

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
Minutes
Thursday, June 21, 2018

"TO PROVIDE HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL"

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, CA 92101

Members Present

Katherine Johnston, Chair
Dennis Otsuji, Vice-Chair
David Baron
Jon Becker
Marcella Bothwell
Ron Cho
David Kinney
Noli Zosa

Members Absent

Nick Anastasopoulos
(excused)
Raymond Bernal
Bobby Hughes (excused)

City Staff Present

Herman D. Parker, Director
Andrew Field, Assistant Director
Parita Ammerlahn
Mike Armenta
Mark Calleran
Angel Castro
Jesse Luke
Kevin Oliver
Steve Palle
Mike Rodrigues
Kathy Ruiz
Shannon Scoggins
Shelly Stowell
Jane Witzke
Jose Ysea
Nancy Zamora-Hudson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnston at 2:08 p.m.

Chair Johnston thanked and welcomed everyone. She thanked and acknowledged Board Member and past Chair David Kinney.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2018.

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Ms. Bothwell/Mr. Kinney

A motion was made by Ms. Bothwell and seconded by Mr. Kinney to approve the April 19, 2018 Park and Recreation Board Meeting minutes. The motion was approved (7/0) with Chair Johnston abstaining.

NON-ADOPTION AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board. (Comments relating to items

on today's Agenda are to be taken at the time the item is heard.) Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes and is not debatable unless part of an organized group presentation whereby time is ceded to main speaker.

The proposed Curie Elementary Joint Use was a non-agenda public comment topic that had interested speakers.

Speakers (7) In Favor;

Julie Dennis spoke in favor of a Curie Elementary Joint Use Field (*summary attached*)
Daniel Cross ceded his time to Julie Dennis
Cara Marshall ceded her time to Julie Dennis
Keith Jenne ceded his time to Julie Dennis
Kendra Cole
Ariane Jansma
Robert Mastos

Speakers (1) In Opposition;

Kim Knouse spoke in opposition of a Curie Elementary Joint Use Field (*attached letter/petition was provided after the meeting*)

The undeveloped open space area in Point Loma across from Bill Cleater Community Park was a non-agenda public comment topic that had an interested speaker.

Speaker (1);

Don Sevens

Colina and Chollas Recreation Councils were a non-agenda public comment topic that had an interested speaker requesting assistance with recent events.

Speaker (1);

Daniele Laman

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT AGENDA - None

The Chair may entertain a motion by any Board member to approve any agenda item as consent when no speaker slips have been submitted in favor or in opposition to the item. Items approved on consent are approved in accordance with staff's recommendation as reflected on the agenda and described in the Staff Report to the Park and Recreation Board, unless otherwise noted in the motion. At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as "Consent" items.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

(Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

Community Parks I Area Committee

Community Parks II Area Committee

Balboa Park Committee

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – None

ACTION ITEMS

101. General Development Plan for Holmes Elementary School Joint Use Facility

Presenter: Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer, Planning Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Baron/Mr. Becker

A motion was made by Mr. Baron and seconded by Mr. Becker to recommend approval of Item 101, the General Development Plan for Holmes Elementary School Joint Use Facility. The motion was unanimously approved (8/0).

102. General Development Plan for Longfellow K8 Joint Use Facility

Presenter: Shannon Scoggins, Park Designer, Planning Department

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

Speakers (1) – in favor; Jennifer Ragusa

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Bothwell/Mr. Baron

A motion was made by Ms. Bothwell and seconded by Mr. Baron to recommend approval of Item 102, the General Development Plan for Longfellow K8 Joint Use Facility. The motion was unanimously approved (8/0).

103. General Development Plan for Mission Beach Pocket Park

Presenters: Parita Ammerlahn, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works
Department
David Neault, President, David Neault Associates, Inc.

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

Speaker (1) – neutral;

Michelle Baron

Speaker (1) – in opposition;

Jenine Whittecar

MOTION:

MOVED/SECONDED

Mr. Kinney /Mr. Otsuji

A motion was made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mr. Otsuji to recommend approval of Item 103, the General Development Plan for Mission Beach Pocket Park. The motion was unanimously approved (8/0).

105. Renaming of Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park (Formerly Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa)

Presenter: Kathy Ruiz, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Prior to the staff presentation, Director Parker noted that the action taken by the Board in this matter and this meeting would be the final naming action considered for this park.

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

Speakers (17) – in favor of naming the park “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa”;

Herb Morgan

Wendy Payhonen

Sandy White

Ella Laikind

Jim Joyner

Dan O’Rourke

Donna O’Rourke

Daniel Silva ceded time to Dan O’Rourke

Danielle Wood

Jim Wood

Amy Wood ceded time to Danielle Wood

Lesley Cohn

Kenneth Rudy

Jessica Fanman

Joe Frichtel

Sari Rudy

Ray Ellis

Speakers (11) – in opposition to naming the park “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa”;

Ginny Barnes (*letter attached*)

Mary C. McCaw ceded time to Ginny Barnes

Janet Hudson (*letter attached*)

Jeff Cubbison ceded time to Jan Hudson

Anne Harvey (*letter attached*)

Linda Beach

Cheryle Besemer (*letter attached*) ceded time to Anne Harvey

Jim Besemer

Gary Levitt (*letter attached*)

Lisa Ross (*letter attached*)

Pat Metcalf

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Chair Johnston/Vice-Chair Otsuji

A motion was made by Chair Johnston and seconded by Mr. Otsuji to rescind the Park and Recreation Board’s decision of 4/19/18 to approve Action Item #102, the Re-naming of “Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa” to “Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park”. The motion to rescind was adopted with the effect of the park returning to the name of Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park on Del Mar Mesa by a vote of (5/3). Mr. Baron, Mr. Becker and Mr. Kinney were opposed.

Chair Johnston had to excuse herself from the meeting and called for a five-minute break at 4:55 p.m. Vice-Chair Otsuji presided over the rest of the Board Meeting which he called back to order at 5:00 p.m.

