



## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** August 26, 2015

**Agenda Item #:** 5

**Agenda Item:** Review and consider potential changes to policies related to the renaming of City facilities, including Parks and recreation Department facilities.

**Vote** 4-0-0-0

**Sponsors/Department:** Mayoral referral/ Parks & Recreation Department

#### **Summary of Discussion**

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager with the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), provided an overview of § 14-1-33 - Procedures for Naming a Park or Facility, and § 14-1-32 – Naming Policy in the City code.

Currently, the process is initiated with a request submitted by a citizen to the PARC staff. The Public Information Office within PARC issues a press release to notify citizens about the 90 day public comment period. After the 90 days, PARC staff then presents all renaming submissions to the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) where a recommendation is then made and proceeds to the Open Space, Environment and Sustainability Council Committee for a recommendation to send to City Council for final approval.

In addition, Mr. Soliz discussed challenges with the current code, and provided recommendations for code amendments. As stated by current code, a facility may be dedicated to a person to recognize a valuable contribution or a creditable service to the community. PARC staff would like to clarify these two requirements, as defined by the City. In summary, the recommended amendments primarily focus on setting criteria for non-financial contributions and criteria for financial contributions, gauging community support, and setting a minimum amount of time in which the person has deceased in order to be considered in a renaming.

Mr. Soliz explained that the recommendations have been presented to PARB with no resolution as of yet. The challenge for the PARB is the difficulty in choosing between two or more name recommendations in an objective way. PARB Chair, Jane Rivera, noted an additional challenge of naming a park or facility after two equally deserving individuals.

- *Common management in other cities*

CM Pool asked PARC staff if any research had been done on how other cities manage this issue. Soliz explained that many of the current recommendations that are being proposed are more of

the common ones. Some of the different types of recommendations include those of the federal government and how they do not name anyone that is still living.

- *Management among City libraries and local school districts*

MPT Tovo explained that the public libraries and local school districts may also serve as valuable points of reference in terms of their naming conventions. Overall, Tovo wants to ensure that renaming is done for individuals that truly represent the highest ideals on concert with the City without being influenced by the idea of fundraising by those who can make financial contributions when requesting a renaming.

- *City Code 14-1-12 (C)*

CM Zimmerman asked if staff had any background information about why the policy currently states that a facility named for an individual may not be renamed. Staff explained that it is a policy they would like to address in the overall amendments.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Direction**

PARD agrees to conduct further research, include cost benefits, and ensure the City's highest ideals are taken into consideration when selecting a name for a public facility.

### **Recommendation**

The recommendation to place a moratorium on the naming of city facilities until the item is taken up by the PARB was approved on Vice Chair Garza's motion and on CM Zimmerman's second.