



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: February 6, 2012

REPORT NO: 101

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of February 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Naming of the Seminar/Classroom Facility at Tecolote Nature Center in Honor of M. Eloise Battle

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the naming of the seminar/classroom facility at Tecolote Nature Center in honor of M. Eloise Battle?

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

Other Recommendations –

- On November 16, 2011, the Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Citizens Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming the Tecolote Nature Center classroom after Eloise Battle.
- On December 7, 2011, the Community Parks I Area Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of naming the Tecolote Nature Center Seminar/Classroom facility as the “M. Eloise Battle Learning Center”.

Fiscal Impact – None. A plaque will be purchased by the Friends of Tecolote Canyon and the members of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

A request was made by the public for this action. Staff has assisted with processing this request in accordance with Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001, “Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities” (copy attached). Attached is background in support of the proposal.

DISCUSSION

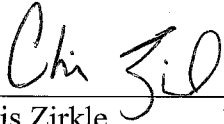
The naming of the classroom in honor of Eloise Battle is in compliance with Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001.

ALTERNATIVES

Page 2
Naming of Classroom at Tecolote Nature Center
February 6, 2012

Do not approve the naming of the classroom in honor of M. Eloise Battle.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Zirkle
Deputy Director
Open Space Division

CZ/cz

Attachment: 1. Background Information
2. Location Map – Tecolote
3. Park and Recreation Board Policy #101 – Naming of Parks
and Recreation Facilities

cc: Council District 6 Office

Date: November 9, 2011

From: Donald Steele, Council District 6 TCCAC Appointee & TCCAC Secretary

To: TCCAC Members

Subject: ITEM #203. Recognition of the Achievements & Legacy of M. Eloise Battle

It has been my pleasure since 1989 to have worked with Eloise Battle, for the first eleven years as the Open Space District Manager and thereafter as a member of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee. Her achievements and the legacy she has and continues to create, nurture and enhance are among the most significant and singular of the many fine and well-meaning citizens of our city. Miriam Eloise Johnson's life's journey began on May 22, 1929, in the town of Highland in New York's beautiful Hudson River Valley, where she developed her love for earth's natural beauty. Later she earned a BA in Biology at Tusculum College, a liberal arts institution founded in 1679 in eastern Tennessee. In 1951 Eloise married Stan Battle, a highly educated and successful aerospace engineer. The next year they moved to San Diego where Stan accepted a position at General Dynamics. San Diego became "home" and moved into their permanent residence on Tamres Avenue in 1962. For the next forty years, this was the "base" from which this dedicated advocate for protecting and saving the city's canyons and open space from development was waged. Attached is a brief outline, prepared by Sherlie Miller, Eloise's neighbor and loyal and supportive "sidekick", of the significant events in the quest for open space preservation. During this period, 1971-1993, Eloise was a staff member with the innovative Balboa Park Program teaching and enriching students' understanding of the cultural and environmental assets around them.

Along the way, Eloise was assisted, not only by her family and the "community cohorts", but also by many in government. At the State level, Senator Lucy Killea and Assembly Member and later Senator Christine Kehoe were helpful on several occasions. At the local level, City Councilmembers Floyd Morrow, Mike Gotch, Valerie Stallings, Donna Frye, and Lori Zapf have been most helpful in acquiring funds to create and maintain Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, as well as identifying funds for the Tecolote Nature Center, both Phase I and II. City staff who were consistently outstanding in supporting Eloise's efforts include Wilbur Smith, Karen Stang, Nancy Acevedo, Don Prishy, Bob Nelson, Ted Medina, Jose Barrera, and Tracey Walker.

Owing to the extraordinary public benefits resulting from Ms. Battle's 40 plus years of advocacy, teaching, and engaging outreach to our diverse communities, I offer the following motion for the TCCAC to consider, based on the Park and Recreation Board Policy on naming park facilities for persons, living or dead:

MOTION: I move that the TCCAC recommend to the Community Parks I Committee and thence to the Park and Recreation Board, in accordance with the Park and Recreation Board Policy on naming park facilities after persons, that the Seminar/ Classroom facility be named the "M. Eloise Battle Learning Center" in recognition of her achievements and legacy for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration. I will attend the November 16, 2011 meeting and be pleased to answer any questions.

Donald Steele, TCCAC Member

Attachments

Eloise and Stan lived in Linda Vista near Tecolote Canyon in the late 1950s.

Their home on Tamres Drive was ready for them in 1970. (I think that is the year)

Eloise became involved with community activists in Clairemont and Linda Vista who were beginning the effort that led to Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. Pieter Sargent and Marian Bear were in that group.

The Joint Advisory Committee was formed by these activists. A major accomplishment was the 1969 Park Procedural Ordinance that provided a way for the communities to demonstrate collective support for the concept of the park and a method to establish an assessment district to secure funds to acquire the land.

Eloise organized a group to work to that end. The group was called Citizens SOS for Save Open Space. I think that was 1971. I moved into the neighborhood in March of 1972 and the group was very active by then.

Many days were spent at City Hall for Joint Advisory Committee meetings, Planning Commission and City Council hearings. While city staff were working through details of the proposed assessment district for Tecolote Canyon, two major developments were also being processed. One involved a project by A. J. Hall in the area of the golf course and the other one was Fireside Homes plan for the area between Mt. Acadia and Balboa. Eloise often tells about discussing with her family the prospect of devoting time to the effort to save the canyon for a few years, if they would be supportive of that time commitment. That was 40 years ago!

Citizens SOS organized a signature gathering drive. In January, 1974, City Council approved the concept of the assessment district and set a hearing date in July of that year. We had about 70 people willing to go door to door gathering signatures of homeowners who would support the assessment on their property. We were successful in gathering almost 2000 signatures which represented owners of 66% of the property around the rim. Council voted unanimously to pass the resolution for the Tecolote Natural Park.

There were legal challenges to the assessment district. Citizens SOS then did fund raising to allow us to participate with the city as "Friends of the Court." At the Superior Court, Appellate Court and California Supreme Court, the rulings favored the city, and finally the land acquisition was allowed to proceed.

The dedication ordinance was enacted in December of 1977. Tecolote Canyon Natural Park was dedicated April 1, 1978 in a public ceremony and ribbon cutting at the North Clairemont Recreation Center, the northern edge of the park. At the same time the first members of the Tecolote Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee were sworn in. Eloise was appointed Chairperson by Mayor Pete Wilson.

Eloise was the driving force behind the writing of the Master Plan for the park. Since there was no funding, it was researched, written and presented as a complete document to the city. The council unanimously approved it in May of 1983.

Eloise and the committee next worked on finding funding for the Nature Center. It opened in July of 1994. Since then, Eloise has been a central figure in beginning and continuing the educational programs at the center, devoting time and energy year by year since the Nature Center opened.

This may be more detail than you need, but these are major accomplishments in the process that led us to where we are now. All of this seems to me to support putting her name on the room.

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).