104. General Development Plan for Canon Street Pocket Park

Presenter: Mark Calleran, Project Manager, Public Works Department
 Brooke Whalen, Senior Associate, KTUA
 Kurt Carlson, Senior Principal, KTUA

The presentation outlined the following:

- Background
- Discussion
- Requested Action

Speakers (2) – in favor; Jon Linney
 Donald E. Sevens

Speaker (1) – in opposition; Mary Harder

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Becker /Mr. Kinney

A motion was made by Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Kinney to recommend approval of Item 104, the General Development Plan for Canon Street Pocket Park. The motion was approved (6/0) with Vice-Chair Otsuji abstaining.

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

WORKSHOP – None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Details of the reports, audio and PowerPoint presentations can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department website at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/reports>

Next Meeting: **July 19, 2018**
War Memorial Building
Auditorium
3325 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Herman D. Parker
Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Curie Joint Use Field Plan Background Summary

We have been approved through San Diego Unified School District to have an upgrade to our current dirt field. The upgrade is already fully funded, and if we do not use the funds for our field, the funds will NOT be used at Curie at all. We have been through many rounds of negotiations to determine what might be best for our Curie community. Here is a brief history:

- Crumb rubber turf field was to be installed at our school. Curie Parents voted to explore real grass options due to some controversy surrounding crumb rubber.
- The School District approved a proposal for Joint Use Field that the city would maintain (water, landscaping) and be able to use during non-school hours. Curie would have sole use during school hours.
- The local UC Community expressed concerns about the Joint Use Field (e.g., safety, locking gates, bathrooms, trash, vagrancy).
- The Local Standley Recreation Council voted not to approve the Joint Use Field installation as the plan was presented.
- Curie Parents, Staff, School District, and San Diego Recreation Department met multiple times this school year to create a plan that addressed the concerns of the community and the Recreation Council. The current plan includes a large grass area, track, park closed before school, security cameras, play equipment on Curie Property, parking spaces, dog bags, MORE TREES, restrictions on group size/events.
- Parents have expressed an interest in making the Joint Use Field a reality for our Curie Community. So far, we have collected over **160 signatures in support of real grass and real trees for our students**, rather than the current dirt.
- We have created a website: www.curiepark.org and have opened a discussion forum on our Dads' Club and UC Parents Facebook pages.
- We are here at the San Diego Parks and Recreation Board Meeting to express our community's need for a Joint Use Field. We would like to request that the Board reopen Curie Joint Use Field Project for a vote at the next board meeting.

Curie Joint Use Field Community Facts and Information

Background: The proposal to make the Curie dirt area into a grassy field/park requires that it be open to the public (joint-use) during non-school hours. This is a compromise after the turf field proposal from SDUSD was shelved due to concerns in the Curie Community over the toxicity of crumb-rubber. There is no other product that the district will substitute, and there is not enough money to maintain grass on our own without City help. Joint -Use is the compromise.

Where we are now: The initial Joint-Use proposal was *denied* in February 2017 by the Standley Parks and Rec Advisory Board, based on a small group in opposition.

Reps from the City, SDUSD, and members of the community met three times over the last year to regroup and discuss making changes and/or concessions that would address specific community concerns raised by the opposition group, these are detailed in the City's report, attached. Additionally, reps from SDUSD and the City cited their Play All Day program statistics in answering that none of the joint-use fields installed increased crime in the local area, regardless of where the park was located, if it was tucked away from the street, etc. The SDPD Community Resource Officer for the area has also been made aware of the possibility of a Joint-Use space at Curie, and specific safety concerns and patrolling requests were noted and "flagged" in the precinct.

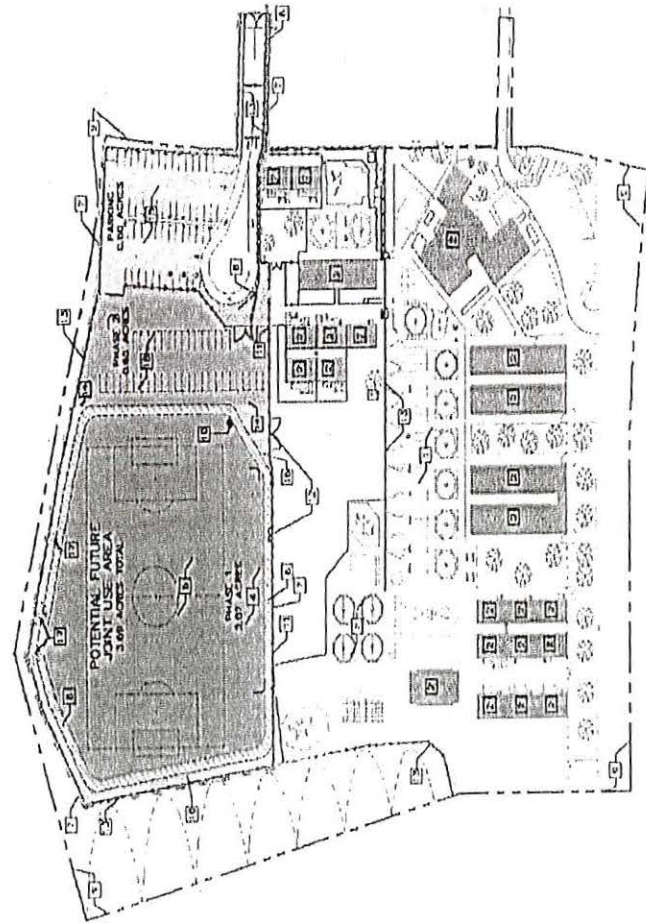
Highlights of Changes:

1. Park CLOSED before school
2. Additional security cameras/presence/posted numbers
3. Play equipment NOT part of Joint-Use
4. Parking spaces, dog bags and trees added
5. Restrictions on group size and type of event

What's next: There is a group of community members, with a vested interest in the project, whose interests were not fully represented when the initial proposal came up in 2017. This group would like to re-open the community discussion about the Joint-Use Field at Curie, specifically to highlight the compromises made to mitigate initial concerns of safety, teacher parking, noise etc. This group would like the Parks and Rec Board to APPROVE moving forward with the Join-Use Park at Curie *based on the new set of clarifications.*

A copy of the proposed project is attached, including the specific detail from the City of how they are addressing community concerns and requests.

