



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

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DATE ISSUED: October 9, 2019 REPORT NO. 101

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board  
Agenda of October 17, 2019

SUBJECT: RENAMING OF GAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOINT USE  
FACILITY TO THE "CINDI ELROD FIELD AT GAGE ELEMENTARY  
JOINT USE FACILITY"

### SUMMARY

**Issue:** Should the Park and Recreation Board recommend approval of re-naming of Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility to the "Cindi Elrod Field at Gage Elementary Joint Use Facility"

**Staff's Recommendation:** Recommend approval of the re-naming of Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility to the "Cindi Elrod Field at Gage Elementary Joint Use Facility"

**Other Recommendations:** The following bodies have reviewed and considered the proposed project. Actions taken and recommendations made are listed below.

On July 9, 2019, the San Diego Unified Board of Education voted to approve the re-naming of Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility to the "Cindi Elrod Field at Gage Elementary Joint Use Facility"

On July 24, 2019, the San Carlos/ Lake Murray Recreation Advisory Group voted unanimously (4-0-0), to recommend approval of the re-naming of Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility to the "Cindi Elrod Field at Gage Elementary Joint Use Facility"

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Water and Energy Conservation Status:** The proposed project would not have an impact on water and energy conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14.

**Environmental:** No impact

## BACKGROUND

Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility (currently under construction) is located at 6811 Bisby Lake Avenue within the Navajo Community, Council District 7. This park will provide an approximately 6.0 acre joint use facility maintained by the City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department. The expected completion date of the park is November 2019.

The request to re-name the park was initiated by community members and Kathy Burns, principal at Gage Elementary School. Cindi Elrod was a physical education teacher at Gage Elementary for 28 years until her retirement and recently passed away.

## DISCUSSION

Cindi Elrod inspired, coached, and encouraged thousands of children and her influence is still seen today. Under Cindi's leadership, a Running Club was established and continues to this day, before school and at morning recess. Cindi was involved in all aspects of the Running Club, which included tracking students' daily progress, ribbons when students reached milestone distances, popsicles every Wednesday after school when students hit increments of 10 miles, and yearly field trips for those who ran over 100 miles. Cindi's lasting impact is apparent as during the 2017-2018 school year, individual students ran up to 550 miles, and together the school logged 50,154 miles.

Aside from the Running Club and providing physical education for all students, Cindi organized a yearly Field Day for all grades, weekly Friday Fitness (song and dance fitness) for grades TK-2 and their families, developed and maintained a Motor Lab for grades TK-2, acquired a Neuronasium for grades 3-5 through a grant from the San Diego Chargers, and organized family PE nights for the Gage community. Unsurprisingly, Cindi was named District Teacher of the Year in 2006. Cindi was a kind, dedicated teacher and mentor and was adored by students and parents, who filled a book with over 400 pages of adoring messages about their love for their teacher and PE.

Throughout her career, Cindi has developed outstanding rapport and relationships with staff, parents, students, and community. She always makes herself available to peers and provides shares her expertise for staff development, Individualized Educational Plans, and parent-teacher conferences. Parents describe her as "fair, fun, and firm." She makes a long-lasting impact on her students as illustrated in the words of a former student, now a junior at Henry High School. "Mrs. Elrod was my adapted PE teacher and general PE teacher while I was at Gage. I have cerebral palsy and use a walker or sometimes my wheelchair to get around. When I was a student,

she was really nice and she was always trying to find a way that I could participate in the activities and was pushing me to do better, no matter what the group was doing."

In Cindi's words, "Every child has something special to give and with some children you need to reach a little deeper. One size does not 'fit all' and it is important to meet the needs of the whole child. We need to address the well-being of our children to successfully prepare them for the future."

The name request has significant support of the school, the Parent Teacher Association, various organizations and the community.

The re-naming of the Cindi Elrod Field at Gage Elementary School Joint Use Facility is in compliance with the Parks and Recreation Board Policy #1001 "Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities."

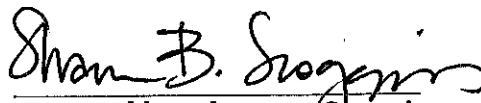
ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve the re-naming of the park to honor Ms. Cindi Elrod.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Field  
Interim Director,  
Parks and Recreation Department



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Park Designer,  
Parks and Recreation Department

(SS/ss)

cc: Honorable Councilmember Scott Sherman, Council District 7  
Karen Dennison, Acting Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Bruce Martinez, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department