

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Parks and Recreation RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 29

Subject: Approve an ordinance renaming various portions of the approximately 21-acres of the "Butler Civic Center" west of the Palmer Events Center between Riverside Drive and Barton Springs Road and waiving the requirements of Chapter 14-1 of the city code for the renaming of a city facility.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, 974-6765

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board

Prior Council Action: March 6, 1964 Resolution of the Austin City Council naming 49.49 acres as the Butler Civic Center.

On February 26, 2008, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended the new 21-acre park located west of Palmer Events Center between Riverside Drive and Barton Springs Road be renamed "Town Lake Park".

The renaming process began in September 2007 with ninety (90) days for the public input process. On February 26, 2008, after receiving and hearing public testimony, the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote of 7-0, approved the following.

Along with the recommendation that the park be renamed "Town Lake Park ", the board voted that various new elements within the parks boundaries be named as well.

The pond just South of Riverside Drive is to be named "Liz Carpenter Pond" - in honor of Liz Carpenter the Executive Assistant to Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Press Secretary to the First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson.

The hill with the spiral walkway just south of Riverside is to be named "Doug Sahm Hill" – in honor of Doug Sahm in recognition of his great talents in the music industry.

The Great Lawn area is to be named "Willie Wells Field" - in honor of Willie Wells the baseball legend.

The future children's garden is to be named "Butler Children's Garden" – in honor of the Butler Family – for their donation of the property for the City of Austin's civic use.

The fountain is to be named the "Butler Fountain" - in honor of the Butler family – for their donation of the property.

The 21-acre property represents the second of four phases of the 1999 Cultural Park Master Plan. The first phase was the construction of the new Palmer Events Center and parking garage. Phase II was the development of the 21-acre park west of the new event center. Phases III and IV will include the park area between Riverside Drive and Lady Bird Lake. The contract for it's design is in negotiations and construction should be complete in 2011.