General Development Plan - Option 2

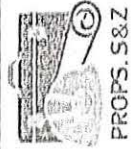


- SITE PLAN KEYNOTES**
- 1 EXISTING PLAYGROUND
 - 2 EXISTING BUILDING
 - 3 EXISTING LANDSCAPE
 - 4 NATURAL TURF FIELD
 - 5 MULTIMANORSE FIELD
 - 6 10' WIDE BALDING TRAIL
 - 7 ADJUT USE WALKWAY AREA
 - 8 ACCESSIBLE ROUTE OF TRAVEL
 - 9 PROPERTY LINE
 - 10 NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN
 - 11 NEW 10' HIGH FENCE
 - 12 NEW ACCESS GATE
 - 13 EXISTING FENCE
 - 14 PHASE BOUNDARY
 - 15 EXISTING DROP OFF AREA
 - 16 NEW PAVING AREA
 - 17 EXISTING TREES
 - 18 PHASE 2 PARKING

SITE PLAN
1" = 40'-0"

<p>THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MARIE CURIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOINT USE FACILITY</p>		<p>DATE: 11/15/2011 BY: [Signature] CHECKED: [Signature] APPROVED: [Signature]</p>	
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San Diego Unified
Building Quality
Neighborhood Schools



The City of
SAN DIEGO

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO AND SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARIE CURIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOINT USE AREA
RESPONSE MATRIX
FEBRUARY 23, 2018**

#	Concern	Responses
1	Safety	<p>Safety of park patrons, students, and neighbors is of utmost importance. The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department ("Department") is committed to take the following actions at Marie Curie Elementary School Joint Use Area ("Field"):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On school days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Field will not be used in the morning prior to class ○ Gates will be locked at dusk and opened 30 minutes after school ends or at 6 a.m. on non-school days • The Department will hire a security company to lock the Field gates each evening, on weekends, and non-school days • The San Diego Unified School District ("District") will install and monitor security cameras, which will be available for review up to seven days should law enforcement need to review footage for potential criminal activity • The Department and District will install regulatory signage that will include emergency and non-emergency phone numbers to report criminal activity for both San Diego Police Department and District Campus Police
2	Teacher parking	<p>The Field will not be open to the public for joint use before school starts in the morning, which will ensure the public does not utilize scarce teacher parking spots</p>
3	Site visibility	<p>Through the construction process, the District will install gates that can be open during the school days</p>

#	Concern	Responses
4	Transients	The design and construction of the Field will focus on turf and decomposed granite walking track to reduce areas where transients may hide inside the joint use area
5	Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego Municipal Code ("SDMC") does not prohibit leashed dogs in a joint-use field; therefore, dogs are permitted at the Field (reference SDMC §63.0102(b)(2)(B)) • The Department will install bags (such as "Mutt Mitts") for park patrons to collect their dog waste and dispose of the fecal matter in a nearby refuse container • The Department will install signage advising park patrons of the telephone number to reach Animal Services for assistance with off-leash or aggressive dogs
6	Noise	The Department will not permit activities that include noise amplification (e.g., microphones and speakers) at the Field
7	Environmental review	As part of the design and construction of the Field project, the District will conduct a California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review
8	Hours of public use	On school days, Field will be open to the public 30 minutes after school ends. On school holidays, school breaks, and weekends, Field will be open to the public from 6 a.m. to dusk
9	Playground maintenance	If the playground(s) is/are within the agreed-upon joint use area, the District will maintain all existing play equipment in accordance with its standards of care
10	Littering	Department maintenance staff will visit the site daily Monday through Friday to empty refuse containers and remove trash from the Field. Litter pick up on Saturday and Sunday will be conducted as needed.

#	Concern	Responses
11	Illegal dumping	District and Department would promptly address illegal dumps upon discovery
12	Public input	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To this point, District and Department staff have held three (3) public meetings• Public outreach has followed San Diego Council Policy 600-33, which is comparable to the District's public outreach policy, including mailers to adjacent neighbors within a 300-foot distance from the school• Standley Recreation Council voted on January 26, 2017, against the proposed Field at Marie Curie Elementary School; project proponents have asked the District and Department if this matter can be reopened at a future Recreation Council meeting• Department and District do not favor or oppose the Field proposal; both entities are facilitating public input in the event this matter returns to the Recreation Council at a future date
13	Park deficiency	The University Community is deficient of park acres to satisfy the City's General Plan standards; the Field would help add acreage for the community
14	Park capacity	Capacity for a typical two-acre sports field is between 200 and 250 patrons
15	Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While there will not be a continuous staff presence at the Field, Department grounds maintenance workers will visit the Field for routine maintenance during the week• Department staff may visit the Field during the weekend for as-needed cleaning and maintenance

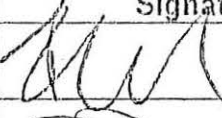


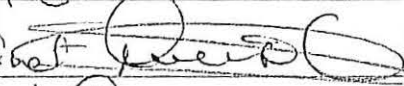

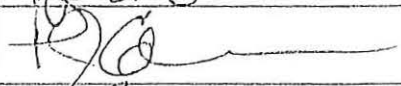


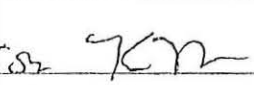
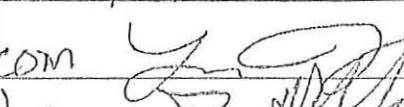
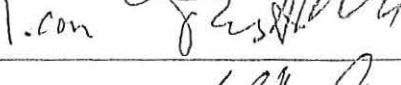
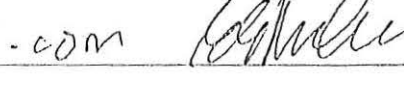
#	Concern	Responses
16	Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field is too small for league tournaments• Portable toilets are typically required for special events, not recreational sports events that are permitted by a recreation center ("Special events" are defined in SDMC §22.4001)• Standley Recreation Center would issue permits for the Field and is the point of contact for any concerns or issues with permittees• Standley Recreation Council is a monthly venue to vet difficulties with specific permittees
17	Trees	In accordance with the City's Climate Action Plan, District and Department staff will seek to add trees to the joint use area without compromising public safety or the recreational value of the Field

