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## **Application for Naming a Public Facility or Property**

Please follow the instructions below when submitting an application for naming a facility or property.

1. Complete the application by providing detailed information about the proposed park name. Please include supplemental information such as articles, letters of support and signature list with the application.
2. City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department must receive the application within the 90 day public comment period in order for the application to be considered.
3. Send all submittals to: Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Attn: April Thedford, 919 W. 28 ½ Street, Austin, TX 78705; (512) 974-9408; [april.thedford@austintexas.gov](mailto:april.thedford@austintexas.gov).

Proposed Name for the Facility or Property: **The Carol Welder Tennis Center**

If proposing the name of an individual, include a biographical description of nominee:

**See attached bio**

Describe the individual's involvement in the Austin community: **See attached bio**

Describe the individual's connection to the facility or property, if any: **See attached bio**

If proposing a name other than individual, summarize the reason for the name: **None**

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Name of requester: **Fernando M. Velasco**

Address: **7401 Highway 45, Austin, TX 78739**

Phone Number: **512-301-8685**



**GREY ROCK TENNIS CLUB**

December 11, 2014

Austin Parks and Recreation Department  
Attn: April Thedford  
919 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78705

Dear Ms. Thedford,

Included with this letter, is a biography of Carol Welder, who I am recommending for the renaming of the Austin Tennis Center – Quick Start Courts.

Carol has been an icon in the Austin, Texas and National scene of tennis for many years. Her dedication, love and passion for the game, is inspiration to the community.

I will also be encouraging other friends of Carol to submit her name via e-mail prior to the January 27, 2015 deadline.

If you need further information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Fernando M. Velasco  
General Manager and Director of Tennis

## **Carol J. Welder**

**Background** – Born and raised in Texas where my ancestors were one of the pioneer ranching families in South Texas, attended Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and served as Chairman of the Board of Managers for J. F. Welder Heirs Management Company, LLC for 6 years. I have lived in Austin, Texas for 47 years. I have two sons and three grandsons.

**Playing Experience** – I started playing tennis in the early 70's on the Porter Middle School courts near our home in South Austin. I developed a two-handed backhand (Chris Evert was my role model) and a consistent groundstroke, baseline game. When my children reached school age, we had moved into a neighborhood with tennis courts and a teaching pro. I took lessons, hit on the ball machine and even worked in the pro shop in order to be around the courts. My game really took a turn when I joined a tennis club and got involved with more competitive players. Over the years, I have played in state and national tournaments where I have been state ranked in various age divisions, and I have played in many USTA Leagues. I have captained women's, seniors and mixed teams and took a 5.0 team to Nationals in 1995 where we lost to the eventual winners from Intermountain (Idaho). I still play doubles in tournaments, captain a 4.5 40 and Over League team, am a member of a 55 and Over League team, a member of an 18 and Over League team and on a Women's Team Tennis of Austin team that plays out of Westwood.

**Tennis Employment/Volunteer Experience** – **Community Tennis** - When I first started playing tennis, to improve my game, I worked part time in the neighborhood pro shop. I volunteered with the Austin Women's Tennis Association (AWTA) running local tournaments. From 1983 -1986, I became the Sectional Endorser for USTA Texas selecting the top ranked junior players in Texas for endorsement to national tournaments. From 1986 – 1988, I had a part time position with the Texas Tennis Association where I ran the Junior Gran Prix Circuit, a series of tournaments around the state, and was taught how to use a computer. From 1986 - 1995, I served as Executive Director of the Capital Area Tennis Association (Austin's local Community Tennis Association). During my 9 years as Executive Director, working with the Board, several programs came under the umbrella of CATA in addition to tournaments. These included the USTA and ATL adult leagues, the CATA Junior Tour, a series of local tournaments for unqualified juniors, and the distribution of Fun Factory sets for elementary school tennis instruction. We established the CATA Junior Awards Banquet, recognizing area junior tennis players from all levels of accomplishment. CATA held the 19<sup>th</sup> annual banquet in 2014. After careful consideration, I resigned my position in 1995 to get back involved with kids on the court. From 1995 – 2001, I was a volunteer NJTL instructor and have remained on the CATA Board, serving as Vice President, President and as a member of the Tournament and Junior committees. I currently chair the CATA Leagues Committee. I have served on advisory and advocacy committees for the promotion and development of tennis in Austin and have served as the liaison between the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the tennis community. A few years ago, I established **Good Sports**. Good Sports is a program about character and courage and how we meet the challenge

**Other Interests** – I have many interests of which snow skiing, swimming, biking, horseback riding and gardening are a few. I enjoy going to Colorado to escape the Texas heat and going to Seattle where I enjoy my grandchildren and their activities. I have recently purchased a condo on the Big Island of Hawaii. To celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, I participated in the Danskin triathlon. It made me appreciate the challenges a person faces when competing in a sport for the first time. I love to travel and, with one son and three grandchildren being out of state, it's a good thing. I went on my first river-rafting trip a few years ago down the Salt River in Arizona. Six days in the desert, without a hot shower, was a true test of my willingness to get out of my comfort zone.

### **TENNIS AWARDS**

CATA: Contribution to Tennis (awarded twice and in 2008 had the award named for me)  
President's Award

USTA Texas: Get a Life Award  
Caswell Service Award

USTA National – 2013 Barbara Williams Leadership Award

In my positions with CATA, Texas Tennis and the USTA, I have met so many passionate people who are willing to get involved but perhaps do not know how to get started or have the confidence that they can contribute. I have always tried to encourage leaders at the local level to share their knowledge at the section level and then bring back what they learn to the CTA. Some of those who I have encouraged to take on leadership roles are Mardy Ayers, Tom Webber, Ray Delk, Emily Schaefer, Frank Kelly, Kevin O'Shea, Ben Eshleman, Al Trevino, and Sarah Pernell, Barbara Smith reached out to me to take over her volunteer role when she became Texas Tennis President, so I try to do the same.

Tennis has given me the opportunity to play, serve and return. I didn't know it at first, but as the years have gone by, I have come to realize that tennis gave me direction, focus, friendships, opportunity for leadership, the ability to give back and to affect people's lives. I have grown from being a player in the game to a promoter of the game. I enjoy challenging myself and others and love the quote by Sally Edwards, spokeswoman for the Danskin Triathlon, "When was the last time you tried something for the first time".

I have been a member of Westwood Country Club for about 5 years, although I had played as a guest and participant in the Memorial Day Senior Open for many years. I was previously a member at The Courtyard Tennis Club since the 70's. I also serve on the Westwood Tennis Committee and on the Westwood Board of Directors.

I have been working closely with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department to help develop a destination park on Johnny Morris Rd. where we also hope to add more tennis courts soon.