voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming softball field #5 at the Canyonside Community Park after Ms. Briana Williams.
- On August 3, 2011, the Community Parks 1 Area Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming softball field #5 at the Canyonside Community Park after Ms. Briana Williams

<u>Fiscal Impact</u> – None. The signage will be paid for by the Rancho Penasquitos Recreation Council and maintained by the PQ Girls Softball Association.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Briana "Bree" Williams played girls softball with PQ Girls Softball Association at Canyonside Park from 1998 to 2005. She then joined the PQ-based San Diego Renegades travel softball organization from 2005 until her tragic death on July 18, 2011.

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Bree developed into one of the most feared pitchers at her age level. She made the PQ All-Star team every year she played starting at age 8. She led her 12U PQ All-Star team to a 9th place finish at Nationals in 2005. Two years later, she led her 14U San Diego Renegades to a Western Nationals Championship. At Mt. Carmel High, Bree made the Varsity softball team all four years, helping Mt. Carmel win an unprecedented three CIF titles in a row. During that time, she garnered numerous awards including: Team MVP, North County Pitcher of the Year, Palomar League Pitcher of the Year, 1st Team All-CIF, etc. Bree graduated in June 2011 having received a full athletic scholarship to play softball for the Academy of Art, a four year university in San Francisco, starting in the Fall.

One week prior to competing at Nationals with her 18U San Diego Renegades team, Bree's life was taken from her. She and her mom were victims of a horrific crime in their Rancho Penasquitos home. Sadly, she lost her father to cancer four years earlier. This tragedy deprived her of realizing her dream of playing college softball, and she leaves an entire community grieving. She was a role model for many in the PQ community and she was loved by all. She grew up playing ball at the Canyonside Community Park and continued practicing and playing there until her death.

DISCUSSION

The quality and quantity of Ms. William's contributions are worthy of recognition and remembrance. Her commitment to the sport of girls softball served as a role model for youth in the Rancho Penasquitos community.

The naming of the field in honor of Bree Williams 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 Bree Williams.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Bingham

Deputy Director

Community Parks I Division

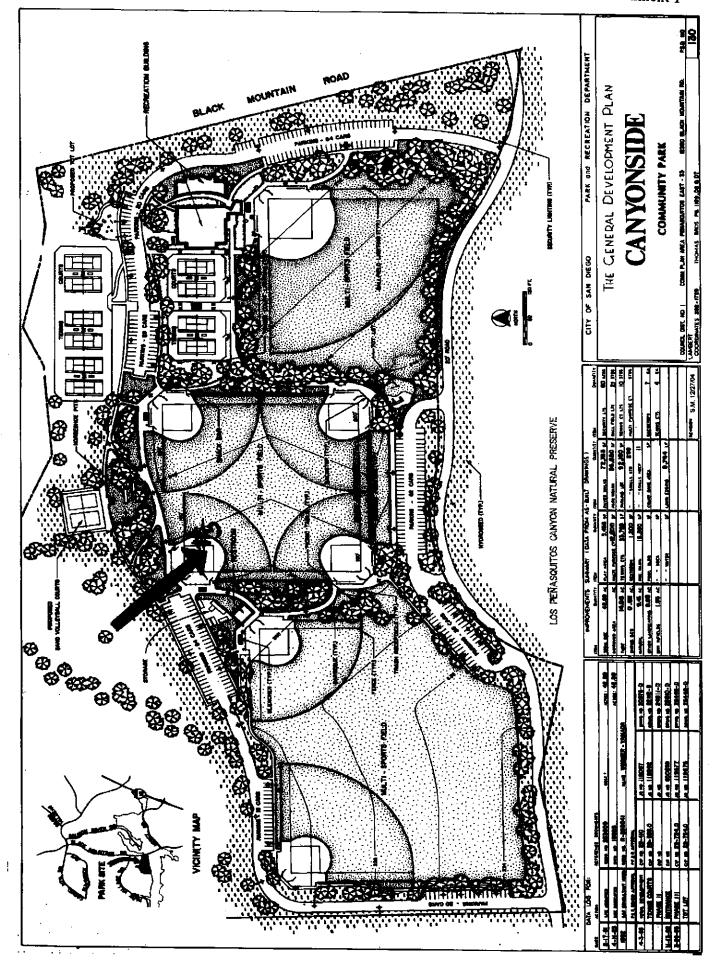
Prepared by: Mike Rodrigues District Manager, District 40 Community Parks I Division

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).