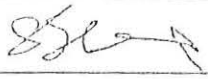
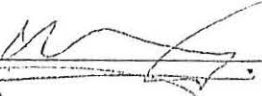
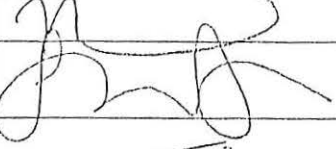
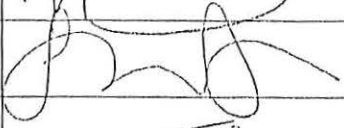

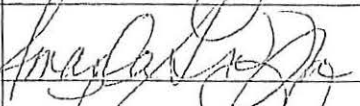


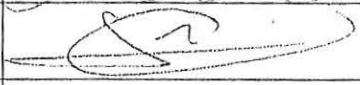
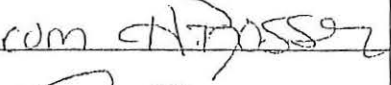
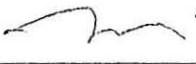
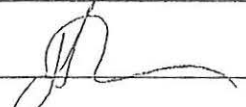

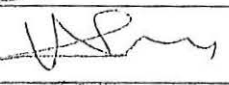
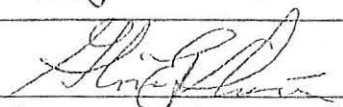
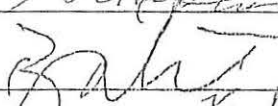
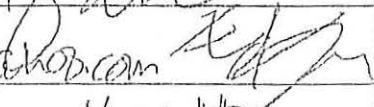
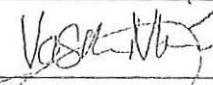
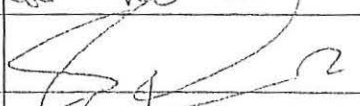
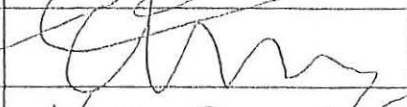
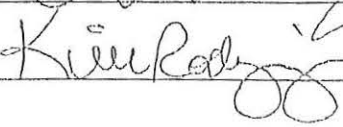
**Petition To: San Diego Recreation Council
CURIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JOINT USE FIELD**

Background:

Curie Elementary School has been approved for funding for field upgrade through San Diego Unified. The current plan is to have a Joint Use Field created where the current dirt field is located. The local community raised concerns (e.g., safety, locking gates, bathrooms, trash, vagrancy). San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, San Diego Unified, and Curie Elementary came together to create a plan that addressed concerns (e.g., park closed before school, security cameras, play equipment on Curie Property, parking spaces, dog bags, MORE TREES, restrictions on group size/events). The park design includes grassy area, track, trees, and most importantly a place for our children to play where they do not come home with gravel in their skinned knees, where they can run without breathing in dust clouds, and where they can sit in the shade of trees. Right now, our children's choices are blacktop or dirt. Please sign below to show your support in creating a Joint Use Field at our school.

**Your signature below indicates that you
SUPPORT A JOINT USE FIELD INSTALLATION AT CURIE ELEMENTARY
TO REPLACE THE CURRENT DIRT FIELD**

Printed Name	Email Address	Signature
Brian Julien	bjulien.julien@gmail.com	
JENNIFER JENNE	JMJENNE@GMAIL.COM	
Tracey Julien	tnorton5@gmail.com	
Denise Doherty	jdddk@sbcglobal.net	
Kendra Cole	kendra_cole2000@yahoo	
Pat Cole	PSPICSE@yahoo	
Paul Scuba	PSCUBA@WILLIAMSAS.COM	
Thomas Keegan	thomas.keegan@viasat.com	
Kate Phin	Katephin@gmail.com	
Linda Forrester	Ladams2@sanrr.com	
Thomas ASHILL	Thomas.ASHILL@gmail.com	
Elizabeth Rudeer	eerudeer1105@gmail.com	

Printed Name	Email Address	Signature
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David Jiang	n	
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Ras	ra.jwinder@gmail.com	
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Bryan Oster	bryanoster@gmail.com	
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Chen Tu-Guir	chantu@yahoo.com	
Kim Rodriguez	redham1015@gmail.com	

Printed Name	Email Address	Signature
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Simon Hewitt	"	Simon Hewitt
Richard Wong	Richard Wong @Kb.com	Richard Wong
Doug Osip	aloha.stylke@yahoo.com	Doug Osip
Chris Dileo	c.dileo@yahoo.com	Chris Dileo
Justin Cook	sook.s.d@gmail.com	Justin Cook
Katerina Shalupova	shalupova@yahoo.com	Katerina Shalupova
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Deborah Butler	deborah.butler@gmail.com	Deborah Butler
Melody Martinez	melodyoneill@gmail.com	Melody Martinez
Marla Tarazi	marmar818@gmail.com	Marla Tarazi
Heather Aranha	harahto@jackhenry.com	Heather Aranha
Ruby Huizar	rubyhuizar@sbcglobal.net	Ruby Huizar
Carly Gutierrez	ctwale@gmail.com	Carly Gutierrez
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Marie Kivett	mariekivett@yahoo.com	Marie Kivett
Nicole Hagelstrom	nmivers@gmail.com	Nicole Hagelstrom
Lisa Loren	lisa.loren@spglobe.net	Lisa Loren
Deborah Simmons	dduryea@gmail.com	Deborah Simmons

Printed Name	Email Address	Signature
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Desmond O'Sullivan	ADSVILLUS-DES@hotmail	DS
Sergio Duron	organicMexican@yahoo.com	Sergio
William Burt	WBarfitt@nuc.edu	William Burt
Bonnie Tyler	bonnie.tyler@gmail.com	Bonnie Tyler
Jenn Smith	JennDSL@aol.com	Jenn Smith
Tyler Bryden	tylermegan@gmail.com	Tyler Bryden
Daniel Fletcher	danfletcher194@hotmail.com	Daniel Fletcher
Michelle Lira	cenickenta-o@hotmail	Michelle Lira
Sergio Ibanez	Sergioinvestments@yahoo	Sergio Ibanez
Kimberly Gwynsky	kimberlyarnold@gmail.com	Kimberly Gwynsky
Yaret Lopez	yaretlopez201@gmail.com	Yaret Lopez
Carlos Sanchez	Permmex@gmail.com	Carlos Sanchez
Alex Sosa-Sedon	delatafa@yahoo.com	Alex Sosa-Sedon
Leon Solari	LeonSolari@gmail.com	Leon Solari
Prat Mallawong	pmallawong@gmail.com	Prat Mallawong
Chong Whang	chongwhang@gmail.com	Chong Whang
Chris Huber	Chris@huberism.com	Chris Huber
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Michael Anthony	michaelanthony74@gmail	Michael Anthony
Camron R	Camron.picker@gmail.com	Camron R

Printed Name	Email Address	Signature
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Jennifer Jilka	jennyjilka@hotmail.com	Jennifer Jilka
Misty Gray-Dissusik	mishmarella@yahoo.com	Misty Gray-Dissusik
Misha Golynskiy	mishgolynskiy@gmail.com	Misha Golynskiy
Jeff Case	jeff-case@hotmail.com	Jeff Case
John Sweetman	sweetman9@aol.com	John Sweetman
Leah King	leahking1@gmail.com	Leah King
Robert Shultz	robertdshultz@hotmail.com	Robert Shultz
Sarah McEwen	drsaral@centralia.edu	Sarah McEwen
Connie Landon	connecor1@yahoo.com	Connie Landon
Ngoc-Jade Taylor	jadetaylorcr@gmail.com	Ngoc-Jade Taylor
DA Stephanie Pelsing	S2POTSING@yahoo.com	Stephanie Pelsing
Candice Galt	candorphine@gmail.com	Candice Galt
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Kirk Hinkelman	kirkhinkelman@gmail.com	Kirk Hinkelman
Chasme W. J. L.	Chasme@me.com	Chasme W. J. L.

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Miguel Calderon	weirdaron@san.il.com	Miguel Calderon
JAMES PHILIP	JAMESPHILIP@GMAIL	James Philip
Allison Ward	allisonmward4@gmail.com	Allison Ward
Magali Sanchez	magalisanchez9@gmail.com	Magali Sanchez
TODD TYLER	toddtylerspa@yahoo.com	Todd Tyler

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Jan Hudson
5121 Del Mar Mesa Rd. San Diego, CA. 92130

Board Members:

I have lived on Del Mar Mesa for 31 years and have been involved in planning and land use since 1988. I am the founding chair of the Del Mar Mesa Planning Board, chaired the board for 8 years and served on the board as a member for many more.

Your decision in April to reinstate the name, Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood was appropriate.

Del Mar Mesa is a unique community within the city limits. Why? Because it's a rural pocket surrounded by suburbia. Unlike other developing areas, represented by primarily developers, dozens of landowners, large and small are represented.

In 1988 we undertook the long and complex process to form a community planning board and then write the Del Mar Mesa Specific Plan, which is our binding official document. It took several years ---- hundreds of hours of meetings to reach consensus—residents, developers and the city -- on the plan.

Development of the north city was happening fast. A handful of us recognized we needed to work with developers to ensure that Del Mar Mesa's unique and sensitive habitat was protected, while still allowing for responsible development.

I am sure you all have experience with planning bureaucracy. Imagine trying to reach consensus on a community plan with such a diverse group. It was a herculean effort. The minutiae was overwhelming, the detail overwhelming. Especially for residents like us, new to the process.

Elizabeth Rabbitt played no part in any of this despite repeated efforts on my part asking for help.

This background is important because it is central to the issue of our park name.

My name is Ginny Barnes. I served on the Park & Recreation Board for 12 years and was a founding member of the Carmel Valley Recreation Council serving for well over 20 years. I chaired the park design committee for the recreation council during the time that the Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park was in the development stage through the approval of its' General Development Plan and naming; Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park.

I googled Historical Significance and found the following: Five Traits for Determining Historical Significance.

I would hope that you would use this guide as you discuss Board Policy 1001's requirement of "historical significance."

A little history lesson, Balboa Park was not named after Kate Sessions who contributed largely to the beautification of the park then known as "City Park".

It was after months of discussion and great public interest, the Park Commissioners decided on the name Balboa Park, chosen in honor of Spanish-born Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, the first European to spot the Pacific Ocean while on exploration in Panama...historically significant.

A neighborhood park was name after Kate Sessions after she passed away in 1940....she is historically significant.

This past December a park in Linda Vista was named after Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient John P. Baca who grew up down the street. Huntington Beach, a city in Orange County where Mr. Baca used to live, also named a park after him. A Camp Pendleton Post Office also bears his name.....as a Medal of Honor Recipient he is historically significant.

High school teacher Sharon Christa McAuliffe was the first American civilian selected to go into space. She died in the explosion of the space shuttle 'Challenger' in 1986. Mira Mesa is home to Christa McAuliffe Neighborhood Park...historically significant.

Charles L Lewis III lived in San Diego for more than 32 years and committed to ensuring that the residents of the Fourth Council District shared in the City of San Diego's success, economic prosperity and community pride. Charles played a key role in a number of projects including the establishment of more than 23 neighborhood councils in the 4th Council District. In his last year, he was involved in the restoration of Chollas Creek; the implementation of the San Diego Graffiti Strike Force; beautification of communities by planting trees to enhance neighborhoods in the 4th District; the implementation in support of the 4th District Youth Advisory Board and the creation of the Filipino American Advisory Board.... He left his mark on San Diego and is historically significant.

In closing, please keep the name Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park, as Elizabeth Rabbit is not a historically significant individual. No supporting documents have been provided to identify her historical significance. She is a great neighbor and friend which is important. Follow the policy and name a facility in the park after her, just not the park.

Thank you!

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).

Five Traits for Determining Historical Significance

1. Importance:	Refers to what was considered of primary influence or concern to those who lived the event, irrespective of whether their judgments about the importance of the event was subsequently shown to be justified. Key importance questions include: Who were/have been affected by the event? Why was it important to them? How were people's lives affected?
2. Profundity:	Refers to how deeply people were/have been affected by the event. Key profundity questions include: Was the event superficial or deeply affecting? How were people's lives affected?
3. Quantity:	Refers to the number of people affected by the event. Key quantity question include: Did the event affect many, everyone, just a few?
4. Durability:	Refers to how long were people affected by the event. Key durability questions include: How durable was the event in time? Was the event lasting or only ephemeral?
5. Relevance:	Refers to the extent to which the event has contributed to historical understanding or meaning-making supported by evidence. Comparisons and analogies are more complex and lead to better appreciation of the past. Key relevance questions include: Is the event relevant to our understanding of the past and/or present? Does the event have a sense or signification to us?

Early Del Mar Mesa Region
Anton Krieger
Gravesite on Carmel Mountain
Overlooking Del Mar Mesa



Item 105.

June 14, 2018

Dear Park and Recreation Board Members,

Elizabeth Rabbitt's advocates have written repeatedly that she was a "pioneer" on the mesa, and staff reports have repeated this assertion as though it were a fact. Park naming guidelines require that claims of historical significance must be researched and documented. Staff could have learned about the real pioneers simply by typing Del Mar Mesa Specific Plan into the search box on the City's web site.

The Specific Plan was approved in 1997, and the "plan context" section is worth reading because it provides a snapshot of the existing and planned development in and around the mesa at the exact time when Elizabeth arrived.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/community/profiles/delmarmesa/pdf/planncontext.pdf>

The History section of the Plan is particularly relevant to the "pioneer" characterization:

DEL MAR MESA SPECIFIC PLAN

- 9 -

2. History

Historical sites within Del Mar Mesa represent components of a farming settlement in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Visual reminders of the former agricultural settlement include remnants of eucalyptus groves and scatters of surface artifacts. Although farmsteads were widely spaced throughout this area, the early settlers shared community interests based on social and economic endeavors. Carmel Valley provided the main avenue of travel and transportation to Del Mar, which was the nearest community. With completion of a railway passing through Del Mar in the early 1880s, the local farmers were provided with a means of transporting goods to a broader market than that offered by sea transport.

The 1884 United States Geological Survey (USGS) map reveals that much of the land adjacent to and within Del Mar Mesa was owned by members of the McGonigle family. Buildings and features associated with the McGonigles include a house, cabin, fence, field and county road. Evidence of additional settlement by 1891 is provided by school records available for the years 1891 through 1910. Certain family names that appear consistently in the Soledad District records during the early years are Knechtel, Nieman (aka Neimann and Niemann), Barnhardt, Rimbach, Mecklenseck, Davies and Ginter. With several exceptions, the location of dwellings associated with these families has not been determined.

The Knechtel, Mecklenseck and Neimann families proved to be long-term residents of the area. All were associated with farming activities in Shaw Valley

and on Del Mar Mesa. Three generations of Kneektels have farmed Carmel Valley and Shaw Valley and several members of the family continue to live in the area. The Mecklensecks farmed land in Shaw Valley and on the mesa. As with other farmers in the area, they practiced dry farming and in later years had an egg business which remained in operation until 1984. The Neimanns built their home on Del Mar Mesa in 1895. They were among the first in this area to plant orchards on their farmstead. A 1928 aerial photograph depicts the orchards to the north and northwest of a complex of buildings. The Neimann home remains intact as a component of the Carmel Valley Ranch.

In the 1950s, there appears to have been a brief endeavor to establish communal living on Del Mar Mesa. Also, during the 1950s, the City of San Diego developed a program, in concert with landowners, to build dams to reduce flooding in Carmel Valley. Many of the dams have since been destroyed. In the 1960s and 1970s, the general area attracted a number of horse farms which are now well established.

Of course, the history of Del Mar Mesa extends beyond the 1970s, when grad students, post-docs and teachers from the newly built UCSD and the Salk Institute moved into the old 1950s houses and very much enjoyed roaming the countryside and keeping animals including goats and chickens. My husband and I lived there too, and our eccentric landlord, who lived next door, kept a very loud donkey as a watchdog. However, we would have been embarrassed to call ourselves "pioneers," knowing that generations of families had preceded us and made it possible for us to live there.

Please respect the real history of the mesa. Other than streets and trails, there is only one public facility naming opportunity on Del Mar Mesa. The park's 2005 original name, Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park, acknowledges and honors ALL of the neighbors, past, present and future.

Sincerely,

Anne Harvey, retired 20-year member of the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and the original Adjacent Communities Representative on the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board

3950 Arroyo Sorrento Road
San Diego, CA 92130
858-481-4280

To: The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board

Re: Statement on Agenda item "Renaming of Elizabeth Rabbit Park" Item 105, June 21, 2018 Meeting

Attn: Kathy Ruiz and other attending board members

As you on this Board know, volunteer service is a commitment of time and energy that is not glamorous or financially compensated. You won't win a popularity contest. That is not why you do it.

Serving your city involves poring over dry Environmental Studies and writing responses; sitting at the negotiating table trying to reconcile passionate opposing interests; spending untold hours in City Council, Planning Commission & Coastal Commission hearings; processing hours of numbing testimony.

And so you will understand how discouraging it is to have the very neighbors who benefit from such an effort denigrate the work, and in some cases use bullying tactics, in public meetings, online, and in the press, against the people who made their community what it is to make their case.

In my 30 years of community engagement, no matter how contentious the debate, we found solutions.

Until now.

I offer three examples among many:

Jan Hudson and the first Planning Board struggled among 60 property owners and with the City Planning Department to produce a brilliant Specific Plan that controls development in a unique San Diego semi-rural community that hosts recreational enthusiasts from around the city on its trails and open space.

Many worked among competing interests with the Carmel Valley Park and Recreation Council to produce the unique park plan, a nexus destination of public trails, and find a park name acceptable to all. Suggestions included Hollywood & Vine, Duck Pond, and Park At The Preserve. No one suggested an individual.

And a lot of us spent years resolving passionate differences between environmentalists, planners, developers, and property owners that lead to a City-wide ballot measure, creating the Pacific Highlands Ranch Community Park (Now Solana Ranch Park), Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain Preserve open space parks, and miles of public hiking, biking & equestrian trails.

Elizabeth, and likely most if not all, of the supporters of the park name change were not there for any of it.

I have served with Elizabeth on the Del Mar Mesa Planning Board—she has been a diligent and enthusiastic member.

But, I can name many more in this community who have contributed far more, in time and treasure, for a lot longer. Some are here today.

The solution was always in Elizabeth's hands. She could have humbly declined and accept an honor within the park, like the prominent horse corral at the park entrance.

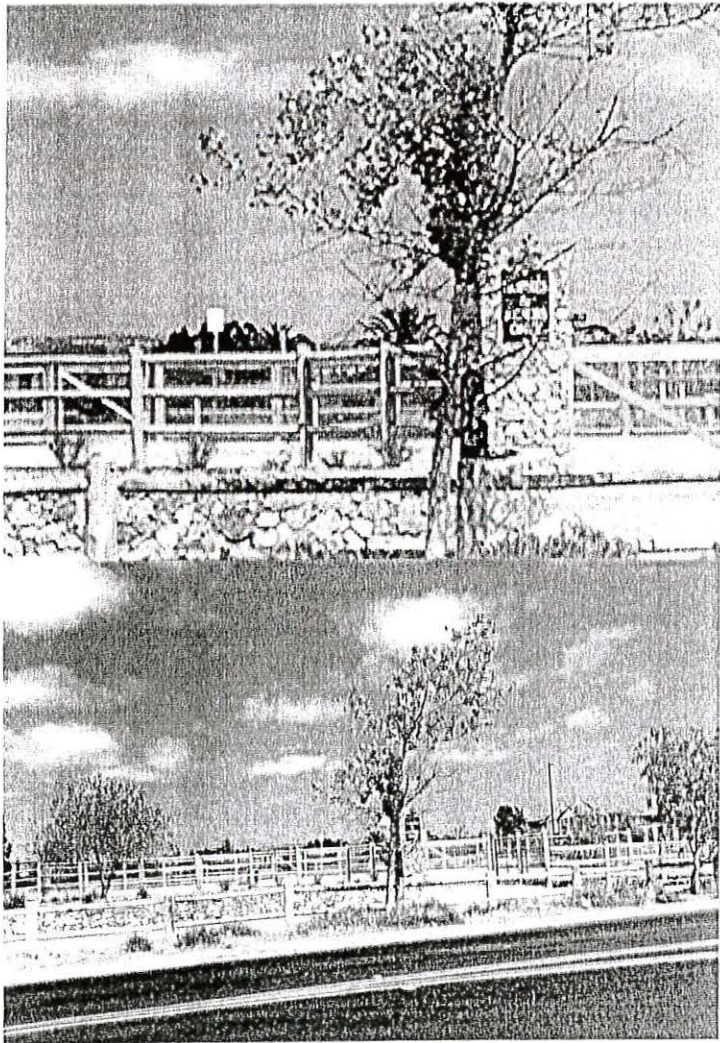
She could have stopped the erosion of our institutions as one long-time volunteer after another, including myself, resigned in the face of our neighbors sustained derision.

The flawed process, the continuing upheaval, should not be memorialized in the name of a City Park.

Please retain the original park name, Del Mar Mesa Neighborhood Park.

Respectfully submitted.

Lisa Ross, Former Chair, Del Mar Mesa Planning Board
12845 Silver Acacia Place
San Diego, CA 92130
lisa@lisaross.com



The Corral at Del Mar Mesa
Neighborhood Park

I am Gary Levitt & I am a developer and I bought my first property in the DMM Neighborhood in 1999!

I would like the name of the park to remain DMM Neighborhood Park. The Elizabeth Rabbitt name completely ignores the fact that if it was not for the efforts of many others, DMM would not exist in the way it does today. The recognition this honor bestows, is quiet simply DISRESPECTFUL of all the efforts made by others during the formation of our Community.

In 1979 San Diego the entire North-City was divided into Future Urbanizing Areas. Any development plan required a vote by all the citizens of the City.

DMM was unique. It was the only FUA which did not have one large developer who owned the majority of the land. There were over 60 separate owners. In 1994 a Phase shift vote, to allow future development, failed at the polls. If it had succeeded DMM today would be no different from any other part of Carmel Valley. Those were the planning concepts then proposed.

And the reason it failed is because of the passion and efforts of a few of the smaller landowners who were already living in DMM. Jan Hudson, Anne Harvey, Cheryle and Jim Besemer, Remmie Jackson, Robert Loftin all getting involved.

They fought against the eastward expansion of Carmel Valley, and demanded a plan which recognized the uniqueness of the rural lifestyle they had created, with larger lots, trails and protected open space.

The successful efforts of these early residents forced the development interests to work with their smaller neighbors and the City to create a Specific Plan for the entire neighborhood. But to create this plan took nearly a decade of effort, with meetings taking them away from their families or requiring all or some of them to get down to the City to defend their perspective. These people are the true pioneers of DMM as we know it today.

I know, what it took. I saw it first hand, I was there as I was one of those Developers arguing for my interests. Their efforts always amazed me and each one of them earned my respect and admiration. That is why I stand before you today, absorbing the wrath of my neighbors, risking relationships and my ability to walk in my community without being glared at, being vilified on neighborhood forums by those who have never met me!

I do not want to take away from Elizabeth's volunteer efforts. As you all know volunteerism is a respected trait and one that we all need to cherish and encourage. Yet as the Chair of the Planning Group, I know when Elizabeth got involved. It was 2009 when she first joined. This was fifteen years after the failed Phase Shift vote, fifteen years after that core group of owners started meeting with City staff, fifteen years of fighting to keep the city focused, fifteen years of development interests promising the world, fifteen years making sure the developers understood the founders' expectations. Fifteen years of the time away from family at meetings down at City Hall or in the evenings in the community. Fifteen years of commitment to building a very special community, before Elizabeth elected to get involved! Fifteen Years of Heavy Lifting was already done!

The fun part of creating a special community has been led by Elizabeth. No one is denying this. But this effort does not come close to meeting the requirements to award this sort of honor as laid out in City Policy.

Unfortunately, as these real pioneers stepped back from their efforts, they realized that others would step forward to pick up the effort it takes to create such a special community, but they never anticipated that no one would even bother to ask them for their opinion before Re-naming the only Park in the Community, and that City staff would not bother to contact any of them, or even to ask the City planning staff members involved in the process, to verify the claims made by others. It is the Parks Dept who has most let our community down!

6-21-18

To: The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board

Attn.: Kathy Ruiz and other attending board members

Re: Agenda item "Renaming of Elizabeth Rabbit Park" on June 21, 2018

From: Cheryle Besemer, long-time resident of Carmel Valley and Del Mar Mesa

Dear Board Members,

To begin with, I am adamantly against naming the Del Mar Mesa Community Park after Elizabeth Rabbit. It is ludicrous for several important reasons.

- The San Diego Park and Recreation Board's own policy states that facilities like parks should first be named to identify the community area, the names of nearby geographic features, or adjacent schools and streets.
- Your own policy says that parks can be named after a person, living or dead, if that person is of "historical significance to the area." (Facilities within the park, i.e., gardens, fountains, etc., are more appropriately named after individuals, not the entire community's park.)
- In considering naming a city asset after an individual, that person should have made "sustained and lasting" contributions to the City of San Diego, the State or the U.S.

I would like to give you my personal input on the above 3 issues.

First, "Elizabeth Rabbit Neighborhood Park" absolutely DOES NOT represent the geographical area, its features, or names of nearby streets or schools. There is -- so far -- no Elizabeth Rabbit Mesa, Elizabeth Rabbit Mesa Road or Elizabeth Rabbit school. This park is for the whole of Del Mar Mesa, Carmel Valley and other adjacent areas and trails. We all live on Del Mar Mesa on Del Mar Mesa Road. We have a community planning board named Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board. It's recognizable to everyone. It's a community that MEETS ALL CRITERIA of the first of your policies listed above.

Secondly, nothing personal, but Elizabeth Rabbit is no way, no how, anything even close to being "historically significant" to Del Mar Mesa or any other part of Carmel Valley. Calling her that is the most inappropriate, uneducated, misguided part of her nearby neighbors' claims that she is a "pioneer." She moved on the mesa in 1995, some 30-40 years after several of us who still live up here. I actually knew several of the real pioneers of this area -- the Stephens, the Knechtels and the Neimanns. Comparing Rabbit to any of them is absurd. Dating back to the late 1800s, these families' contributions in homesteading, farming and ranching made this area the unique, special place that it still is.

Today, you are going to hear from many adoring, committed and passionate friends of Elizabeth. I am happy that her neighbors respect her so much and that they all get along so well.

Mostly, I understand, it's because she has let them pet her animals and/or ride her horses over the past few years. That does make her a fun neighbor, but it DOES NOT constitute giving "sustained and lasting" contributions to this City, the State or the Country. It just makes her a very popular person in her immediate neighborhood, a sort of prom queen of the east end. Being admired by your neighbors is a good thing, but don't blow it ridiculously out of proportion by giving her name to a citywide, community-wide asset that she had little to no part in designing.

There is another negative aspect to naming this park after Rabbit. It is absolutely dismissive to all other individuals and areas of the mesa. As stated before, the Rabbit love fest is mainly on the furthest, east portion of our mesa. The overall acreage constitutes a MUCH larger area than just their neighborhood out there. Their attitude that they are either more important, more special or more entitled than the rest of us up here is divisive, arrogant and narcissistic. I've lived in the area since 1968 and in no way consider myself to be a pioneer. She should be embarrassed to allow herself to be called that.

Please do the right thing today no matter how many of Elizabeth's admirers you listen to. Stick with the correct decision you made in April. Those of us against naming the park for her are a minority here, yes. But we are confident that we are in the right according to your own policies and because naming it Del Mar Mesa Community Park is far more descriptive, accurate and inclusive than the alternative.

Thank you,

Cheryle Besemer

My History: I was a founding member of the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board and its first secretary. I moved to the Robert Stephens Ranch with my parents in 1968, when it was still a rural part of Del Mar. It was a working cattle ranch at the time. My father leased 15 acres from Stephens and built a well-respected, horse-boarding operation with more than 100 head of horses. He also ran a Quarter Horse breeding operation that had the top stallion in the U.S. there at the ranch. We lived in the white house at the bottom of the hill, built by the Sisters of Mercy in 1905. (It is historically significant.)

Frank Knechtel, a friend, neighbor and one of the area's true pioneers also leased land from Stephens to dry-farm lima beans where it is now the Grand golf course, hotel and club, as well as the entire Palacio development. Once a year, after the harvest, the descendants of the original farmers in the area would have a party at the Stephen's ranch to serve us all roasted pork and huge pots of delicious lima beans. Frank's grandfather, Anton, is buried on the mesa west of Carmel Country Road. (Historically significant.)

In the early 1970s, my father bought 7 contiguous acres on the west end of the mesa. In 1976, my parents and both of my brothers and families built 3 homes up here. My husband and I lived in the 5-acre property next door, which my oldest brother owned. (It is now the ranch belonging to Diane Korsch.) In the early '80s, my husband built us a house on an adjoining acre to my father's property. We have been here ever since.

Why Elizabeth Rabbitt Deserves to Have Her Name On The Plaque

Ms. Rabbitt is an outstanding member of our community - she brings the neighborhood together. As one of the initial few residents of the area, she has been instrumental in bringing the community feeling to the Del Mar Mesa. Without her efforts it would have turned into yet another urban community. Her house is always open for the community, specially children. Earlier this month, she hosted 50+ children of the Alta Del Mar community. With generosity, she opened her house to us and allowed us to pick fruits from her garden. I have lived in Del Mar Mesa for 4 years and no one has shown so much hospitality in hosting children. Many have contributed in making Del Mar Mesa what it is, but she is easily one of the most contributing residents going extra mile, her efforts have given Del Mar Mesa the "home" feeling. If anyone's name should go on that plaque, it deserves to be Mrs. Rabbitt's.

Written by Del Mar Mesa Resident kid.

14 year old.

